Who Should Have Access to the Results?
(Day 3, Activity 8)

Who Should Have Access to the Results? -

Make sure that students understand what Max’s positive test result means for others in the family.

1. Does it mean that others in the family have also inherited the mutation? (No)
2. Would a negative test result from Max mean that others in the family are free of the mutation? (No)

Students overwhelmingly think it’s obvious that Max’s father should share the information. Students think that everyone should know because “they are part of the family.”

Teacher reminds students that family members can only learn this information by getting themselves tested. Max’s results will not tell them anything definitive about themselves.

Teacher asks whether the father could share information that Max has had a genetic test and that there has been concern of a particular inherited mutation in the family. Then, each affected family member could decide about getting genetically tested.

Students can compare the following phrasings:
Which is preferable and why?
1. “Max has had a genetic test for an inherited mutation related to thyroid cancer. He asked me not to share his test results, but you can get yourself tested if you choose, and I can give you more information about the test itself.”
2. “Max has had a genetic test for an inherited mutation related to thyroid cancer. Since his results may have a bearing on your own health, I can tell you the results if you want to know.”
3. “Max has tested positive for a mutation related to thyroid cancer. This means you have a ____ percent chance of also having inherited the mutation.”

Students overwhelmingly think it’s obvious that Max’s father should not share the information.

Teacher asks students to brainstorm scenarios in which a person has an obligation to share information with others. For example, these scenarios could include
1. diagnosis of a very contagious disease and
2. patient tells therapist that he or she intends to kill or hurt someone.

Teacher asks whether there is a difference between scenarios above vs. sharing results of Max’s test. If so, what are the differences? If not, why are they similar?