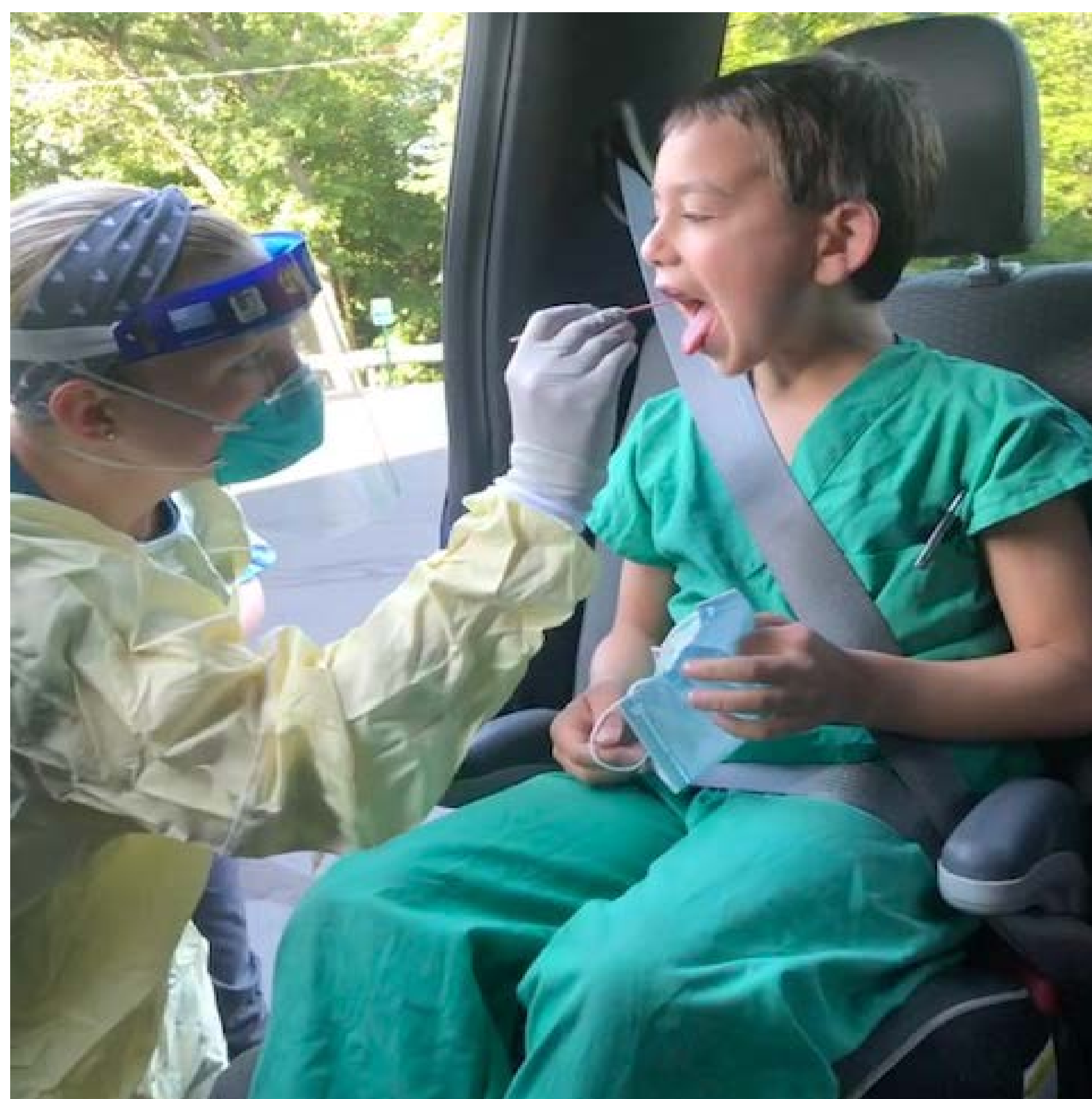


BACKGROUND

- Perianesthesia nurses have a unique set of knowledge and skills, which allows them to quickly adapt and continuously improve processes to meet the perioperative needs of their patients
- The recent global SARS-CoV-2 pandemic required many perianesthesia nurses to support the screening of surgical patients by performing Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests preoperatively
- Testing pediatric patients presents unique challenges that require constant assessment of processes that work well and the implementation of interventions to address barriers to success



