

# COR Call: What are the best practices for testing COVID-19 in your campus research program?

GOAL: Create a list of best practices for testing for COVID-19

**BJOHNS6** MAY 14, 2020 05:08PM

**ANONYMOUS** MAY 21, 2020 06:43PM

**I want to learn more about wastewater testing. That question seems to have disappeared but I understand it is an early warning sign of a looming outbreak.**

**ANONYMOUS** MAY 21, 2020 06:43PM

**It baffles me as to why we are all trying to develop local apps for things that Apple, Google, Amazon, and others have already developed for commercial applications. Shouldn't the Defense Production Act be invoked to have those repurposed for national application? Kenneth Sewell**

*To Melanie's point...I would certainly not be in favor of allowing the large provider to manage the data. Just provide the tool.*  
– ANONYMOUS

*I think people might be more comfortable sharing their data on a local APP vs a large provider who may or may not be so great at protecting data. lol. Melanie* – ANONYMOUS

**ANONYMOUS** MAY 21, 2020 06:42PM

**Research Leaders Advising with Athletics**

Athletics will be another large population/close proximity challenge for institutions. Are VPRs/VCRs talking with their Athletics colleagues about testing and screening practices?  
–Alicia

*yes. we are. UofL* – ANONYMOUS

**KACY REDD** MAY 21, 2020 06:41PM

**Using Sampling - is that a reasonable strategy?**

From Mark Harris - UWM to Everyone: 02:39 PM  
There has been discussion about using a sample of employees and students to evaluate prevalence of virus in absence of sufficient

tests for everyone with enough frequency. Is this a reasonable strategy?

*But will pervasive testing necessarily capture the early stage of outbreak? Isn't hygiene a first line of defense, and testing really building a false sense of security?* – ANONYMOUS

*Given that it takes only one infected person to reach 40-50 others within a matter of days, is this effective at all?* – ANONYMOUS

**ANONYMOUS** MAY 21, 2020 06:41PM

**Research Ramp as Pilot to Campus-wide ramp up**

We are considering testing the Phase I research ramp up testing of all entrants to get a baseline and then see how self-attestation works for about a month. This is only an idea and perhaps involve 1000 research staff.

Ram Ramasubramanian  
University of Virginia

**ANONYMOUS** MAY 21, 2020 06:39PM

**Self-attestation**

Self-attestation daily online and test only when symptomatic.

Ram Ramasubramanian  
University of Virginia

**ANONYMOUS** MAY 21, 2020 06:36PM

**In House vs. Commercial**

What are the advantages and disadvantages of launching your own campus facility vs. contracting with a 3rd party that already have the certification, supplies, kits, SOPs, etc.

*Risks and remedies if the commercial lab may not deliver the results on a timely manner for various reasons? Tanju* – ANONYMOUS

*The commercial tests are much more expensive. Chaouki*  
– ANONYMOUS

*we bid hard for our health center to get the commercial test to get a commercial test, beat out a local health system, its supply chain reasons and ease* – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS MAY 21, 2020 06:37PM

## Summer testing research

We are running several internal research and seed-funding programs attempting to link our testing teams (proposers) to larger operational research teams (over 30) to study test modalities, screening tools and tracing tools

ANONYMOUS MAY 21, 2020 06:48PM

## on-campus temp checks

is anyone conducting on-campus daily temp. checks? if so, how are you implementing? -Charlie Riordan

*We are starting this. It is mandated by the state. We will allow people to test themselves within 1.5 hrs. before arriving to campus. They will log in to an online portal, behind a university authentication, and certify that their temperature is below 100F, and they have not had symptoms or contact with anyone known to have COVID-19. We will also have stations across campus where they can go to have their temperatures taken in case they aren't able to do so at home. Marian McCord UNH* – ANONYMOUS

*(Kenneth Sewell) Our best shot is to test all individuals in high-contact job roles, and test anyone feeling sick with relevant signs OR symptoms (not just fever) and those who believe they have been exposed to someone who has tested positive. Supply chains and testing capacities cannot support much more than this.* – ANONYMOUS

*developed a daily survey of self testing temp and screening questions, looking to use a app the city made and is willing to share.* – ANONYMOUS

*No - with such a large number of asymptomatic spreaders, seemed silly* - K. Gardner – ANONYMOUS

*At Oklahoma State, we are trying to facilitate and encourage temperature checks (as well as other health monitoring), but do not view it as viable to require or directly conduct such checks.* – ANONYMOUS

*Symptom attestation before coming to campus to be used this summer based on a UCSF app. Randy@Berkeley* – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS MAY 21, 2020 06:46PM

## Is anyone developing policies on testing/monitoring related to human-subjects research?

Alexa Sand, Utah State University AVPR

*WVU is and can share and Mich Tech shared theirs the other day which is really comprehensive. Melanie* – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS MAY 21, 2020 06:36PM

## Strategic testing

How can/should we design strategic testing (on and off campus)?  
Matt Tarr

*Life science labs already very clean environments compare with mechanical engineering let's say. Is the same level of testing needed? Value of random vs. pervasive testing.* – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS MAY 21, 2020 06:37PM

## State Health Department Partnerships

Would CoR members like to see guidance around developing partnerships with their state departments of health from those institutions have well-developed partnerships?

- Alicia

ANONYMOUS MAY 21, 2020 06:43PM

## Best Practices

We are building capacity to test our entire community every two weeks using nasal swabs/qPCR testing. We are working with our Public Health department to collaborate on contact tracing. Marian McCord UNH.

