



# Tracking US Coronavirus Testing Capacity

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

**344M**

March 2021

**470M**

June 2021

**626M**

September 2021

**746M**

December 2021

*Updated estimates this week. Given decreased demand and continued increases in vaccination, we have lowered future capacity estimates. We also “zeroed out” projected May EUAs, which further decreases capacity in June and July. The final impact on capacity, is slowed efforts related to pooled testing, also a consequence of lower demand. If testing demand increases again as a result of new mutations or a surge in infections, we will see increases in capacity. Michael Mina published this [Op Ed](#) on the need for continued testing.*

## What Happened Last Week

*The FDA issued four EUAs and nine amendments this week:*

- New EUAs (4)
  - Antigen Tests (1): Salofa Oy
  - Serology Tests (2): DiaSorin Liaison | NOWDiagnostics ADEXUSDx
  - Molecular (1): Harvard University Clinical Lab Quaeris
- New Amendments to Existing EUAs (9)
  - Molecular Tests (7): LetsGetChecked DTC | Genetron Health | Hologic Aptima | BioTNS | Bioeksen Tech | InBios Int'l | Wadsworth Center
  - Collection Kits (1): Kroger Health DTC
  - Serology Tests (1): Roche Elecsys

## New & Noteworthy

- The [first COVID-19 “breathalyzer”](#) was authorized by the Singapore Health Sciences Authority. The BreFence Go 1 minute test is a mass spectrometer that identifies a volatile organic compound (VOC) signature of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in a test subject’s breath. Trials at Singapore’s Changi Airport claimed 93% sensitivity and 95% specificity, although detailed data are not readily available.
- The [UK SAGE authority has concluded](#) that B.1.617.2, a novel variant first identified in India, is likely 50% more transmissible than the already highly transmissible B.1.1.7 variant, based on its [mutations](#) and its prevalence in surge clustered in the UK.
- Meanwhile, there is an out of proportion and premature media storm that [dogs can pose a COVID threat to humans](#) rooted in a [recent publication](#) that, based on genetic sequencing of 301 patients in Malaysia hospitalized with pneumonia, found 8 samples with presence of canine coronavirus (CCoV) in 2017/18.

# Food for Thought

*Who writes the rules on masking? New CDC guidance allows businesses to decide for themselves*

- The Misconception of HIPAA: When the CDC's updated mask guidance for vaccinated individuals was released, it made particular note of the fact [that private companies still had the right to require masks for all patrons](#). But companies electing to forgo mask requirements for those who can prove they have been vaccinated is causing many to wonder: [is this a violation](#) of my HIPAA-protected right to keep my health information confidential? [Short answer – no](#). HIPAA applies only to [certain specific entities, not all](#) businesses outside healthcare and does not “give someone personal protection against ever having to disclose their health information.”
- CDC guidance for schools, however is to continue masking. A study of a Georgia elementary school showed [a 37% lower infection rate](#) in schools requiring masks. Evidentiary, when it comes to kids, it's still what you wear from ear to ear that matters.

*Debate over Virus Origins Reignites*

- The [Wall Street Journal](#) covered new information that three researchers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) were sick and in the hospital with COVID-19-like symptoms in November 2019, fueling debate over whether COVID-19 is the result of a lab leak.
- The [Washington Post](#) walks through the timeline of SARS-CoV-2 origin hypotheses, concluding that a lab leak theory cannot be fully dismissed.
- Commentary: While virus origin theories have little to contribute to dealing with the pandemic underway, understanding if human error did lead to the release of a virulent virus is critical to make sure it does not happen again. Confirmed data is lacking, but a few key points: #1 [the RaTG13 bat virus was identified in an outbreak in 2012](#) and was sent to WIV for storage and analysis; #2 required [mutations in the receptor binding site](#) in the furin cleavage site arising naturally simultaneously is *relatively* unlikely; #3 although RaTG13 is the closest known zoonotic relative of the human virus, a [necessary natural intermediate host has not yet been identified](#); #4 concerns about WIV safety lapses had been previously (2017-18) reported. Let's stay calm and focused on fighting the virus today – but learn what we can to fight more effectively in the future.

