



Purchasing Department
4400 University Drive, Mailstop 3C5
Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone: 703.993.2580 | Fax: 703.993.2589
<http://fiscal.gmu.edu/purchasing/>

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
GMU-1771-22
COVID-19 PCR TEST KITS**

Responses are in **RED**.

1. We only provide PCR tests (in bulk) for labs. The solicitation indicates both “At-Home” and “Bulk” test kits. We are wondering if our tests fall under “Bulk” category.
 - a. **GMU needs access to both kits for “At-Home” use by individual users and “bulk” testing use.**
2. We do not provide testing and/or Lab services. Can we only supply RT-PCR test kits? Can George Mason University conduct testing at Fairfax, VA campus?
 - a. **No, we need the vendor to provide both the test kits and to be processed at your lab.**
3. Will George Mason University provide a physician order for these tests? (e.g., this can come from a physician from an on campus clinic, etc.)
 - a. **No.**
4. Can the at-home test kits be bulk shipped to the university, where the university can distribute them to the participants? These kits come with paid return shipping bags/ labels.
 - a. **No.**
5. Our at home kits are approved for unsupervised sample collection and do not require remote supervision and as such we do not provide this service. Will this model be acceptable to the university?
 - a. **No.**
6. Is the university open to less invasive Anterior (Nares) Nasal swab as a sample type?
 - a. **No.**
7. Can you please provide these documents as we cannot locate them on the site? Commonwealth of Virginia *Purchasing Manual for Institutions of Higher Education and their Vendor's*, and any revisions thereto, and the *Governing Rules*, which are hereby incorporated into this contract in their entirety.
 - a. **Governing Rules:** <https://vascupp.org/sites/vascupp/files/2020-05/vascapp-governing-rules.pdf>
 - b. **Higher Ed Manual:** <https://vascupp.org/sites/vascupp/files/2020-09/hem.pdf>
8. If reference to the request above, can we provide an alternate solution? We distribute PCR, Rapid-test, as well as anti-gen test respectively. Please advise if I can provide more information regarding our available products.
 - a. **No, we’re not interested in rapid or antigen tests. However, all proposals submitted will be considered. All proposals will be scored as outlined in section XIII. Initial Evaluation Criteria.**
9. The statement of needs references saliva-based test kits utilizing a PCR test for at home and on-campus COVID-19 testing. Is GMU only interested in saliva-based tests to test for COVID-19?
 - a. **Yes.**

10. If clear and concise written instructions are included with test kit, would that be acceptable in lieu of remote supervision from a medical professional?
- No.
11. Does exclusion from either not providing saliva based test or the ability to provide remote supervision from a medical professional exclude a qualified vendor from being considered for this contract?
- Yes.
12. The RFP states At home test kits: 3,500 - 6,500 per semester; Bulk ship to Mason: 1,500 - 2,500 per semester. The GMU calendar shows Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters.
- Do you see these volumes equally for each semester, or do you see a different calendarization?
 - No, less required for summer.
 - Do you anticipate surges in volume when students arrive on campus? Return from Thanksgiving? Return from Winter break? Return from Spring break? Any others?
 - Yes. Start of semester, return from holidays (e.g., Thanksgiving, winter break, spring break).
 - During a semester, do you see the bulk order shipments on a bi-weekly basis, weekly, monthly, or other cadence?
 - Other. Most likely twice a year or less frequently.
 - During a semester, the at-home shipments will occur on an as-ordered basis. Is there any other calendarization?
 - No.
 - What is the goal of at-home and bulk testing? is it to test students before arriving on campus? Is it for International students to show a negative test before entering campus? Is it routine testing to show overall campus health?
 - At-home testing: Students to test before arriving on or returning to campus from their off-campus residence. Bulk testing: supplementing Mason's regular surveillance testing program for students, faculty, and staff during surge periods and/or to give our lab personnel time off.
13. Item A, Test Kits, #4, RFP states that offeror is to "Provide ability for remote supervision from a medical professional via Zoom or similar platform."
- Is this coverage for bulk testing users or does it apply to at-home testers, or both?
 - At-home testers.
 - Is this coverage to be available 24/7?
 - Yes.
 - If the EUA does not require phone/video support, does GMU still require it? Can we provide YouTube-type help videos as an alternative?
 - Yes—still required. We want to ensure the right individual is providing the sample and lessen the chance for an inadequate sample being collected.
14. Item B, Logistics, #3. RFP states that "Results should be electronically returned to the individual and to Mason ideally within 48 hours, no longer than 72 hours." Confirm that these turnaround times are from shipment by person tested, arrival at shipper, or receipt of sample at the lab.
- From shipment by person tested.
15. Can this RFP be awarded to multiple offerors, or do you plan to single-source this award?
- As per Section XIII.B. Award of the RFP GMU-1771-22, "When the terms and conditions of multiple awards are so provided in the Request for Proposal, awards may be made to more than one offeror."

