



COVID-19 Testing

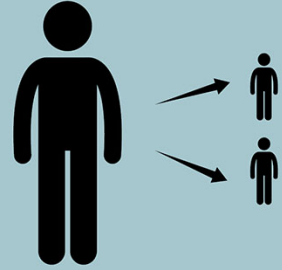
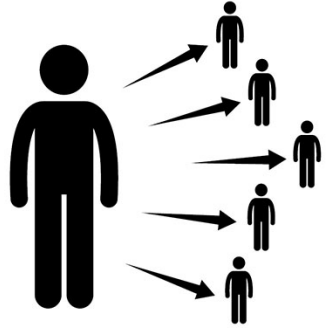
2021-2022 School Year

Background


- Delta variant is the predominant strain of COVID-19 in the United States
 - 2x more infectious than previous strains
- Data suggests the Delta variant can cause more severe illness than previous strains in unvaccinated individuals* (CDC D, 2021).
 - COVID-19 vaccinations are not yet FDA approved for children under 12 years old. (CDC B, 2021) Those who are unvaccinated are at the greatest risk for contracting and transmitting COVID-19 (CDC D, 2021).

*COVID-19 is still a risk if you are vaccinated. Vaccination prevents severe illness, hospitalization and death (CDC F, 2021).

The Delta variant is more contagious than previous strains—it may cause more than **2x as many infections**

ORIGINAL COVID-19 STRAIN	DELTA VARIANT
	

Vaccines protect you from hospitalization, severe infections, and death

 [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

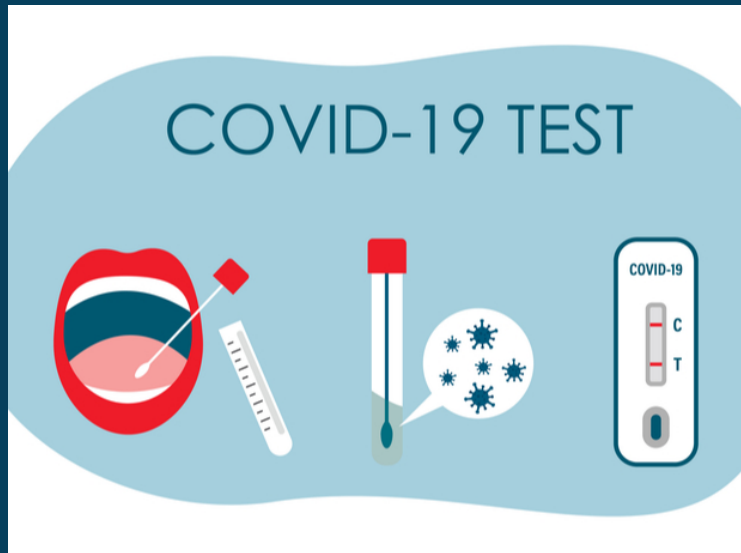
CS 322041-AA 08/02/2021

What is Erie County's Plan?

- Funded by Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) through Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) to promote in person learning, 5 days a week through a COVID-19 testing initiative
- Erie County is implementing a Surveillance testing and a Proximal testing program (see next two slides for additional information)
- Districts and Schools coordinate with ECDOH to make this possible
- Quadrant Biosciences laboratory and ECDOH have partnership – tests will be run through them locally
- ECDOH will provide medical staff through Buffalo Homecare to districts and schools to oversee testing
- Parents complete one-time consent form through Quadrant Biosciences to opt-in to these programs

What is Surveillance Testing?

- Surveillance testing utilizes pooled samples of a certain population for the purpose of monitoring and containing the spread of COVID-19 in a classroom setting (CDC G, 2021).
- Anyone in the school population can be tested
- No cost, regardless of insurance



McKee, S. (2021). COVID-19 TEST [Photograph]. Retrieved from http://www.pharmatimes.com/news/twice-weekly_coronavirus_tests_for_all_1366382

What is Pool Testing?

- The CDC defines pool testing as combining the same type of specimen from several people and conducting one laboratory PCR test
 - For pools that test positive, samples are individually analyzed to determine which samples are positive (CDC E, 2021)
- For this program, pools are up to 12 specimens

What is proximal testing?

