

Understanding SAMPLING IN TESTING FOR COVID-19

SAMPLE

A group of individuals chosen from a population that is used to estimate information about the population.

SAMPLING 101

Q: WHY DO WE SAMPLE?

If it isn't possible to test everyone in the population, a sample of people is chosen from the population, those individuals are tested, and their results are used to estimate information about the whole population.



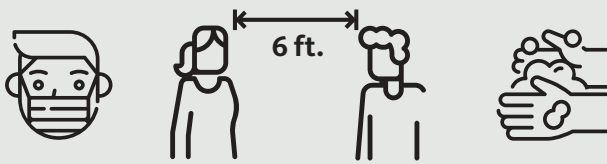
Q: WHAT IS AN ESTIMATE?

The sample is used to estimate the prevalence of COVID-19.

The estimate has some uncertainty attached to it because not every person in the population is tested.

Q: IF THE ESTIMATE ISN'T EXACTLY CORRECT, WHAT GOOD IS IT?

Even though the estimate may not be exactly correct, it is still very useful. Good estimates show us how well we are doing to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and what more we might have to do.



Q: HOW IS A SAMPLE DIFFERENT FROM DRIVE-UP TESTING?

With drive-up testing, we only know the test results of people who choose to get tested. By choosing a random sample, we get a much better estimate of the prevalence in the whole community.

Q: CAN I BE TESTED MULTIPLE TIMES BY TRACE?

Yes, but not during the same sampling cycle. If TRACE returns to your community multiple times, you may be selected more than once.

For TRACE-OSU, and particularly for OSU-Cascades and Hatfield where the population sizes are smaller, you may be selected multiple times throughout the academic year.

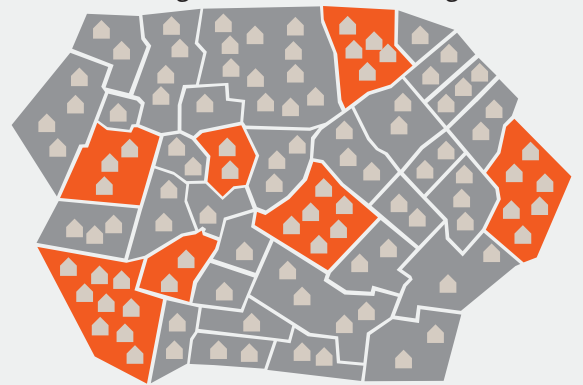
Because prevalence is estimated at a certain point in time, we cannot use your previous test result for current estimates.

TRACE Projects

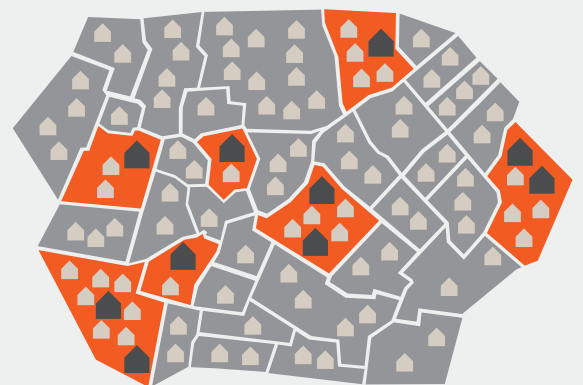
Q: HOW DOES TRACE PRODUCE GOOD ESTIMATES OF THE PREVALENCE OF COVID-19?

TRACE-Community

Randomly select neighborhoods
Neighborhoods in the community are randomly chosen for the sample. Neighborhoods that have more housing units have a greater chance of being chosen.



Randomly select households
Then, households from each selected neighborhood are randomly chosen to be visited.



Anyone living in a chosen household can be tested. Because neighborhoods and households are different sizes, not every person has the same chance of being in the sample. The estimated prevalence accounts for this.

TRACE-OSU

Each cycle, people are randomly selected from the enrollees in each of these four groups and receive an invitation to be tested:



OSU-Corvallis students



OSU-Corvallis faculty & staff



OSU-Cascades



Hatfield Marine Science Center