

# Clinical Laboratory COVID-19 Response Call

Monday, November 1, 2021, at 3:00 PM EDT

- **Welcome**

- Jasmine Chaitram, CDC Division of Laboratory Systems (DLS)

- **Successful Mitigation of SARS-CoV-2 Transmission at a Residential Secondary School**

- Kevin Volpp and Bruce Kraut, University of Pennsylvania

- **SARS-CoV-2 Variants Update**

- John Barnes, CDC Laboratory and Testing Task Force for the COVID-19 Response



# Division of Laboratory Systems (DLS)

## Vision

Exemplary laboratory science and practice advance clinical care, public health, and health equity.

## Mission

Improve public health, patient outcomes, and health equity by advancing clinical and public health laboratory quality and safety, data and biorepository science, and workforce competency.



# Four Goal Areas



## Quality Laboratory Science

- Improve the quality and value of laboratory medicine and biorepository science for better health outcomes and public health surveillance



## Highly Competent Laboratory Workforce

- Strengthen the laboratory workforce to support clinical and public health laboratory practice



## Safe and Prepared Laboratories

- Enhance the safety and response capabilities of clinical and public health laboratories



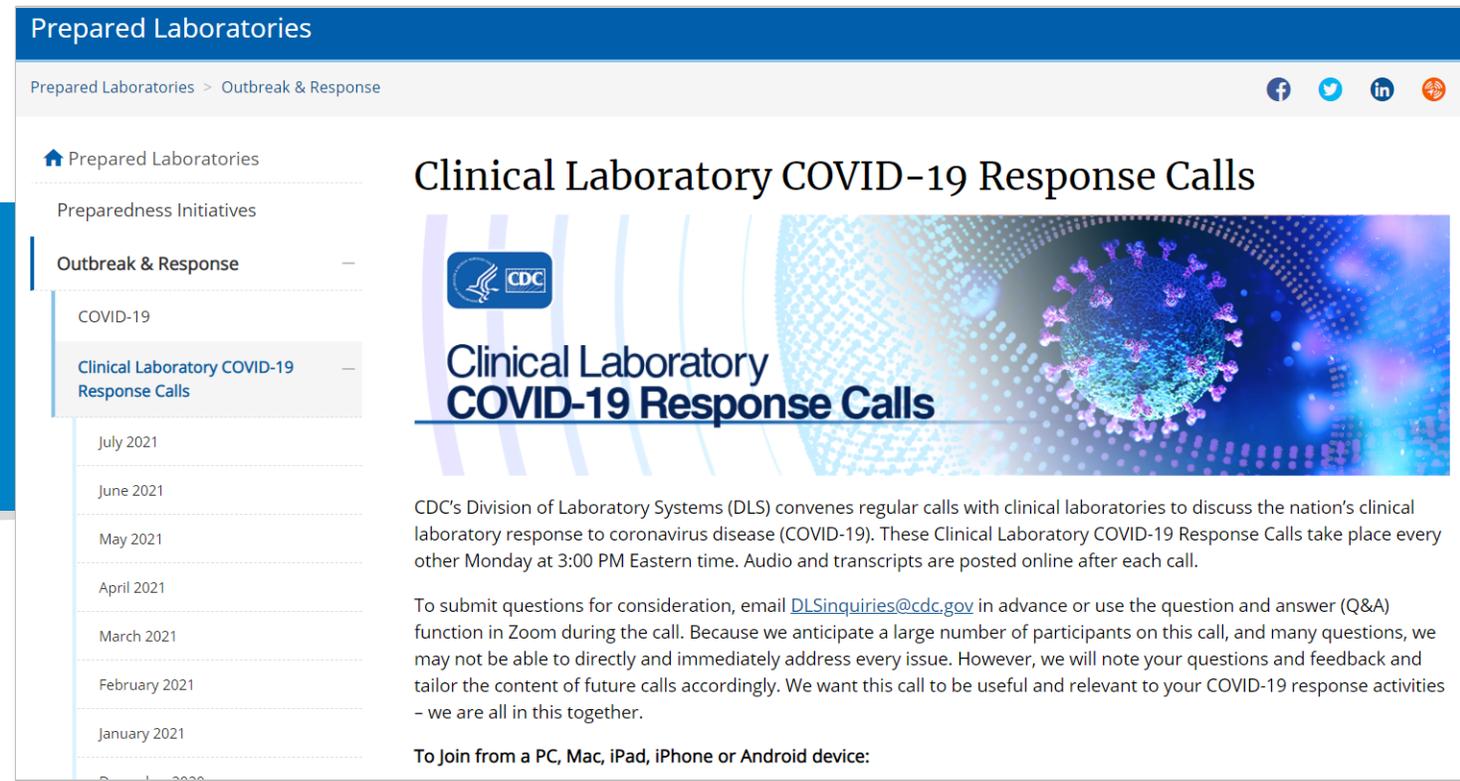
## Accessible and Usable Laboratory Data