16. Can you provide a list of companies that are bidding on this RFP?
 - a. No. We do not know in advance who will submit a proposal.
17. Would GMU consider a nasal swab instead of a saliva test for this request?
 - a. No.
18. Will George Mason University accept a response that utilize Rapid Antigen Test Kits?
 - a. No.
19. In A.4. under X. Statement of Needs on page 4, can you please provide the qualifications/credentials expected for the Medical Professional that is required for the supervision?
 - a. We would accept the following: lab technician, MA, RN, LPN, PA, NP, DO, MD. Other medical professionals proposed will be considered.
20. In A.4. under X. Statement of Needs on page 4, in regards to the requirement for remote supervision. Assuming the collection instructions are simple and well defined in the At-Home collection kit, what type of remote supervision do you anticipate being required from a medical professional?
 - a. Confirming the patient's identity to match the sample being collected; verifying that the patient has followed instructions in order to lessen factors that may contribute to an inadequate sample; answering questions if needed regarding the sample collection and test features/product.
21. How often does the University anticipate that remote supervision of the collection will be needed?
 - a. For At-Home tests (primarily upon start of Fall and Spring semesters and potentially after returning from breaks).
22. Is it the expectation that the lab will be shipping At-Home collection kits to individual home addresses, or will the kits be shipped in bulk to Mason for distribution to participants for at home collection?
 - a. Individual home addresses.
23. If sent to the individual home addresses, how many kits are shipped to each home address?
 - a. One kit per student.
24. In C.2 under X. Statement of Needs on page 5, can you please explain what is required to "validate custom required fields"?
 - a. A patient will need at least 2 identifiers (e.g., Correct Name and date of birth); accurate phone number or email as contact information to notify of results; also the person's Mason G number is required.
25. In C.2 under X. Statement of Needs on page 5, what is "Mason's G Number"?
 - a. Mason G Number is a unique ID number for each student and employee (e.g., G01234567) that is assigned by Mason.
26. In reviewing the insurance limits in Attachment B, Sample Contract, on page 18 of the RFP, we noticed the University is requesting a \$5,000,000 Umbrella/Excess policy. Is the University willing to accept a \$3,000,000 limit for the Umbrella policy in conjunction with a \$2,000,000 General Liability policy? An Umbrella limit of \$5 Mil seems unnecessarily high and is cost prohibitive to comply with.
 - a. Mason will consult its Risk Management department if chosen to move to contract.
27. If a \$5 Mil Umbrella policy is mandatory, can this be provided upon award or should it be in place prior to bid submission?
 - a. Any insurance policy is not needed until award.

28. XV. Payment Terms/Method of Payment on page 8 of the RFP states that the Vendor must reference the purchase order number on all invoices submitted for payment. How will the Vendor get the P.O. numbers?
- a. Mason will provide the PO number after award.
29. Are you only considering Saliva based Testing or would you consider a Lower Nasal Swab PCR?
- a. Saliva testing.
30. Is testing needed only for students or faculty and staff as well?
- a. Primarily students only. There may be limited use cases in the future for faculty and staff.
31. Which Testing vendor are you working with now?
- a. Vault Health.
32. Are you interested in Pooled Testing as an option?
- a. No.
33. Can you advise on the process for bidding as this is not clear on the bid notification.
- a. Please read section XII. Proposal Preparation and Submission Requirements of the RFP.