



**State of Rhode Island  
Department of Administration / Division of Purchases  
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**Solicitation Information  
June 30, 2021**

**ADDENDUM #1**

**RFI # 7644808**

**TITLE:** COVID-19 Laboratory Testing Services

**Bid Closing Date & Time: July 13, 2021 @ 2:00 PM Eastern Time (ET)**

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**Notice to Vendors**

**Attached are vendor questions with State responses. No further questions will be answered.**

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Interdepartmental Project Manager**

*Interested parties should monitor this website, on a regular basis, for any additional information that may be posted.*

**Vendor Questions with State Responses for RFI #7644808 – COVID-19**  
**Laboratory Testing Services**

#	Question	Answer
1	Is the laboratory conducting the needed services required to be located in the State of Rhode Island?	No.
2	If our laboratory partner is CLIA and CAP certified, would these qualifications be sufficient for the State of Rhode Island in terms of the requirement that the laboratory be "licensed in Rhode Island"?	Yes.
3	Will we, as an offeror/vendor, be disqualified if we do not have a Rhode Island physical address?	No.
4	Is there any interest from the State of Rhode Island in using different types of COVID-19 testing, such as saliva based, combination Influenza A/B, etc.?	No.
5	<p>The RFQ contains the following statement:            By conducting consistent surveillance through specimen testing, schools will be able to identify the prevalence of the disease in classrooms and swiftly take appropriate policy steps to protect children, teachers and staff.</p> <p>Does RIDOH and/or RIDE have a plan as to what surveillance testing will be required for the K-12 population once schools reopen in the Fall? If yes will there be a mandatory requirement for regular PCR testing, whether pooled or individual?</p>	<p>There will not be required PCR testing in Schools. Participation in pooled/PCR testing will be driven at the school/district level.</p>
6	Does the state have any estimates of potential test volumes?	Approximately 2,000 tests/day for individual PCR in ‘Moderate Transmission’; pooled testing in schools is dependent on case rates.
7	<p>The RFQ contains the following statement:            For positive “pools” the laboratory vendor will be required to process individual specimens from every patient in the pool to pinpoint the positive result.</p> <p>Does this mean that the laboratory will be required to collect two samples from each individual initially, with one for the pool and one to be only tested if the pool is positive or does it mean that if a pool is positive the laboratory will be required to go back and collect samples from each person in the pool?</p>	<p>The laboratory will not be collecting any specimens. Two samples will be collected from the individual initially.</p>

#	Question	Answer
8	Has the state already started working with any outside firms to provide these or similar services at this point?	The lab has current commercial lab agreements for PCR testing.
9	Do vendors have to be based in Rhode Island to respond to this RFQ?	No
10	Does the Vendor lab need to be based in Rhode Island to respond to the RFQ?	No
11	Will the State accept a turnaround time of 24 hours from the time of receipt in the vendors lab?	No
12	How many days a week do you plan to Test in schools?	Rate of transmission dependent; weekly.
13	How many hours a day will you need Testing?	The RFQ is for laboratory services. Hours should be managed by vendor in order to meet RFQ requirements.
14	How many students are you Testing per day now?	Approximately 1,000
15	How many Total tests a day are you performing now?	Testing in RI occurs 7 days a week.
16	Who are the current Testing Vendors?	The State has multiple vendor contracts.
17	What is your anticipated Testing volume?	See question 6.
18	How many PCR Tests overall do you anticipate needing?	See question 6.
19	Are you willing to consider Self-Collected PCR Tests with an FDA EUA for Teachers to be Tested at home?	Not for this procurement.
20	Are you planning regular weekly Testing?	Transmission rate dependent.
21	Are you considering Testing students and staff before they return to school in the fall?	See question 20.
22	Do you have an interest in Vendors offering Genetic Sequencing?	Not for this procurement
23	When is the start date for the new Testing program?	The services start at the issue of the PO.
24	Can you clarify how vendors should submit their pricing per test and per pooled test?	Price per test for an individual swab Price per pool, divided by total swabs per pool equals price per swab in pool
25	Is there an ideal 'pool size' that RIDOH is looking for?	No.
26	As you <i>increase</i> 'pool size', you <i>decrease</i> sensitivity. Is there a required sensitivity for the	Pool size should maximize the confidence the vendor has in identifying a true positive pool

#	Question	Answer
	testing?	
27	Please confirm whether the RIDOH reporting system is a standard HL7-standard health data reporting platform.	Yes
28	Does the state of RI have a preference on the pooling approach, Pod pooled (pooled at sample collection) where to deconvolute a new sample will need to be obtained or pooled in lab where a new sample is not required approach? Is it acceptable to bid on both options?	Yes, both options are acceptable.
29	Is a self-swab approach acceptable?	This RFQ is not for specimen collection.
30	Does the state expect sample collection services?	No, this solicitation is for laboratory services only.
31	The narrative says to assume no need for staff or courier, but in the table of mandatory requirements, #9 says "will coordinate the pick-up and delivery of test kit supplies and or swabbed specimens along with specimen collection vendors/couriers". Question: What is the requirement?	The vendor will need to supply test kits and receive specimens from a location within the state of Rhode Island (historically the Rhode Island Convention Center). Another vendor will provide courier services to/from the location within the state.
32	Do you need a participant registration module because mandatory requirement #11 says we need to be able to "receive an ELO from the state via HL7". Will the state be transmitting orders associated with individual patients?	The state will generate ELO through integration with Vendors portal.
33	It is detailed in the "Scope of Work" that samples will be submitted from K-12 in the fall for surveillance. What will the other sources of specimens be? Since the state has closed all the public collection sites will specimens be from congregant care facilities, travelers and other non-diagnostic collections for example weddings or other large venues that may require testing that is not covered by insurance?	The state has not close all public collection sites. Specimens may be from settings covered and/or not covered by insurance.
34	Based on the current number of tests being processed daily in RI being 5,000 – 6,000 and more than 50% being antigen tests, what is the estimated daily volume of PCR tests that will be performed? Notwithstanding a surge or spike in positivity it appears we have plateaued in volumes, what is the RIDOH estimate of daily PCR tests for the foreseeable future?	See question 6.