



Request for Proposal
Wastewater Testing for Pathogen Surveillance in Boston

Executive Office

3/11/2025

I. Overview

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is the local public health department for the City of Boston. BPHC's mission is to protect, preserve, and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents, particularly the most vulnerable.

As part of BPHC's efforts to have an equitable procurement process, BPHC will consider and encourage unrepresentative businesses that includes; Minority-owned Business Enterprises (MBE), Women-owned Business Enterprises (WBE), Veteran-owned Business Enterprises (VBE), Disability-owned Business Enterprise (DOBE), Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Business Enterprises (LGBTBE), Minority Non-Profit(MNPO), Women Non-Profit(WNPO), Minority Women Non-Profit(MWNPO) and local businesses to apply to this RFP.

All service contracts awarded by the Boston Public Health Commission may be subject to following the City of Boston's living wage ordinance. This ordinance requires that all employees working on sizable city contracts earn an hourly wage that is enough for a family of four to live at or above the federal poverty level. This wage amount called the living wage, is recalculated every year. For more information, please visit <https://www.boston.gov/worker-empowerment/living-wage-division>.

II. RFP Timeline

03/11/2025	Legal Announcement posted in the Boston Globe
03/11/2025	Posted on BPHC.org by 10:00 AM EST
04/01/2025	Questions due in writing by 5:00 PM <u>EST</u> to: Subject – Query - Wastewater Surveillance RFP Email: RFR@bphc.org
04/08/2025	Responses to questions available for viewing on www.bphc.org/RFP by 5:00 PM EST
04/15/2025	Proposals are due via email by 5:00 PM EST Subject – Wastewater Surveillance Proposal Email: RFR@bphc.org NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS DEADLINE
05/15/2025	Notification of Decision: Desired date to award. BPHC has the discretion to extend this time period without notice to the proposers, cancel or rebid. All proposals shall remain valid and open for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days from the proposal submission date, unless a proposer notifies BPHC of its withdrawal.

III. Scope of Work

Wastewater surveillance is a community-level approach for monitoring molecular indicators of disease present in sewage. Throughout the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, scientists and public health officials have leveraged programs to track severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and other respiratory pathogens in wastewater.

Since 2022, the BPHC Wastewater Epidemiology Program has collected wastewater from eleven Boston neighborhoods and analyzed these samples for concentrations and sequences of SARS-CoV-2. Beginning in 2023, BPHC also tests samples for Influenza A, Influenza B, and RSV. BPHC's data indicates that concentrations of these respiratory viruses in wastewater correlate strongly with and often precede available clinical surveillance data. These data offer near real-time information about respiratory disease trends at the neighborhood scale, informing public health outreach and response efforts. For information about the BPHC program, please visit boston.gov/bphc-wastewater.

The Commission views wastewater monitoring as a crucial tool for monitoring population health and to help identify emerging health issues and concerns. We are seeking a partnership to implement wastewater monitoring within Boston neighborhoods. The goal of our wastewater monitoring program is to help us align and prioritize our interventions to mitigate the burden of disease across Boston neighborhoods.

Through this RFP we seek a partner to conduct wastewater sample collection, extraction, analysis, and sequencing for a comprehensive wastewater program. Therefore, at minimum we would like to identify a partner capable of testing for the following pathogens: SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A, Influenza B, and RSV, measles, mpox clade 1b, H5 influenza, and norovirus. Our wastewater surveillance partner would implement a well-documented wastewater surveillance program with state-of-the-art sampling and analytical methods. The partner would utilize robust reproducible approaches and technologies that have been evaluated by federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, wastewater utilities, academic researchers, and industry.

IV. Minimum Qualifications

Proposers must possess the following qualifications:

1. Completeness and timeliness: Well-established track record of timely high-quality sampling, processing, analysis and reporting of wastewater RNA levels.
2. Accuracy: Demonstrated use of appropriate controls. Well documented quality control and quality assurance measures to ensure reliability of the data.
3. Adaptability: Ability to implement a collection system from manholes and individual buildings.
4. Enforcement of data integrity: Demonstrated understanding of requirements for confidentiality of data derived from communities and buildings.
5. Subject matter expertise: Understanding of Boston neighborhood layout and dynamics of factors that might influence local variability in measures of viral particles.
6. Flexibility: capability to test for SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A, Influenza B, and RSV, measles, mpox clade 1b, H5 influenza, and norovirus
7. Secure data: Provision of raw data to the BPHC for the purpose of more sophisticated modeling.

8. Consistency: Web-ready reporting of wastewater testing results (e.g., tables, graphs, normalization, units) that convey critical information on multiple levels to stakeholders including (governmental agencies, Boston residents, academic collaborators).

V. Application Instructions

Please submit the following documents:

Proposal with methodology and costs for unit options detailed.

The proposal should detail:

1. Description of methodology used to sample, analyze, and report results including cost options for more sophisticated analyses (if available).
2. Proposed sampling frequency.
3. Cost per sample collection.
4. Cost per sample analysis, including extraction and controls.
5. Cost of any additional equipment that would have to be purchased by the Commission.
6. Turnaround time for sampling and results – data delivery timeline.
7. References and institutions or government agencies currently using the service.
8. Partners or other collaborating organizations.
9. Wastewater surveillance program website link or similar reference material.

VI. Submission Instructions

Please submit your Proposal with detailed estimated cost via email to:

Subject – Wastewater Surveillance Proposal

Email: RFR@bphc.org

Proposals are due on April 15, 2025, via email by 5:00 PM EST