



# Tracking US Coronavirus Testing Capacity

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## ■ Current National Capacity Projections. (Tests / Month)

**349M**

March 2021

**379M**

June 2021

**590M**

September 2021

**707M**

December 2021

*No changes this week, but we are in the process of evaluating capacity estimates. When we lowered our estimates several weeks ago, we heard from the major testing companies that they were adjusting their manufacturing or service capabilities consistent with decreased testing demand. For the most part, those were short-term changes: moving from three shifts to two or from two shifts to one.*

*We are in a very different situation today. The Delta surge, in addition to the “Vaccine or Test” mandates, will increase testing demand. We expect that the majority of the large manufacturers can re-ramp up their capacity and staffing. What gives us confidence is that manufacturers and large service labs are much more experienced at flexing their capacity today than they were in the last two testing surges. Supply chains are stronger than they were in the past, as well.*

## What Happened Last Week

*The FDA issued 5 new EUAs, 5 amendments, and 1 warning letter in the last week:*

- New EUAs (5)
  - Molecular Tests (2): Thermo Fisher TaqPath 2.0 (saliva) | Thermo Fisher TaqPath 2.0
  - Antigen Tests (2): PHASE Scientific International | Access Bio CareStart Home Test
  - Serology Tests (1): LumiraDx
- New Amendments to Existing EUAs (5)
  - Molecular Tests (1): Access Genetics
  - Antigen Tests (1): Quidel QuickVue
  - Serology Tests (1): Nirmidas Biotech
  - Flu/RSV Combo Tests (2): GenMark Diagnostics | QIAGEN
- Recalls/Safety Communications (1)
  - Warning Letters (1): [rxmedkart.com](https://www.rxmedkart.com)

## New & Noteworthy

*Delta forces a change in CDC testing guidance for vaccinated folks.*

We've all heard that the CDC changed their masking guidance in response to Delta, but it's less well-known that they changed some testing guidance, too. As of July 28, [new guidance](#) tells vaccinated people to get tested three to five days after exposure to COVID-19, whether they've got symptoms or not. (Previously, testing was only recommended for vaccinated people who were symptomatic.) And until they get that negative test result back, exposed vaccinated folks need to mask up whenever they're indoors.

*K-12 school testing plans are all over the map.*

Big districts across the nation are announcing their plans for the 2021 - 22 school year (some schools in the South have already opened), and the trend we're seeing on school screening testing for COVID is no trend at all. Some districts ([Los Angeles](#), [Baltimore](#)) are requiring weekly testing for in-person students; others will provide weekly student testing on a voluntary basis ([Atlanta](#)) or will test only employees ([Clark County, Nev.](#)). And still others are mum on surveillance testing (Chicago, Philadelphia, Miami-Dade) or haven't yet made decisions (Houston, New York, Boston).

*K-12 Administrators Survey.*

A recent survey of 200 school administrators by Thermo Fisher Scientific might help explain the wide range of K-12 testing plans. In the June 2021 study, 75% of administrators (40% of whom are school principals) said that COVID testing in schools is important. However, only 50% of administrators indicated that they would test, with 21% unsure. Of the principals surveyed, 57% said that testing is either extremely or very important. But again, when asked about whether they will test in their school, two different camps emerged: 38% of respondents wanted to conduct testing and 39% did not.

## Food for Thought

*Not vaccinated? Well then, you've got to get tested. Frequently.*

In the private sector, there IS a trend: [vaccine mandates](#). After months of waiting for someone else to go first, employers from Google and Goldman Sachs to Disney and Tyson finally took the plunge together. While some are taking a hard line (if you're a [Goldman Sachs](#) employee, your ID card won't let you in the building unless you're vaccinated), others are offering their workers a choice: Get vaccinated or get tested, up to three times a week in some cases.

*Lions and Tigers and Deer?*

First it was dogs, then domestic cats, then captive snow leopards, and now Sumatran tigers at the San Diego Zoo. But it was truly a surprise when the ubiquitous [white-tailed deer joined](#) the pantheon of creatures who show evidence of COVID-19 exposure. [USDA research](#) in Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, and Illinois showed that 40% of the deer sero-surveyed carried antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Still unknown: How were the animals exposed? And, more critically: Can they serve as a reservoir? This does not make our heart grow fawn'der!

