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CENTER FOR HEALTH SECURITY

COVID-19

Testing Toolkit

## Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security COVID-19 Testing Toolkit Webinar Series

### Lessons from BD on Implementing Testing Services in K-12 Schools

April 13, 2021

#### Panelists:

**Adam Zerda, PhD**

Director

Strategy and Public Affairs

BD (at time of webinar)

Senior Director

International Affairs

BD (current)

**Richard Pescatore, DO, FAAEM**

Chief Physician

Delaware Division of Public Health

**Andrew Lux**

Director

Application Management and

Implementations

Healthcare IT Leaders

#### Summary:

COVID-19 testing in schools can help reduce community spread, drive public health equity by improving access to testing, and instill confidence and a sense of safety to children, teachers, and parents. The panelists discussed how they worked to help keep kids in school by partnering with private sector entities, government agencies, and school districts to implement COVID-19 testing in schools. BD, a medical device company, developed a rapid antigen nasal swab test, BDVeritor, with a cartridge and portable reader that delivers results in 15 minutes and can be used in institutional settings. The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services partnered with the state Department of Education to bring high frequency antigen testing to 84 schools in the state. Healthcare IT Leaders, a consulting and staffing firm, partners with schools, universities, corporations, and government agencies to help set up testing programs with an approach that can be customized to include training, logistics, and technology platforms.

#### Key lessons include:

- Successful high frequency antigen testing programs require strong collaboration among all partners. Communication and training are key.
- Time frame from program initiation to operation can be short, about 1 to 2 weeks. Identifying personnel to conduct testing is a pre-launch challenge.
- Reporting results to local or state public health systems is vital. Some testing systems include companion applications that send standardized reports to those entities.
- Faculty and students reported feeling confident due to onsite rapid testing in schools, and those success stories helped prompt other schools to begin testing programs.