



HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT  
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Ellicott City, MD 21042  
(410) 313-6644

**ADDENDUM NO. 1**  
**(Total Pages - 2)**

March 19, 2021

**Request for Proposal No. 028.21.B1**

**Covid Testing Services**

**Due Date: March 31, 2021 Time: 10:00 A.M.**

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The following shall be incorporated into the captioned solicitation as though included in the original documents issued.

The Board of Education authorizes the following changes, clarifications and or attachments to the solicitation documents; however, such changes shall not relieve the firm of their responsibilities as otherwise required by the solicitation documents.

Please see the following list of questions.

**Attachment F – Cost Proposal**

The Testing fees listed are to establish a standard of expectation. Alternate pricing or providers/methods may be offered. Please be sure to note on the cost proposal response that a substitute or alternate product/service/pricing is being provided. For the substitute or alternate, please reference the item it replaces and provide sufficient information or detail to evaluate and determine the substitute or alternate.

There are no other changes.

**Questions and Responses:**

1. Are you looking for a surveillance testing program as well as an exposure testing program?  
**Response: We are currently engaging in a testing program through the state of Maryland. This program is for symptomatic students and staff that are in the school buildings during the day. We are looking for COVID testing opportunities that could be either surveillance or symptomatic testing for others like our athletes and groups that would not be in the building during the day.**
2. What is envisioned for the scope of work outside of the testing facility?  
**Response: We would like the company to provide the testing process and results to the school system. We would hope that the company could also provide education to the individuals on the testing and the results as well as direction to quarantine or isolate as deemed necessary. The results of test and any other needed information will be provided to our school nurses to assist with contact tracing and the company will need to be available for calls/questions from our staff.**

3. The amount of tests referenced that you're getting from the state seems insufficient for the size of the school system. What is the vision for testing volume?  
**Response:** We received 16k rapid antigens and 8k PCRs. We have the ability to request more if needed. We need a volume to work with our athletes and other groups attending after school programming.
4. What are the roles of the MD lab and the school nurses referenced in the RFP?  
**Response:** The school nurses need to be given the lab results for contact tracing and record keeping. With regard to the state program, the school health personnel are performing the rapid test, acquiring results, and entering into the lab system. We are then communicating the results to the person and the local health department. With PCR, the nurse is obtaining the sample as well and mailing to the lab. The results are reported back to the school system and the local health department. We then continue with contact tracing.
5. Essentially, what is in/out of scope for the contractor?  
**Response:** I would need them to elaborate. We would need the test obtained from the student or staff outside of the school day, processed the test and the results returned to the school system.
6. In SECTION I, S (6) mentions a type of testing "Under the State of Maryland Covid 19 Testing Program, the Abbott BinaxNow Covid -19 Ag Card, and Mako Laboratories RT-PCR Test. CMG/FC will be using BIORAD – CFX96 Real Time PCR System with C1000 Touch Thermal Cycler for the Same Day PCR test. The Quidel Corporation's Emergency Use Authorized FDA device the Sofia 2, using nucleocapsid protein antigen, via nasal swab, for Rapid Flu and Covid Tests. None of these tests are serology point of care blood test."

For the type of testing, my question is as follows:

- a. Can we apply this bid with our covid19 Ag test kit or Nasopharyngeal swab test which is not involved in the type of testing mentioned above?  
**Response:** Yes, you can apply the bid for the test that your lab is currently using or has available. We are not requiring the same type of test.
  - b. Can we apply with our Saliva testing that was developed by the Yale School of Public Health (YSPH)? It can provide better ease-of-collection for K-12 students.  
**Response:** Yes.
7. May we use our own lab and equipment to process tests?  
**Response:** Yes, but please identify the process/methodology used as well as compliance with all requirements.