Tracking US Coronavirus Testing Capacity

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2  MARCH 17TH, 2021

Current National Capacity Projections (Tests / Month)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>March 2021</th>
<th>June 2021</th>
<th>September 2021</th>
<th>December 2021</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>344M</td>
<td>728M</td>
<td>923M</td>
<td>1,064M</td>
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Significant capacity reduction this week using our crystal ball. With the reductions in demand for diagnostic testing (down 37% from daily average in early December, 45% from the high), it’s hard to imagine labs and manufacturers increasing their testing capacity right now - either adding shifts or new large pooling protocols. We expect a continuing shift from antigen-with-instrument to antigen-without-instrument and a shift from point of care tests to home / self tests.

However, there are a few wild cards in demand that could lead to increases in capacity and require throwing out the crystal ball and buying tarot cards:

- Continued government intervention to support and pay for widespread screening testing. Just today, CDC / HHS announced $12.25 billion for testing in schools and underserved populations. This is separate from the HHS/DOD Coordination Hub Program which is currently reviewing a reported 117 white papers from interested institutions.

- Back to workplace testing - we could see workplaces returning in-person with the inclusion of testing, although we believe that this will be dominated by no-instrument rapid antigen tests at the workplace or at home.

- Novel variants that are not covered by the current vaccines cause a surge in new infections.

In addition, as it is mid-March and we have not yet seen EUAs for some of the largest scale manufacturers’ tests, in particular antigen tests, we have lowered numbers for March and following months.

What Happened Last Week

The FDA issued one new EUAs and eight amendments to existing EUAs

- New EUAs (1)
  - Collection Kit (1): GetMyDNA
- New Amendments to Existing EUAs (8)
  - Molecular Tests (4): Gravity Diagnostics | Quidel Solana | Reagents for BD Max System | Infinity TaqPath
  - Serology Tests (4): Beijing Wantai | bioMérieux VIDAS IgM and IgG | T-Detect
New & Noteworthy

Federal Government Paves the Way for Expanded Screening Testing

- FDA announces streamlined path for approving COVID-19 diagnostics for screening, or serial testing.
  - **Commentary / Question:** Will this accelerate or hinder approvals of home / self rapid tests?
- Meanwhile, the White House COVID-19 Response Team and the Centers for Disease Control have announced $10 billion for COVID-19 testing for schools and $2.25 billion in COVID-19 testing for vulnerable populations to go directly to states and certain cities. This is separate from previously announced investments in COVID-19 Testing Coordinating Hubs and manufacturing.
  - **Commentary:** This investment comes at a critical time and reinforces the argument that testing is the missing link in sustainable school reopening with all kids returning in person. This new instrument provides resources for schools to work effectively with test suppliers, have appropriate in school test related costs reimbursed, and for testing companies to maintain scale and predictable demand to support schools.
- CDC has released updated guidance documents on COVID-19 Testing, including specifics on screening testing in higher education, homeless shelters and encampments, non-healthcare workplaces, and correctional and detention facilities.
- While we await additional CDC guidance on screening testing in K-12 schools, here are some of our favorite resources:
  - Overview in EdWeek: Should Schools Test Students and Staff for COVID-19?
  - COVID-19 Response Advisors Testing Vendor Checklists
  - The Rockefeller Foundation K12 Testing Playbook and Complementary Materials
  - Shah Family Foundation School Testing Toolkit

Upcoming Event

- Global Perspectives on Variants & Vaccines - March 25: Webinar - COVID-19 Diagnostics
  - Commons | College of Health Solutions

Food for Thought

School Reopening: the 6ft vs. 3ft debate

- A few weeks ago, the CDC guidance on reopening schools held firm on schools maintaining 6 ft of distancing between students. An emerging body of evidence and pressure from school reopening advocates have ignited a debate on the appropriate distancing protocols.
- Much of the new debate is fueled by a new Massachusetts study published in Clinical Infectious Diseases concluding that, when masking is in place, 3 ft of distancing is enough in schools.
- Dr. Fauci said that the CDC is analyzing the data - and will soon come up with recommendations, and acknowledged that data is accumulating suggesting 3ft is enough.
- In the Intelligencer, David Zweig unpacks the debate while Jonathan Chait argues that we should "Just Reopen the Schools Now." On the other side, the NYT education briefing captures concern from teachers unions about the science behind the push to change the requirement.

School Reopening Dashboard from Burbio:

- % US K-12 students attending "virtual-only" schools = 20.8% (from 23.7% last week)
- % US K-12 students attending "traditional" in-person/every day" schools = 49.1% (from 46.9%)
- % US K-12 students attending "hybrid" schools = 30.1% (from 29.4%)
### Latest Monthly Capacity Estimates

#### Estimated Monthly Capacity of All Tests (M)

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<td>111</td>
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<td>145</td>
<td>157</td>
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<td>178</td>
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<td>210</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<td><strong>Total Central Lab</strong></td>
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#### Estimated Future Capacity, by Test Type

![Estimated Future Capacity Chart]

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Based on published reports, company interviews, and proprietary analysis

A collaboration between COVID-19 Response Advisors & Health Catalysts Group

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