- Proximal pool testing is testing for individuals who do not meet close contact criteria (see next slide) and were exposed to COVID-19 in the same room.
- Purpose:
- Identify if transmission has occurred and remove risk to protect the overall building
 - Delta Variant's incubation period is 3-5 days
 - False positives are higher in specimens with low viral loads, low viral loads occur when folks are tested either too soon or too late after infection (Syal, 2020).
 - Incubation period is the time between exposure to a positive case and development of symptoms, if not asymptomatic (CDC A, 2021).
- The risk for transmission to a proximal contact is lower than those who meet close contact criteria, but there is still a risk

Difference between close contact in a school setting & proximal contact

Close Contact (school setting)

- Identified to have been within 3ft or less of a positive COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period, with or without a mask
- Subject to 10 day quarantine*
- Substantial exposure risk to COVID-19
- Testing recommended 3-5 days after exposure to a positive COVID-19 case



Proximal Contact

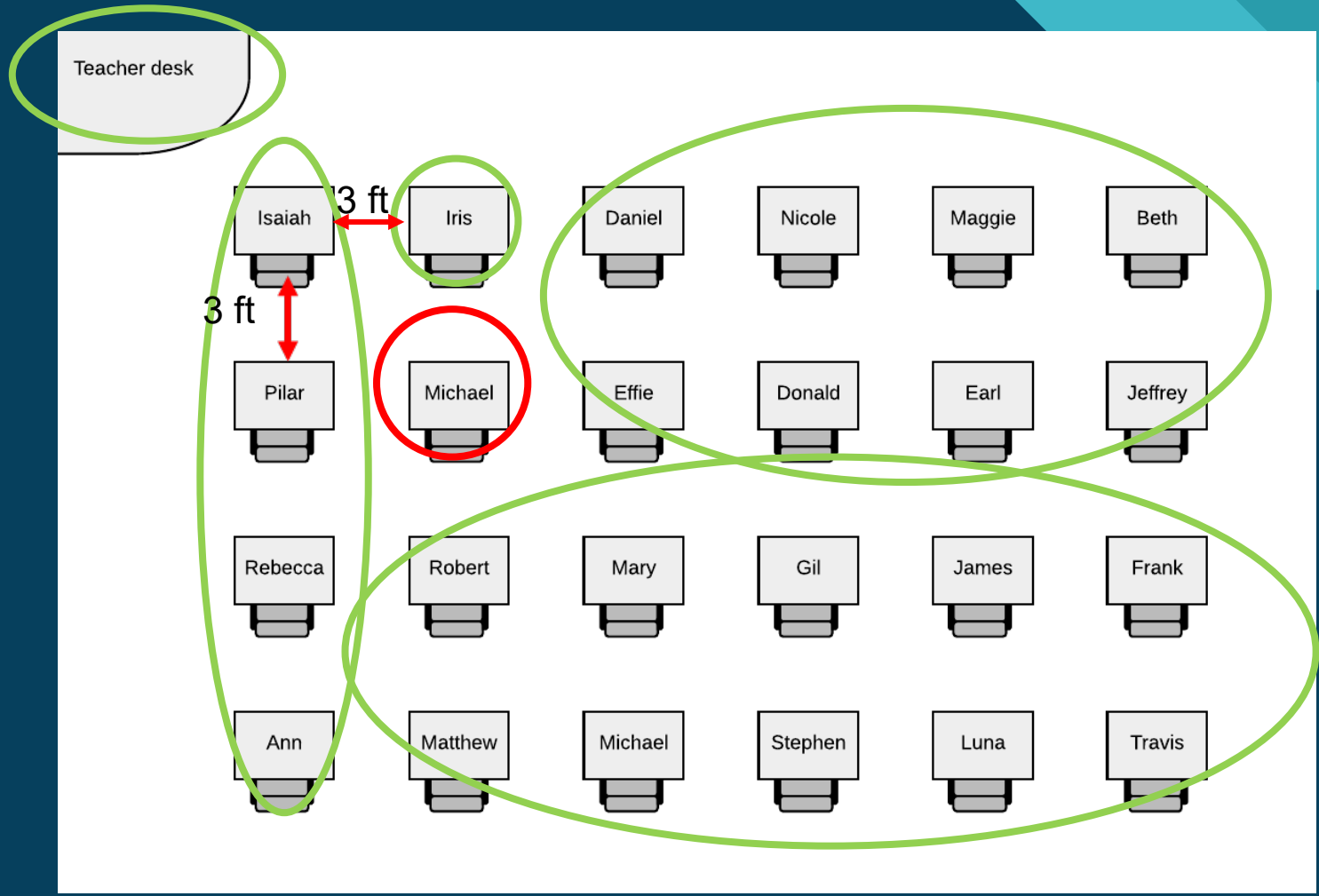
- Anyone who is outside of the 3ft range in the same airspace not considered to be a close contact is considered a proximal contact
- Not subject to quarantine**, fully vaccinated can still test
- Still a risk of exposure & transmission of COVID-19
- Testing recommended 3-5 days after exposure to a positive COVID-19 case

* Per CDC guidelines, fully vaccinated individuals who are identified as close contacts are not subject to quarantine. However, these individuals should continue to monitor for symptoms.