- Increase access and use of laboratory data to support response, surveillance, and patient care

# CDC Preparedness Portal

<https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dls/preparedlabs/covid-19-clinical-calls.html>

Find CLCR call information,  
transcripts, and audio recordings on  
the CDC Preparedness Portal



The screenshot shows the 'Prepared Laboratories' section of the CDC website. The main heading is 'Clinical Laboratory COVID-19 Response Calls'. Below the heading is a CDC logo and a large image of a coronavirus particle. The text describes the calls as regular meetings convened by the CDC's Division of Laboratory Systems (DLS) to discuss clinical laboratory response to COVID-19. It states that calls occur every other Monday at 3:00 PM Eastern time. A paragraph explains that questions can be submitted in advance via email ([DLInquiries@cdc.gov](mailto:DLInquiries@cdc.gov)) or during the call via Zoom. A final line indicates that the page provides information on how to join from various devices.

Prepared Laboratories

Prepared Laboratories > Outbreak & Response

Prepared Laboratories

Preparedness Initiatives

Outbreak & Response

COVID-19

Clinical Laboratory COVID-19 Response Calls

July 2021

June 2021

May 2021

April 2021

March 2021

February 2021

January 2021

## Clinical Laboratory COVID-19 Response Calls

CDC's Division of Laboratory Systems (DLS) convenes regular calls with clinical laboratories to discuss the nation's clinical laboratory response to coronavirus disease (COVID-19). These Clinical Laboratory COVID-19 Response Calls take place every other Monday at 3:00 PM Eastern time. Audio and transcripts are posted online after each call.

To submit questions for consideration, email [DLInquiries@cdc.gov](mailto:DLInquiries@cdc.gov) in advance or use the question and answer (Q&A) function in Zoom during the call. Because we anticipate a large number of participants on this call, and many questions, we may not be able to directly and immediately address every issue. However, we will note your questions and feedback and tailor the content of future calls accordingly. We want this call to be useful and relevant to your COVID-19 response activities - we are all in this together.

To Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

# Next CLCR Call

The next call will be on **Monday, November 15**  
from **3:00 PM to 4:00 PM ET**



# We Want to Hear from You!

## Training and Workforce Development

Questions about education and training?

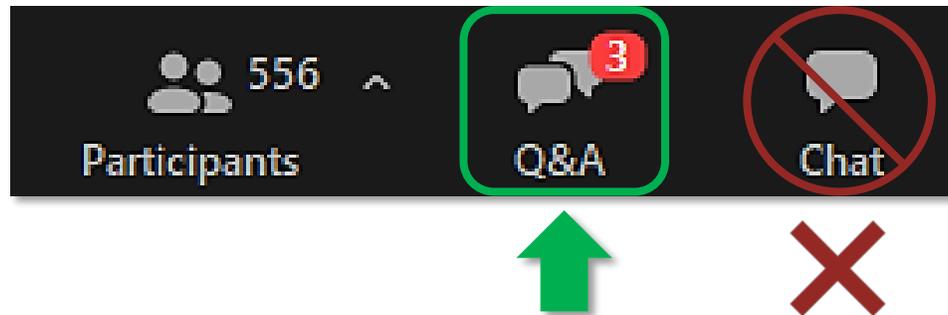
Contact [LabTrainingNeeds@cdc.gov](mailto:LabTrainingNeeds@cdc.gov)



# How to Ask a Question

- **Using the Zoom Webinar System**

- Click the **Q&A** button in the Zoom webinar system
- Type your question in the **Q&A** box and submit it
- **Please do not submit a question using the chat button**



- For media questions, please contact CDC Media Relations at [media@cdc.gov](mailto:media@cdc.gov)
- If you are a patient, please direct any questions to your healthcare provider



