



Request for Proposal
Questions and Responses
April 8, 2025

Request for Proposal: Wastewater Testing for Pathogen Surveillance in Boston
Proposal Due Date: April 15, 2025, 5pm EDT

Q1: What is the number of sites to be sampled from?

What is the number of collection sites?

Would sample collection continue from the existing 11 locations?

How many sampling locations are in scope for the RFP?

A: The BPHC Wastewater Monitoring program currently collects from 11 sites in 10 neighborhoods of Boston. We anticipate the number of sites for this RFP will be the same.,

Q2: Have all the sites already been selected, or would the proposer need to do site selection analysis and outreach? Are the sites existing sites that have been sampled from previously? What type of sites are they (manholes in city streets, pump stations, buildings, etc.)?

A: BPHC currently samples from sewer access holes in city streets and sidewalks in the public right of way in Boston.

Q3: Do autosamplers need to be purchased or rented for use on the project, or does the City already have autosamplers that would be used for the project?

A: BPHC does not own autosamplers. BPHC anticipates the vendors will incorporate their respective sample collection equipment as part of their proposal.

Q4: Will police details be required at any sites for sample collection

A: No.

Q5: What is the preferred frequency of sample collection - once a week, twice a week, 3 days a week, etc.?

Is there a estimate on the number of samples per week? The document defers to the proposer on sample volume, but this can vary widely and has a has a significant impact on cost. It would help to have a general range to start from.

A: We anticipate the selected vendor to be our scientific partners and are open to a compelling argument regarding sampling frequency. Currently BPHC samples twice per week per sampling site.

Q6: What is the duration of the program (1 year?)

What is the anticipated start and end date for the testing program?

How long will the surveillance testing run (timeline, length of project, etc)?

A: At present, BPHC anticipates a timeline of one year

Q7: Should the analysis price be based on assuming that all pathogens listed in the RFP are to be tested for? Or base it on a base price for one pathogen plus an add-on price for each additional test?

A: Thank you for allowing us to clarify. Vendors may have developed their customized strategies for a panel or base and add-on pricing. BPHC expects the proposal to articulate the pricing in a clear and concise fashion, whether that is based on pricing each of the individual pathogens listed in the RFP or whether it is based on a panel of pathogens and an add-on price for each additional pathogen.

Q8: Does BPHC desire a new data management and display system or will they be continuing use of the existing system?

A: BPHC intends to continue use of the existing system.

Q9: Does BPHC desire data QC, management, interpretation and reporting support? Or is this handled directly by BPHC staff?

A: While BPHC does not anticipate a need for data QC, management, interpretation, or reporting support, the successful vendor will be accountable for data QC upstream of delivery to BPHC.

Q10: Can you provide a copy of the anticipated contract documents for this assignment?

A: BPHC is unable to share anticipated contract documents prior to making the contract award.

Q11: What is the source of funding for the project?

A: The project is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Q12: Is there a budget ceiling we should be aware of?

A: BPHC is interested in optimizing our budget with scientific rigor since costs/pricing are variable based on sampling method, sampling frequency, sampling locations, pathogens and lab methods.

Q13: When the RFP states “capability to test for SARS-CoV-2...”, does test refer to PCR analysis for the specified pathogen, sequencing of the specified pathogen to provide genomic information, or both?

A: BPHC does not prescribe the technology used so long as the vendor demonstrates rigor in their ability to detect and quantify the specified pathogens.

Q14: The RFP states “mpox clade 1b” is a target of interest. Is a pan-clade 1 assay acceptable, or is interest limited to this subclade?

A: Pan-clade 1 would also be acceptable.