**If experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, individual must follow return to school protocol.



Who is eligible for proximal testing? - Example

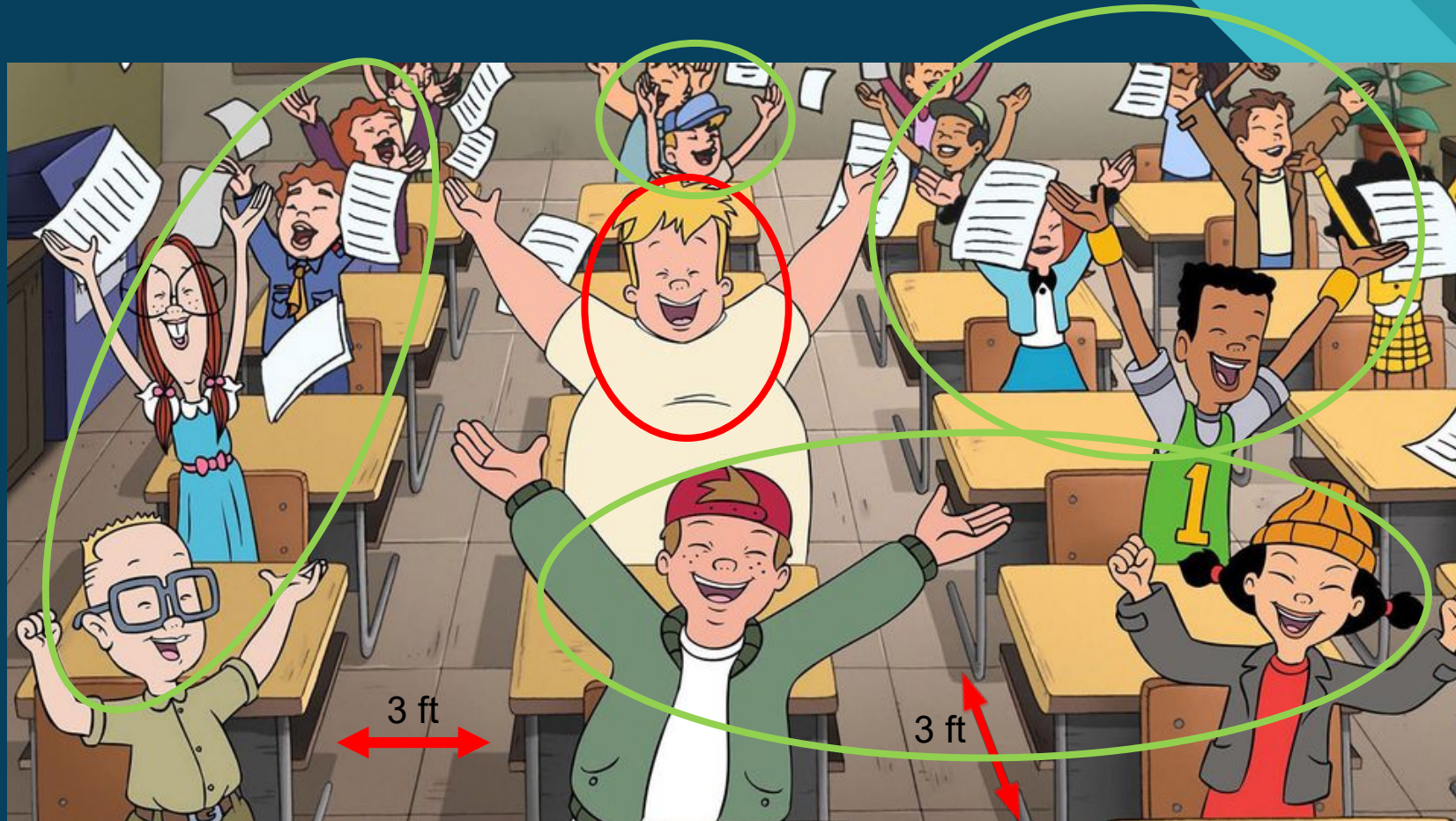
-  = positive COVID-19 case
-  = individuals eligible for proximate testing



Lucidchart (n.d.). High School Classroom Layout [Photograph]. Retrieved from <https://www.lucidchart.com/blog/perfecting-classroom-seating-arrangements>

Who is eligible? - Example cont.