*Slide decks may contain presentation material from panelists who are not affiliated with CDC. Presentation content from external panelists may not necessarily reflect CDC's official position on the topic(s) covered.*

# Successful Mitigation of SARS-COV-2 Transmission at a Residential Secondary School

## CDC Clinical Lab COVID-19 Response Call Nov 1, 2021

**Kevin Volpp, MD, PhD**

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Mark V. Pauly President's Distinguished Professor,  
Perelman School of Medicine and Wharton  
Director, Penn Center for Health Incentives and  
Behavioral Economics, University of Pennsylvania



**Bruce Kraut, MD, PhD**

Arthur B. Light Chair and Medical  
Director, The Lawrenceville School



# Minimal SARS-CoV-2 Transmission After Implementation of a Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy at a School — New Jersey, August 20–November 27, 2020

*Weekly* / March 19, 2021 / 70(11);377–381

Kevin G. Volpp, MD, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>; Bruce H. Kraut, MD, PhD<sup>2</sup>; Smita Ghosh, DrPH<sup>3</sup>; John Neatherlin, MPH<sup>3</sup> ([View author affiliations](#))

[View suggested citation](#)



# Why did we write this paper?

- Fall 2020
  - Schools nationwide were struggling to open and stay open for in-person learning
  - Widespread concerns about uncontrolled transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in school settings
- Lawrenceville School developed a comprehensive approach that was successful in minimizing risk of COVID transmission
- Wrote paper to share approach for wider adoption/dissemination

# Fall 2020: We Achieved Successful Containment

SARS-CoV-2 testing results	Faculty/Staff members (n = 405)	Students (n = 775)
<b>No. of specimens tested (average per person)</b>	8,955 (22.1)	12,494 (15.1)
<b>No. of RT-PCR–positive tests</b>	19*	8
<b>No. (%) of cases linked to on-campus transmission</b>	0 (—)	2 (25) <sup>†</sup>
<b>No. of contacts identified and quarantined</b>	17	14
<b>No. of contacts with positive test results</b>	0	0

# Key Components of the System – Fall 2020

- Pre-arrival testing and 2 week quarantine
- On campus arrival 10-day quarantine – 3 negative tests 3 days apart
- Universal masking outside of dorm rooms
- Physical distancing / de-densify
- Upgraded ventilation: HEPA filters and MERV 13 filters
- All dining was take-out only with meals eaten outdoors
- Twice weekly RT-PCR testing
- Manual and electronic contact tracing / isolation of new cases / quarantine
- No athletic competitions with other schools but daily practices of teams took place
- Best for all behavioral compact

# “Best for All” agreement

- Motivational contract for behavioral reinforcement
- “Strikes” = consequences for students who do not comply with mitigation measures and testing protocols
- If 3 strikes sent home for two weeks (10 of 775 students)
- Reinforced social norms around wearing masks, full adherence to testing protocols, and maintaining distance to protect each other

Fall 2021 – vaccine mandate Out of about 4000 tests...

# COVID-19 Dashboard

## Vaccination

The Lawrenceville School's return-to-campus plan for fall 2021 is dependent upon all eligible individuals being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, which was the basis for our vaccine mandate that we communicated in May. The School is only granting medical and religious exemptions.

### SELF-REPORTED VACCINATION RATES:

- 99% of faculty
- 91% of full-time staff
- 98% of students



Current as of  
10/27/2021

	Students	Employees
Currently in Isolation <sup>1</sup> :	1	0
Currently in Quarantine <sup>2</sup> :	1	0
Number of Recovered Cases	6	4
Fall Term COVID-19 Cases	7	4



# Swiss Cheese Approach – Fall 2021

- Some approaches less necessary once population fully vaccinated
  - Daily/twice daily temperature screening
  - De-densification of classrooms so that students could each be at least 6 feet apart
  - Proximity tracing devices to supplement manual contact tracing
  - Single rooms for boarding students
  - Daily symptom tracker (helpful in unvaccinated population)
- Retained surveillance testing (2x/week to 1+ after weeks of stability), masking within classrooms and indoors, and Best for All agreement

# Implications

- It is possible to nearly eliminate on-campus transmission of SARS-CoV-2
- Requires comprehensive approach to universal masking, prompt isolation of identified cases, adherence to “Best for All” agreement. Regular testing to identify cases and isolate reasonably promptly and upgraded ventilation also likely helpful
- Approach akin to “universal precautions” in health care settings