*what would this cost? Melanie* – ANONYMOUS

*Who wrote this?* – ANONYMOUS

BJOHNS6 MAY 21, 2020 06:14PM

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BJOHNS6 MAY 21, 2020 06:53PM

## What level of testing is appropriate/necessary to ensure safe conduct of research?

*My opinion: safe conduct is about face covering and hand washing and cleaning - testing is extra. What you learned in kindergarten is what you need now. Oh - and distancing. Didn't learn that in kindergarten. -k. gardner, UofL* – ANONYMOUS

*Wide spectrum from random to pervasive and frequent. There are costs involved. What does the science actually say as to how much is needed?* – ANONYMOUS

## Who should be/is responsible for testing?

On our campus we are told that employees should see their physician on their health insurance! – ANONYMOUS

Student Health oversees the largest population on campus, but who handles faculty and staff? – ANONYMOUS

## In the context of testing, how can the VPR community:

1. **Sustain** the research enterprise in a safe, productive, and inclusive manner?
2. Ensure that university presidents, provosts, elected officials, and **others are informed and using best practices** based on sound scientific/medical evidence and models the balance health, economic, and other factors?

Kevin's answer just now was a great answer. I wonder if we could do a joint session with the APLU provost group to talk about some of the same things we are talking about here? It might be interesting to get their perspective on where they are getting their info from. Melanie – ANONYMOUS

## Are you requiring testing of all people or is this voluntary?

Are you requiring testing of all people or is this voluntary? If required, what about legal hurdles?

From David Conover to Everyone: 02:04 PM

## Use of Data Dashboards

I have seen recently press releases about universities using Power BI. How many universities are using this dashboard?

From Bethany Johns to Everyone: 01:46 PM

From Kevin Gardner U of Louisville to Everyone: 01:48 PM- We used it for our COVID-19 testing results so we could share the data – KACY REDD

## Using Testing results for Research

What are the polices we should be thinking about when creating a program to use the results of tests for research purposes?

## Contact Tracing?

What should we be considering?

From Kevin Gardner U of Louisville to Everyone: 02:14 PM - We are doing a statistically-designed community based testing program (COVID, wastewater, and antibodies) to understand how widespread infection is (and was). But state is focused on numbers, numbers numbers as Matt said - hard to get their attention and get dollars to flow for statistically based testing approach – KACY REDD

From Ramesh Kolluru to Everyone: 02:06 PM - Universities can help with adoption and scaling up. Challenge is without integrating all data, localized contact tracing is likely limited in it's effectiveness. – KACY REDD

From Mark Harris - UWM to Everyone: 02:05 PM - As individuals are traced, does this "loop back" to exposures among the Univ population? If so, high – KACY REDD

From Ramesh Kolluru to Everyone: 02:04 PM - How do your contact tracing efforts align with the State's Contact Tracing efforts. do you operate from the same data, same questions, same process? Is the data centralized at your department of health? – KACY REDD

## Non Comply -- Aggressive behavior

What if someone doesn't want to comply?

## What is your compliance monitoring and enforcement procedures?

From Ram Ramasubramanian to Everyone: 02:11 PM  
Can you describe your compliance monitoring and enforcement approaches for distancing and wearing face coverings?

## Example of a Bad idea

I don't like this idea. Not really well thought out.

Who needs face coverings? – ANONYMOUS

## Are you developing Apps to help with Tracing?

From Chaouki Abdallah - We are developing an APP at Georgia Tech in collaboration with CoEPI (heavily focused on privacy) and will be releasing it in an open source fashion by mid-June.

- TIA FREELOVE KIRK

our city did they are willing to share - ANONYMOUS

Commercial widely available apps, e.g. Apple-Google, vs. campus roll your own? - ANONYMOUS

This would definitely have to be in partnership is dept of health.

- ANONYMOUS

**KACY REDD** MAY 21, 2020 06:45PM

## Testing strategy for the Fall?

How many and how often do you plan to test? and how to use the results for decision making ?

From Tanju Karanfil - CLEMSON to Everyone: 02:02 PM

We have capacity to test everyone, but we've decided it's a huge waste of resources. So we are going to do a small statistically-based testing program, with rapid and robust testing and tracing of people with symptoms, testing of potentially infected people from the tracing. -Kevin Gardner - ANONYMOUS

From Tanju Karanfil - CLEMSON to Everyone: 02:04 PM - How about antigen testing for high throughput screening and subsequent diagnostic testing for confirmation for feasibility and financial reasons? - KACY REDD

From Kevin Gardner U of Louisville to Everyone: 02:04 PM - Pooled sampling - if you are going to do broad testing - is an excellent way to go to limit costs - KACY REDD

From Sheena Murphy to Everyone: 02:02 PM - We are considering doing our testing (by an external vendor) in single tests of bundled batches (i.e. 3-10 students at a time) with followup single person testing if the bundled batch is positive and saying everyone is good to go, if the bundle is negative. Anyone got any advice on that?

- KACY REDD

**BJOHNS6** MAY 18, 2020 06:46PM

## Tap other areas of campus for advice

Can we talk with housing directors to understand what their current policy is if there is an outbreak of a dangerous contagion?

What about directors for fraternity and sororities? Do they have advice on how to handle legal and liability issues?

Can Title IX offices be a resources to understand how to handle reporting claims?

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