-  = positive COVID-19 case
-  = individuals eligible for proximate testing



Wilkinson, M (2020). Disney+: Ranking The Main Characters of Recess By Their Intelligence [Photograph]. Retrieved from <https://screenrant.com/disney-plus-recess-main-characters-ranked-intelligence/>

How testing will be implemented

Surveillance Testing

- 10% of the consented population in a school will be tested weekly
- PCR pool testing, 12 tests per pool
- 12-18 HR turn around time
- ORAL swab

Proximal Testing

- First, contact tracing is completed to identify any true close contacts. After close contacts are identified, proximal contacts are determined
- Testing occurs 3-5 days after exposure
- PCR Pool testing, about 12 tests per pool
- 12-18 HR turn around time
- ORAL swab

- If a positive is detected in either the surveillance testing pool and/or proximal testing pool, reflex testing performed. Reflex testing determines which sample in the pool is positive.
- School building coordinators will communicate with parents of those tested if pool is positive.
 - If the pool is positive and it is the second case in the classroom, everyone in class will need to quarantine

Benefits of testing

Surveillance

- Monitors current state of COVID-19 virus in the school population (CDC G, 2021).

Both

- Can identify those who have contracted COVID-19 before classroom spread can occur
 - Positive individuals for COVID-19 are able to spread the virus 2 days before symptoms start (CDC C, 2021). By removing that individual from the school setting, it can stop the spread to other students and staff.
- Promotes in person learning
- PCR test is more accurate than rapid & at home tests
- Non invasive test (oral swab)

Proximal

- Higher community support than traditional surveillance testing, according to a needs assessment survey sent to all Erie County Schools in June/July 2021
- With current guidance, proximal contacts do not have to quarantine because they are greater than 3ft away from positive case. Since airspace is shared, there is risk for continual exposure.

Quadrant Biosciences Resources

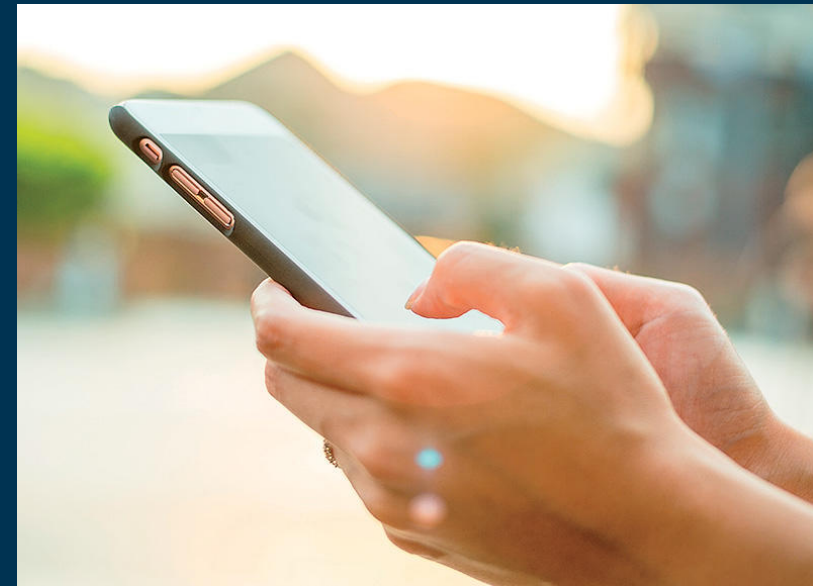
- Registration Video
 - <https://vimeo.com/580028969/8c78535db2>

Erie County Resources

- www.erie.gov/covid19
 - COVID-19 Info Line: (716) 858-2929
- www.erie.gov/vax
 - Full schedule of ECDOH clinics
- www.erie.gov/covidmap
 - Data visualization: case counts, ZIP code and municipality maps
- www.erie.gov/covidtestsites
 - Searchable map of diagnostic test locations

How to Stay Updated

- Social media
 - Twitter (@ECDOH)
 - Facebook (Erie County Department of Health)
 - Instagram (@eriecohealth)
 - Erie County, NY Youtube Channel
www.youtube.com/eriecountyny
- Web site: www.erie.gov/covid19



Craig, D (2019). Do Cell Phones Reduce Violent Crime? [Photograph]. Retrieved from <https://magazine.columbia.edu/article/do-cell-phones-reduce-violent-crime>

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