

Addendum A

1. Should each institution be submitting separate budgets and/or proposals with the idea that we can all coordinate our efforts even if there are separate contracts in place?

Answer: Proposals should be submitted by institution (vendor). If multiple locations are involved, provide the volume and operational information by site.

2. Are you seeing any positive PCR patients that have been previously vaccinated or were previously positive?

Answer: Infectious Disease Epidemiology investigations may include sequencing requests for samples identified under either of the listed examples.

3. Are we able to apply for both Category 1 and Category 2?

Answer: Vendors can submit under either category or as both. If submitting as both, confirm workload for each process if awarded as both.

4. On page 5, number 7 it references shipping from sites if received from outside entities. If we have a courier network across the state, can we use that instead of shipping?

Answer: Yes, as long as specimen handling requirements are met. Shipping method is expected to meet Department of Transportation and/or IATA Packaging/Shipping guidelines.

5. If there are other Louisiana labs that will also be doing the testing, they might want to utilize our courier network instead of shipping across the state-if that is the plan.

Answer: This is not a question but may be included as additional information in the RFI response. Please indicate the charge if those services are offered.

6. How many awards are anticipated?

Answer: A set number of awardees has not been determined, although we are estimating up to 5 vendors.

7. If more than one (see question 6), is it possible for a consortium to request \$3M or more through a single coordinated response?

Answer: No. Refer to question 1 regarding RFI submissions and collaborations.

8. There is conflicting respond times 3/10 at 11 am and 11 pm...which is the correct deadline for this response?

Answer: You are correct. We intended 11:59pm, but the posting is 11:59am. We will need to honor the published time of 11:59am.

9. Please expand on 'GISAID'...assume this is not the location that the laboratory should send result data?

Answer: Genetic sequence data should be uploaded to GISAID.org. Raw data files should be uploaded to the Google Cloud that LDH will provide access to. See GISAID.org [About Us] tab for more information about GISAID.

10. Will the Google site be a secure option for data exchange.

Answer: Identifiable patient information is not requested to be uploaded to the Google Cloud. Excel files/.csv files with patient information should be sent securely from your facility. This can be done by secure email or other approved method.

11. We are currently performing sequencing for the CDC...would this conflict with the services requested under this RFI?

Answer: There is no conflict provided different samples are being tested than what is being requested by CDC. The same samples should not be sequenced twice and we should not be billed for sequencing performed under the direction of CDC.

12. Are the samples specifically from the State of Louisiana?

Answer: Samples would be collected from identified facilities located within Louisiana.