With the fear and uncertainty surrounding the health and well-being of students, educators, and staff, returning to an in-person learning environment presented a unique challenge. As factors outside of a normal instructional focus took center stage, a COVID-19 response plan proved to be pivotal. The K-12 testing program quickly became the cornerstone of this plan. Through accessible diagnostic testing, streamlined routine testing, and the detection of thousands of positive cases, the GADPH K-12 testing program restored hope by establishing confidence in a safe in-person learning environment within the GA school system.

The goal of the testing program was, and remains, to promote and protect in-person learning. By providing equitable access to testing, schools were empowered with the proper tools to keep their classrooms safe. Harnessing the willing collaboration of school staff, met the unique needs of each school. As a result, testing provided peace of mind without disruption.

Committing to IN-CLASS Learning Time

From Taylor County to Gwinnett County, whether in the countryside or downtown Atlanta, this innovative program provided exceptional service and robust COVID-19 resources to public, private, and charter schools across Georgia. With rural areas and Historically Marginalized Populations (HMPs) prone to receiving the lesser of both, the GADPH program bridged the gap by prioritizing and empowering these populations. Leveraging existing infrastructure was key to serving every participating school with excellence, regardless of the location. Equitable access to testing for all populations was a key to the success of the entire program.

KEY POINTS OF SUCCESS

- Collaboration among all stakeholders (Administrations, Principals, Superintendents, State leaders, School Nurses).
- Turnaround time within 24 hours from time of collection.
- Flexible and various collection times of day and formats.
- Developed customized training, support, launch and operational guides for consistent and long term success.

"Our partnership with MAKO was invaluable resource for our school. The exceptional staff that served our school made this partnership efficient and pleasant all around. Having MAKO in our schools helped slow the spread of COVID and keep our school safe. The program was effective, because the lab results were timely enough to get our students with COVID out of the classroom quickly. Having testing weekly at our school gave everyone peace of mind that our school community was safe. I am thankful for our partnership."

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

"We were very fortunate to have MAKO conduct our weekly testing for the school year. The company had the most amazing and professional staff that were always willing to help on site and in the office. The program prevented outbreaks and provided a sense of security, because we could monitor the health of our classrooms. The program made testing accessible to our school community, helping protect the wellbeing of our students, staff, and families."

SCHOOL NURSE

MAKO MEDICAL.COM