



HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
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ADDENDUM NO. 2
(Total Pages - 3)

March 24, 2021

Request for Proposal No. 028.21.B1

Covid Testing Services

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

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 a second series of questions.

There are no other changes.

Questions and Responses:

8. May we use our own lab and equipment to process tests?
Response: Yes.
9. Regarding page 10, section T. Howard County Public School System Supplied Services, #1 and the sentence that states "Students who screen positive will be routed to a testing site at a school and will have a POC Rapid Antigen Test administered by the school nurse, along with a PCR confirmation send out" does "screen positive" denote, for example, a student running a fever or showing systems? If so, will school staff undertake the screenings or is it the intent of Howard County Public School System to have the awarded vendor conduct the screenings? In addition, may we use our own PCR tests or our own lab to process the PCR tests (after a positive antigen test)?
Response: HCPSS is engaging in our own testing program during the school day for symptomatic staff and students. We are in need of a process to test students outside of the school day. The vendor would use their own supplies and process the tests.
10. Is the testing you are looking to perform for surveillance or symptomatic students and staff?
Response: We would like the proposal to address both options for after school.
 - a. If surveillance testing, how frequent would you want testing performed?
Response: Possibly weekly
 - b. Do you have a testing protocol that you could share?
Response: Maryland guidebook for testing K-12 is available on the MDH website.

11. What type of testing are you interested in?
a. Rapid Antigen testing? **Response: yes**
b. PCR testing? **Response: yes**
c. PCR pooling? **Response: no**
12. Will there be any school or county personal that can help administer testing?
a. If so, to what capacity?
Response: There may be staff available for logistics.
13. Confirming services, is this RFP for consulting services or for laboratory testing?
Response: Lab testing and testing process.
14. With the 16,500 rapid antigen tests and the 8,500 PCR test you are secured, how do you want these used?
Response: These are for the school system to use with our staff, we are looking for a proposal for a vendor to provide testing services outside of the school day (athletics, clubs).
a. Do you want them used by the laboratory awarded the RFP to perform testing with?
Response: See above.
b. Do these testing supplies need to be sent through MAKO laboratory or can they be used through a different facility?
Response: This is a separate program than the proposal
15. Are you looking for the Vendor to provide medical oversight for testing to be performed or do you have a medical director?
Response: Provide medical oversight for this additional program
16. Can the vendor respond to provider partial services but not all that is requested thought the RFP?
Response: Yes, but clearly indicate the level of services provided along with the associated costs.
17. Desired start date?
Response: As soon as possible.
18. We read that under type of testing, it mentions different testing equipment. We have Roche Lightcycler 480 in our lab, and we didn't see that listed under the type of instrument for PCR testing. Do we still qualify for the RFP?
Response: You can provide your own tests and processing equipment.
19. We don't have Rapid antigen testing equipment; does that need to be in place before the contract is awarded? We have the PCR equipment and personnel to conduct testing, so we were wondering if both the PCR as well as rapid antigen testing equipment are required to qualify for the RFP?
Response: Both are not required.
20. If the rapid antigen testing is required, we were thinking we can purchase it after the contract is awarded but how much time will we have after the contract is awarded to start the testing process for clients?
Response: Rapid antigen testing is not required as part of this RFP.
21. Paragraph S (6) (which is on page 6 of the RFP) seems to suggest that the vendor will not be required to provide the actual test kits. Am I correct about this?
Response: The vendor will supply the test kits for their proposal. The test kits we have are for the free program in the schools.

22. In Appendix F, you are asking for pricing for a same-day PCR test, but on page 6 in Section T, you are stating 2-3 day confirmations needed for PCR tests. Can you please clarify expectations for PCR test turnaround?

Response: I believe what is intended is to ask if you are able to do a 24 turn-around on a PCR, if so is there a price difference between the two, then detail that in your response.

23. On page 10, Section E, you are requesting audited financial statements as well as other confidential financial information. Is this mandatory before being awarded the business? If so, would you be willing to sign an NDA with our company before the proposal due date to allow for us to share this highly confidential and proprietary information with you.

Response: The financial information is to be submitted upon request, not with your proposal. If we do request, an NDA will be considered.

24. Does this scope of work include performing RT-PCR testing for the samples or are samples being sent to the State for testing? If RT-PCR testing is being performed as part of the SOW, can the ThermoFisher TaqPath SARS-COV-2 Protocol be used for performing RT-PCR?

Response: We are only using the state testing site for the free tests provided by the state. This is for a different program that the vendor will supply the tests and the processing.