What is pooled testing, and why is it a great choice for schools?

Pooling dramatically reduces the cost of testing while maintaining the sensitivity associated with PCR, which is the gold standard for COVID-19 testing.

In pooled testing, samples from multiple individuals are combined into a pool and run as one test in the lab. If a pool tests negative, all individuals in the pool are negative, and no additional testing is needed. If a pool tests positive, additional testing is required to identify the COVID-positive individual in the pool.

What happens if a pool tests positive?
If a pool tests positive, all the members of that pool must be individually tested to identify the COVID-positive member(s) of the pool. Our lab saves each individual sample so that when a pool tests positive, all the individuals in that pool can be tested automatically.