# SARS-CoV-2 Variants Update

**John Barnes**  
CDC Laboratory and Testing Task Force  
for the COVID-19 Response



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

# CDC Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/CDC>



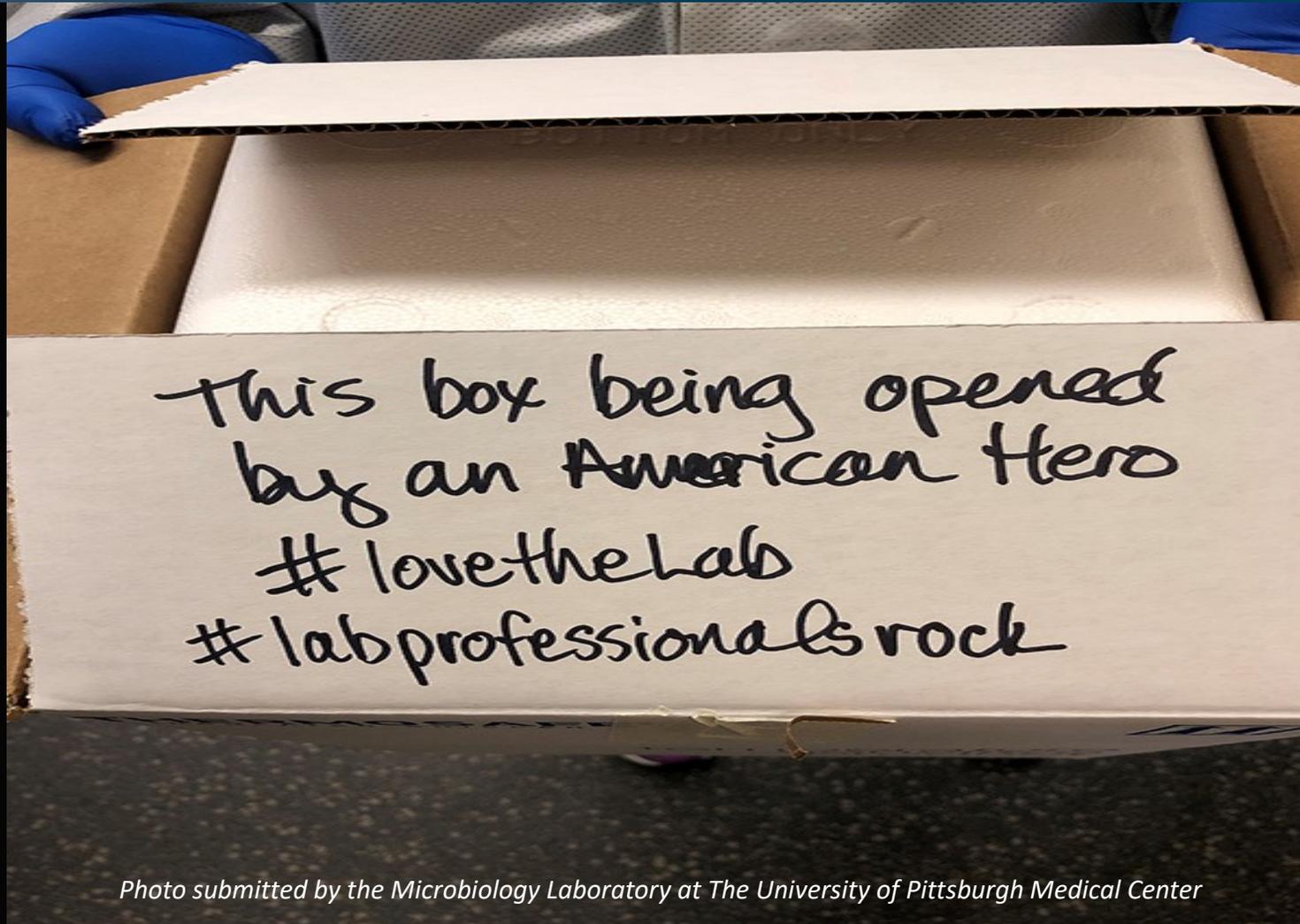
<https://twitter.com/cdcgov>

<https://www.instagram.com/cdcgov>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/cdc>

# Thank You For Your Time!



*Photo submitted by the Microbiology Laboratory at The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center*