*Higher ed vaccine mandates:*

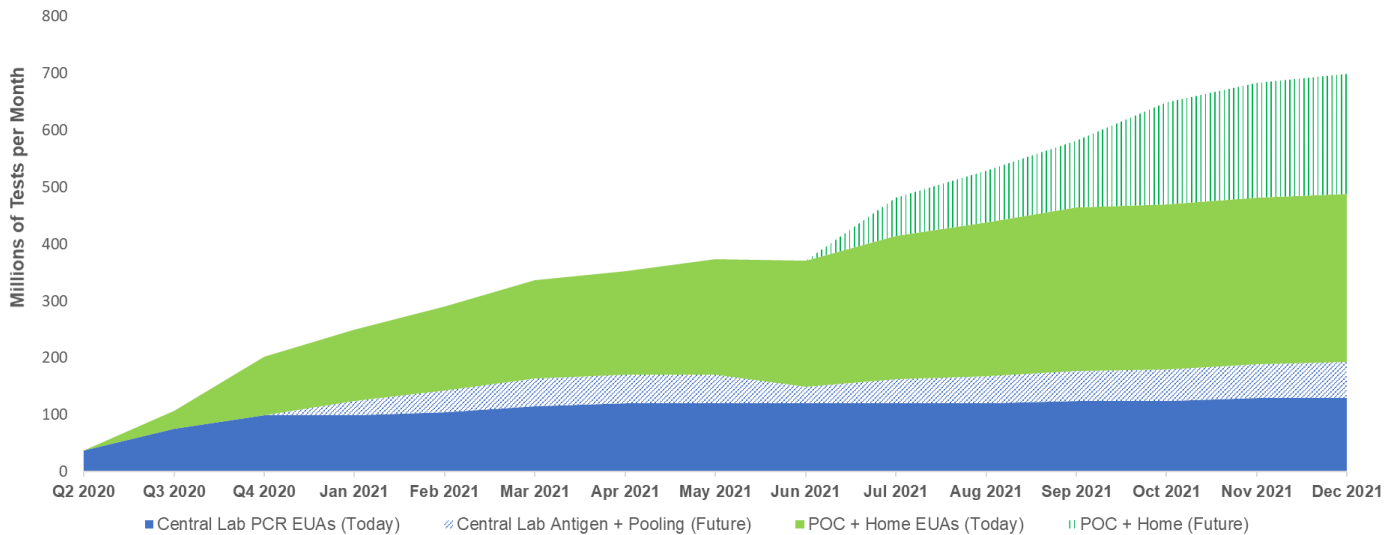
The *Chronicle of Higher Education* now counts [631 colleges and universities](#) that will require vaccines for the fall semester, up from 607 a week ago.

# Latest Monthly Capacity Estimates

## 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	95	111	131	145	157	166	163	178	190	204	206	206	206
Home / Self Tests EUA Today	0	2	6	7	17	12	24	44	56	61	63	64	66	69
Molecular Point of Care EUA Today	4	5	8	10	12	12	13	14	19	19	20	20	20	20
<b>Subtotal POC &amp; Home EUA Today</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>295</b>
<i>Antigen Point of Care Future</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	61	74	89	102	102
<i>Home / Self Tests Future</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	18	30	75	85	95
<i>Molecular Point of Care Future</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12	14	14	14	14
<b>Subtotal POC &amp; Home Future</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>Total POC &amp; Home</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>506</b>
<i>Antigen Central Lab Today</i>	0	0	3	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
<i>Antigen Central Lab Future</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	18	21	24	27	30
Lab Based PCR Today	75	100	100	105	115	120	120	120	120	120	125	125	130	130
<i>Add'l Lab Based PCR with Pooling</i>	0	0	25	38	48	50	50	30	30	30	31	31	33	33
<b>Total Central Lab</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>201</b>

## Estimated Future Capacity by Test Type



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