



Tracking US Coronavirus Testing Capacity

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■ Current National Capacity Projections. (Tests / Month)

349M

March 2021

504M

June 2021

700M

September 2021

852M

December 2021

No updates this week.

What Happened Last Week

The FDA issued three new EUAs and thirteen amendments to existing EUAs:

- New EUAs (3)
 - Antigen Tests (1): InBios International
 - Serology Tests (2): Quiagen QIArearch | ZEUS Scientific
- New Amendments to Existing EUAs (13)
 - Molecular Tests (8): Bio-Rad Reliance | Quadrant Biosciences Clarifi | BioFire Defense | Gravity Diagnostics | RCA Labs GENETWORx | Jiangsu Biopertectus | Applied DNA Sciences | LabCorp
 - Collection Kits (2): Yale SalivaDirect | LabCorp Pixel
 - Serology Tests (1): Roche Elecsys
 - Antigen Tests (1): Celltrion DiaTrust
 - Flu/RSV Panels (1): Hologic Aptima

New & Noteworthy

Devastation in India with 400,000 COVID cases in one day

- [The World Health Organization announced](#) that Variant B.1.617, now predominant in India, has become the fourth Variant of Concern – upgrading it from a Variant of Interest. This variant has worrisome mutations from prior more transmissible variants plus some novel enhanced virulence mutations. [Nature](#) has an excellent briefing of current information. See below for more information on vaccine efficacy against this variant.
- More data is needed on the current vaccines' ability to protect against B.1.617 - initial studies have been mixed. There is early evidence that vaccines retain effectiveness, but at reduced levels, in common with other WHO declared variants of concern: B.1.1.7; P.1; and B.1.351. A [recent preprint](#) shows a ~7-fold reduction in neutralizing potential from Pfizer and Moderna for the India strain.

The Race to Vaccinate

- The FDA [authorized use of the Pfizer](#) vaccine in adolescents – 12 to 15-year-olds – with vaccinations expected to begin late this week. Later, a [CDC panel](#) recommended use in this age group. This development will be discussed during the [FDA's broad review session](#) on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in children on June 10th.

Another species pitches in to diagnose COVID

- As described previously, [dogs are being used to sniff out COVID in Finland](#) and other European airports. So maybe we should not be surprised by the [Dutch researchers who have taught bees](#) to diagnose COVID by placing them in harnesses and rewarding them with sugar water when they smell COVID.

The spring semester is winding down with virtual only schools now below 3% – from Burbio:

- Only 2.8% of K-12 students are in virtual-only schools.
 - % US K-12 students attending “virtual-only” schools = 2.8% (from 3.3% last week)
 - % US K-12 students attending “traditional in-person/every day” schools = 67.9% (from 67.1%)
 - % US K-12 students attending “hybrid” schools = 29.3% (from 29.6%)

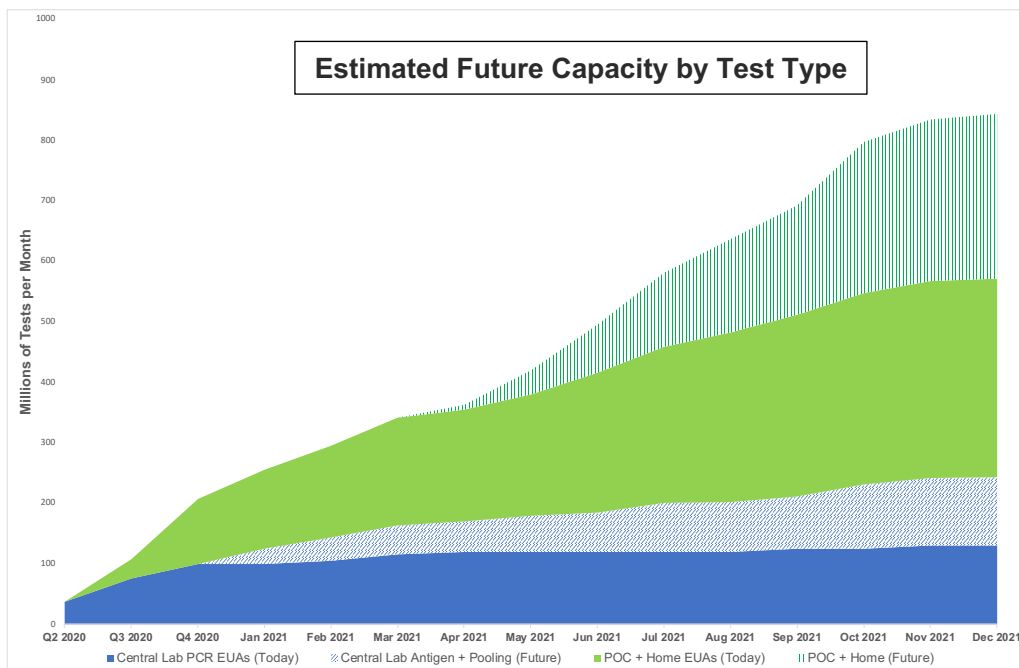
Food for Thought

As we transition to the next stage of the pandemic, experts are focused on testing practices and public health communication

- [The Wall Street Journal compared US and UK testing practices](#), to learn how their successes and demonstrate the importance of strong testing programs moving forward
- [MIT Technology Review](#) tried three currently available OTC at-home tests (Ellume, Lucira, Abbott) with mixed reviews, highlighting the importance of understanding and correctly interpreting results.
- [CDC](#) updated guidance to emphasize airborne transmission at close proximity as a major cause of disease spread (vs. surface spread or across wider distances). They also state that the [pandemic could be under control by July](#) if the “vast majority of people get vaccinated and continue with precautions against viral transmission.”

Estimated Monthly Capacity of All Tests (M)

Test Type	Sep '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Mar '21	Apr '21	May '21	Jun '21	Jul '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Dec '21
Antigen Point of Care EUA Today	28	99	116	136	150	160	167	181	193	205	218	220	226	226
Home / Self Tests EUA Today	0	2	6	7	17	12	21	38	45	55	63	75	77	80
Molecular Point of Care EUA Today	4	5	8	10	12	12	12	13	20	20	20	21	22	22
Subtotal POC & Home EUA Today	32	107	130	152	179	184	201	232	258	280	301	316	325	328
Antigen Point of Care Future	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	41	81	106	119	144	152	152
Home / Self Tests Future	0	0	0	0	0	0	11.4	28	29	37	47	93	101	107
Molecular Point of Care Future	0	0	0	0	0	8	10	10	12	12	14	14	14	14
Subtotal POC & Home Future	0	0	0	0	0	8	39	79	122	155	180	251	267	273
Total POC & Home	32	107	130	152	179	192	240	311	381	435	481	567	592	601
Antigen Central Lab Today	0	0	3	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Antigen Central Lab Future	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	14	22	23	25	26	29	30
Lab Based PCR Today	75	100	100	105	115	120	120	120	120	120	125	125	130	130
Add'l Lab Based PCR with Pooling	0	0	25	38	48	50	50	50	59	59	61	80	83	83
Total Central Lab	75	100	128	150	170	178	187	192	209	210	219	239	250	251
Grand Total	107	207	258	302	349	371	427	504	589	645	700	806	842	852



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