

November 24, 2020

TO: All Bidders

RE: RFP 2021-13

### **ADDENDUM NO. 1**

This **ADDENDUM #1** forms part of Moore County's Request for Proposal for COVID Testing Services for the Moore County Health Department. All requirements of the original specifications remain in effect in their respective order. **Receipt of this Addendum must be acknowledged by its inclusion with the Bid and noted as an inclusion on the sealed envelope.**

**The following changes and/or clarifications are hereby made to the original Proposal:**

1. Question: We request that this courier restriction be modified to allow commercial carriers.

Answer: The Moore County Health Dept. does not want commercial carriers involved in the shipping of COVID-19 specimens to a laboratory as this breaks the chain of custody and medical security for the specimens.

The Moore County Health Dept. wants the specimens to remain in the custody of either laboratory private in-house ground motor vehicle couriers who specialize in the exclusive transport of only laboratory specimens/biological substances directly to the laboratory or in the custody of laboratory contracted ground motor vehicle couriers who specialize in the exclusive transport of only laboratory specimens/biological substances directly to the laboratory. It is our understanding that there are multiple laboratories in existence who provide COVID-19 molecular PRC testing who do offer these specialized types of ground laboratory courier service.

The Moore County Health Dept. does not want COVID-19 specimens to be subject to airplane transport in addition to motor vehicle transport as this is an unnecessary step that increases both physical handling of the specimen and distance traveled by the specimen. Reducing the physical handling of a packaged specimen and the distance traveled by the specimen to the testing laboratory is critical to maintaining uncompromised specimen integrity. The necessary conditions such as temperature regulation, protection from light, and preventing breakage must be maintained during the specimen transport process in order to prevent specimen loss and specimen compromise. If the quality of specimens is compromised during transport, testing results will be incorrect and meaningless. If specimens are lost during transport, specimen collection must be repeated which creates an extra burden on the patient and the healthcare workers responsible for specimen collection while slowing down prevention efforts to control the spread of COVID-19.

COVID-19 testing turnaround time could be negatively affected by the use of commercial carriers with airplane transport of COVID-19 specimens. Express delivery involving airplane transport may be promised by commercial carriers, but cannot be absolutely guaranteed with certainty due to factors beyond the carrier's control such as inclement weather, winter weather, mechanical breakdowns, workforce issues related to the COVID-16 pandemic, and increased shipping demands for online shipping due to the pandemic and holiday purchases.

2. Question: p.6 You referred to Applied Biosystems TaqPath COVID-19 Combo Assay test: Do you only accept this brand/model or equivalent should be fine?

Answer: The Moore County Health Dept. prefers the Applied Biosystems TaqPath COVID-19 Combo Assay test, but is willing to accept another COVID-19 diagnostic PCR test (polymerase chain reaction). The COVID-19 diagnostic PCR test (polymerase chain reaction) is the highly specific laboratory test needed by the Moore County Health Department due to its high level of accuracy. This COVID-19 test detects genetic material of the virus using a lab technique called polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and is also called a molecular test. Fluid from a nasopharyngeal swab is collected from an individual by a healthcare worker as a test specimen.

Because reporting COVID-19 is mandatory in North Carolina, clinicians and laboratories must report results of all COVID-19 molecular (PCR) to local or state public health. A molecular (PCR) positive case of COVID-19 is a person who received a positive COVID-19 result from a molecular (PCR) test. Molecular (PCR) positive cases are classified as "confirmed" cases of COVID-19, in accordance with CDC case classification guidelines. The Division of Public Health for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services only accepts results from PCR testing for COVID-19 as "confirmed" cases."

3. Question: p.8 Can we only supply the test kit media?

Answer: The Moore County Health Dept. is not interested in purchasing COVID-19 PCR test kits only as a separate purchase of goods independent of testing services.

The Moore County Health Department is seeking proposals for contracting with a qualified medical laboratory for the COVID-19 testing goods and services listed in the scope of work included in this RFP. The Contractor shall provide all necessary supervision, material and equipment required to provide the contracted quantity of COVID-19 test kits and testing services.

**No further questions will be accepted.** Sealed Proposals are due to Terra Vuncannon at 206 South Ray Street Carthage NC 28327 by 4:30 pm Monday, November 30, 2020. For your convenience, a Bid Drop-Off Box is located in the lobby of 206 South Ray Street.

### **END OF ADDENDUM NO. 1**

Terra Vuncannon  
Purchasing Manager  
County of Moore