

# TUCSON UNIFIED

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Subject: TUSD COVID Pool Testing Program

Dear TUSD Parent / Guardian,

At Steele Elementary School we seek to maintain a safe environment for employees, students, families, and the community. To support those goals, we have partnered with [Concentric by Ginkgo](#) to provide an optional and free COVID pooled testing program.

But first, we need your help! We are requesting each family to participate in this program to help safeguard the wellbeing of our entire school community. Please sign the consent request below and read the attached overview from Concentric to answer some questions you may have.

To get started, please **fill out the consent form with your permission to have your child participate in the weekly COVID-19 pooled testing** at our school. This process should take no more than 5 minutes to complete using a computer or a smartphone.

1. First, [click here](https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent) (<https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent>).
2. Then, enter this access code: **TUSD-STEELE**
3. Finally, enter your child's information, and you're done!
4. If you prefer to submit a paper consent, please return the attached **Paper Consent & Test Taker Information Forms**.

Note: If you need to provide consent for more than one child, please complete the process once for each child.

We have also sent the attached letter home with each student today, please check your child's backpack.

Steele Plans to start Pool Testing for those who complete the consent forms the week after we return from Fall Break.

*Please note this consent is for the entire school year 2021-2022 and includes participation in the pool test and any follow-up rapid antigen test to provide "quick tests" for any individual in a positive pool.*

Below is additional information about COVID Pool testing

### **What is pooled testing?**

Pooling can test up to 25 people in a group. All students in a class, pod, or cohort swab their own noses and place their individual swabs in a single tube (that's the pooling step). The samples in that tube are then run as a single sample, using one test. [See it in action here.](#)

### **Why pooled testing? Why should my student participate?**

You know the old saying: "knowledge is power." Tools like pooled testing empower us to make great decisions. Without knowing the specific prevalence of COVID-19 in our school, it's tough for us to make informed decisions about safeguarding our school community, returning to school, or continuing in-person learning.

Only students with completed consent forms can participate in testing. If you do not want your child to participate, your student will not be included in the testing program. Our goal is everyone participate, if possible.

Testing empowers us to make these informed decisions about in-person learning and allows students, teachers, and staff to come to school with peace of mind.

To learn more about pooled testing, read the attached overview of Concentric's pooled testing program on our [website](#) and watch this [video](#) from another school using this service.

If you have additional questions, please reach out to our school office.

(This letter is posted on our website, Class Dojo, and sent through Parent Link email so that you can access the embedded Hyperlinks)

Thank you,

Jessica Harris

Principal Steele Elementary