



19 morbidity and mortality. RADx-UP lays the foundation to reduce disparities for underserved and vulnerable populations who are disproportionately affected by, have the highest infection rates of, and/or are most at risk for complications or poor outcomes from the COVID-19 pandemic. The RADx-UP Return to School Diagnostic Testing Initiative aims to increase COVID-19 testing access and uptake for underserved and vulnerable populations to safely return children to in-person school. Specifically, the projects will:

- x Provide evidence for the effectiveness, sustainability, and scalability of COVID-19 testing approaches (i.e., FDA-authorized/approved diagnostic testing, screening, and/or surveillance testing) and mitigation strategies (e.g., masking, physical distancing, vaccination, as applicable)
- x Discuss the qualitative data related to social, behavioral, and ethical implications of implementation of COVID-19 testing within identified communities.

**Workshop Goals**

- x Assemble RADx-UP Return to School awardees/investigative teams with others conducting school-based research on COVID-19 diagnostic testing to learn from each other and define the current state of their research projects supporting the safe return of children to in-person school.
- x Use this knowledge and experience from the research projects to:
  - o Identify common themes, highlight shared research milestones and opportunities that can complement and innovate to expedite the translation of research results into knowledge, tools, and procedures to improve the health of school communities
  - o Identify the addressable gaps needing informative future research directions
  - o Review and evaluate the research projects to facilitate analysis of research questions and potentially inform school policy at the local and community levels, as appropriate

**Opening Remarks:**

Presentation Title	Presenter Names	
	Alison Cernich Sonia Lee	National Institutes of Health

Dr. Eliseo Perez-Stable, Director of the National Institute of Minority Health and Disparities (NIMHD) welcomed participants to this Workshop. He described the Return to School effort as part of RADx-UP, one of the first actions taken by Congress in response to the pandemic. RADx-UP funded their first efforts the end of September 2020 with a focus on underserved and vulnerable populations. The RADx-UP effort is designed as a consortium wherein funded projects work together to tackle persistent disparities, utilizing FDA/EUA authorized tests and standardization across efforts.



school districts. Thus far, ET is successfully implemented in several states, with over



Drs. Keener Mast, Goldman, and Schuster described their project to determine the preferred testing strategy among students and staff among three Kansas City public schools. Findings indicate that most people preferred the shallow nasal swab due to ease of test administration (versus saliva-based testing). Parent and staff surveys and interviews indicate support for COVID-19 testing and masking in schools to increase safety and comfort with sending children back to school.

Presentation Title	
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