OBJECTIVES

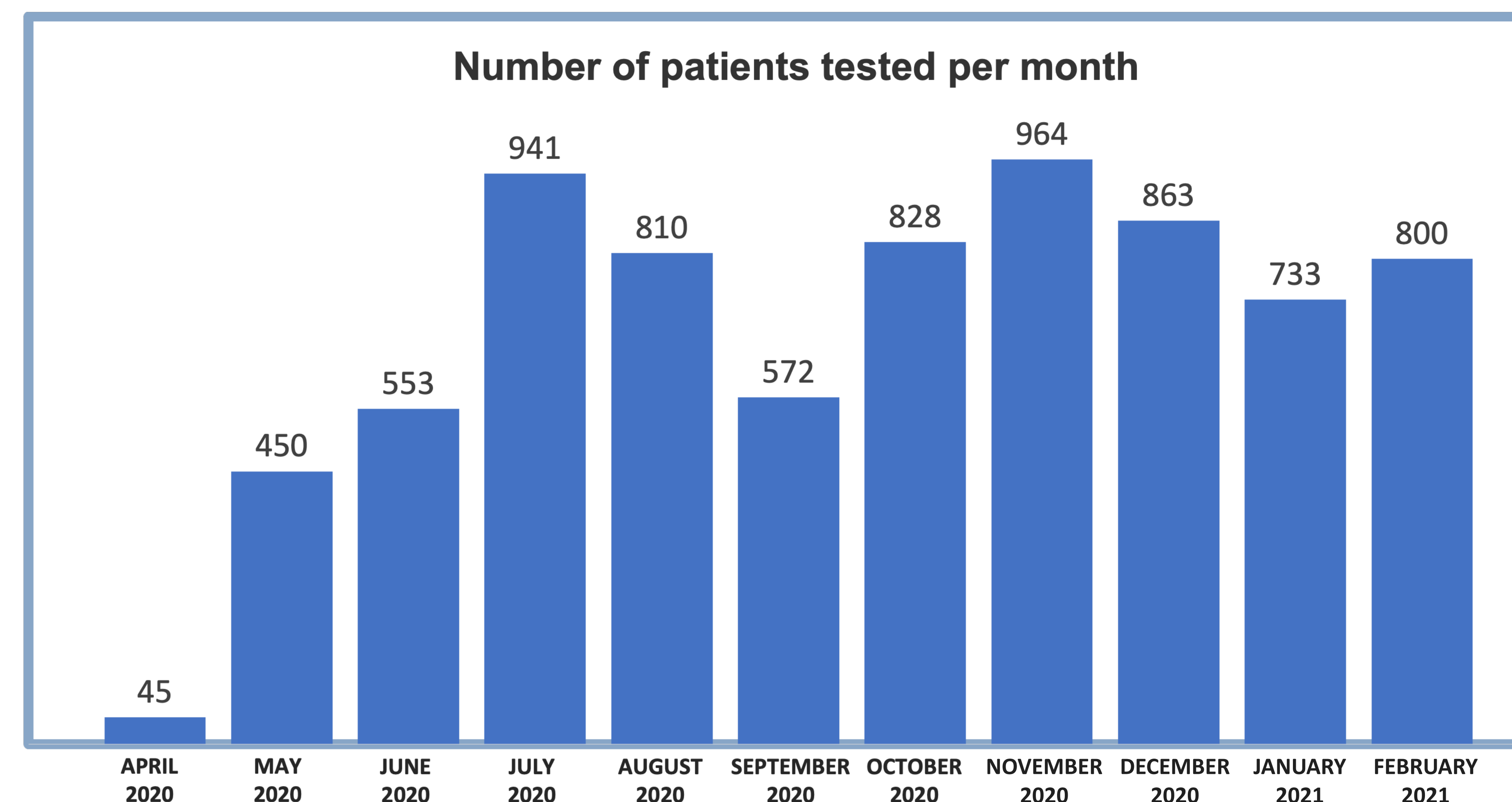
- The development and implementation of a drive-thru COVID-19 preoperative testing site in a pediatric ambulatory setting

PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION

- A core group of perianesthesia nurses developed a drive-thru testing site for pediatric patients scheduled for surgery
- All patients require PCR testing within 24-48 hours preoperatively
- Obtaining tests can be challenging in the pediatric population as specimens are collected by oropharyngeal (OP), nasopharyngeal (NP), or anterior nares (AN) swabs
- Numerous techniques were found to help support successful testing such as social stories, involving child life specialists, and distraction techniques (bubbles, music)
- Nurses use of pretend play, small incentives, and comfort holds provided additional reassurance
- Verbal/written testing instructions have been continuously revised to include reminders to wear a mask, how to provide care at home if test results are positive, and so forth

STATE OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE

- The preoperative COVID-19 testing site initially allowed for testing of a small number of patients requiring time-sensitive surgery during the height of the pandemic
- We have since vastly increased our caseload and currently support testing of up to 70 patients daily in an ambulatory setting
- There have only been four patients who were unable to successfully complete their preoperative COVID-19 test



STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT PEDIATRIC PATIENTS DURING COVID-19 TESTING

- Social stories
- Bubble machine
- Singing, Music
- Video distraction
- Sensory items (model magic)
- Relaxation techniques (deep breathing)
- Small incentives (stickers)
- Prizes, rewards (toy)
- Pretend play with stuffed animals
- Providing options (counting down)
- Comfort holds
- Child Life Specialists

IMPLICATIONS

- As the global health pandemic continues it is imperative to utilize best practices for preoperative COVID-19 testing
- Continuously reevaluating and implementing safe and effective testing techniques reduces the risk of transmission and supports quality care
- Sharing ideas, lessons learned, and best practices of how nurses have implemented new perioperative processes is essential for advancing the practice of perianesthesia nursing during a global pandemic