*Spring Semester Comes to a Close, and Planning for Fall Semester is in Full Swing*

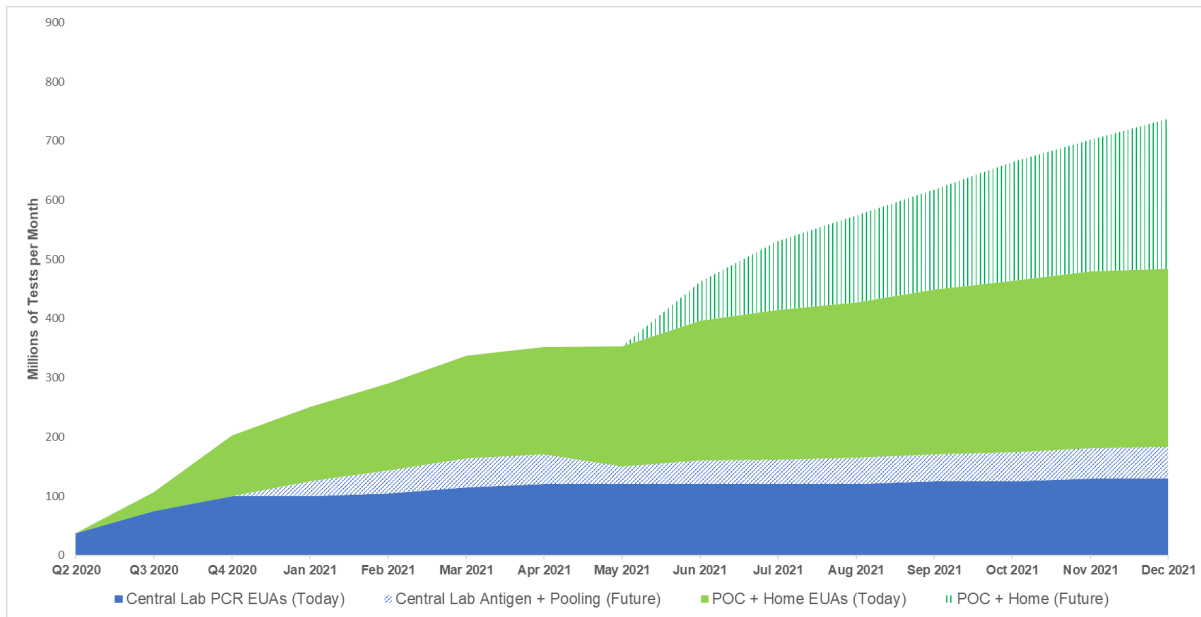
- [Burbio's](#) data: With the current school year ending, no major changes in school status.
  - % US K-12 students attending “virtual-only” schools = 2.4% (from 2.6% last week)
  - % US K-12 students attending “traditional in-person/every day” schools = 69.2% (from 68.6%)
  - % US K-12 students attending “hybrid” schools = 28.4% (from 28.8%)
- Meanwhile, states that have had their share of the \$10 billion for school COVID-19 testing since April have been [slow to pass it on to schools](#). Also, the [Department of Defense awarded three agreements](#) totaling \$650 million. This additional funding will further expand domestic COVID-19 testing for targeted populations, including K-8 schools.
- In higher ed, even more universities ([404 this week, up from 361 last week](#)) are now *requiring* vaccines for the fall semester.

# 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	180	189	191	201	201	207	207
Home / Self Tests EUA Today	0	2	6	7	17	12	24	43	50	58	63	75	77	80
Molecular Point of Care EUA Today	4	5	8	10	12	12	13	13	14	14	14	14	14	14
<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>236</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>301</b>
<i>Antigen Point of Care Future</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	75	100	110	135	135	135
<i>Home / Self Tests Future</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	29	35	45	51	73	104
<i>Molecular Point of Care Future</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	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>66</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>253</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>302</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>554</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	10	12	15	15	18	19	21
Lab Based PCR Today	75	100	100	105	115	120	120	120	120	120	125	125	130	130
<i>Advt'l Lab Based PCR with Pooling</i>	0	0	25	38	48	50	30	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>158</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>746</b>

## Estimated Future Capacity by Test Type



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