

**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**BOARD OF
TRUSTEES**

Resolution No. 2020.08/27
COVID-19 Testing Authorization

Resolution

Whereas, the Board of Trustees (the “*Board*”) of Illinois State University (the “*University*”) has the authority to enter into contracts for the provision of goods and services to the University;

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented the University with numerous challenges for the Fall 2020 semester;

Whereas, the University’s planning teams have worked to identify best practices regarding COVID-19 testing on-campus;

Whereas, leading research has recommended that colleges and universities conduct surveillance testing of student populations who may have COVID-19 but may be asymptomatic as a means of mitigating potential outbreaks of COVID-19 on-campus;

Whereas, due to the return of students to campus it is critical that the University have services available for asymptomatic testing in order to protect the health and well-being of the campus community;

Whereas Illinois State University has a need for services from an external party for surveillance testing and monitoring COVID-19 illnesses during the current pandemic environment;

Whereas, the University has identified an off-site testing laboratory, Reditus Laboratories, to provide surveillance testing, as may be required:

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board authorizes the University to enter into a contract to acquire COVID-19 testing services for the period from August 17, 2020 to Dec 31, 2020 from Reditus Laboratories, at a cost not to exceed \$3,300,000.

Board Action on: _____
Motion by: _____
Second by: _____
Vote: Yeas: _____ Nays: _____

Postpone: _____
Amend: _____
Disapprove: _____
Approve: _____

ATTEST: Board Action, August 12, 2020

Secretary/Chairperson

**Board of Trustees
Illinois State University
COVID-19 Testing Authorization**

COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Illinois and across the country. Equipment, supplies, and laboratory services necessary to conduct testing are in extremely high demand. Illinois State University has an immediate need for services related to testing and monitoring COVID illnesses during the current pandemic environment.

The University has implemented several strategies to limit the spread of COVID-19 based on guidance from local, state and national authorities such as the Centers for Disease Control, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and the Governor of the State of Illinois. Consistent with the recommendations of these authorities, the University's Redbirds Return Plan calls for available COVID-19 testing and contact tracing as a critical element for the return to campus for the fall to allow for the rapid identification and containment of new cases of COVID-19.

As part of the planning process for fall, the Testing & Contact Tracing Workgroup pursued multiple testing strategies to provide capacity for both symptomatic testing and surveillance testing. Symptomatic testing refers to testing individuals with signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or individuals who may have come into close contact with those that are positive for COVID-19. Surveillance testing refers to general testing for anyone not currently suffering COVID-19 like symptoms in order to detect transmission hot spots or characterize disease trends.

The University has also pursued other avenues for testing such as partnering with local hospitals and with the University of Illinois on its new saliva-based COVID-19 testing methodology. For example, the University recently partnered with our local hospital, Carle BroMenn Medical Center, to conduct limited testing for students returning to campus. Partnering with University of Illinois on the saliva-based test is not feasible at this time.

The University identified Reditus Laboratories as a vendor capable of providing immediate support for symptomatic and surveillance testing. Reditus Laboratories was identified as the vendor that met the necessary criteria as they provide these services to various communities and agencies in Central Illinois. Reditus Laboratories partners with the Illinois Department of Public Health to manage the McLean County Interstate Center testing site. Earlier this summer, Reditus Laboratories also conducted COVID-19 testing for Illinois State University Athletics to qualify athletes for participation in team practices and events.

The University has also negotiated a separate agreement with Reditus Laboratories for symptomatic testing services conducted through Student Health Services. In that contract, Student Health Services will collect test samples for symptomatic students and Reditus will provide laboratory results within 48 hours. This resolution relates to a separate agreement with Reditus Laboratories for surveillance testing beyond the scope of the aforementioned symptomatic testing agreement including; capability of standing up multiple testing sites, provision of qualified personnel, and all required testing work and supplies.

The University anticipates conducting approximately 1,500 tests each week; however, Reditus provides capacity to test up to 500 per day. Testing will be completed at multiple on-campus location(s) as determined by the parties.

This resolution seeks authorization to execute a 5-month contract with a cost not to exceed \$3,300,000 for surveillance testing. This cost estimate provides for up to 30,000 tests being conducted over the contract period ending December 31, 2020, at a projected contract price of \$110 per test. The exact number of tests conducted each week will vary based on the prevalence of COVID-19 in the campus population and potential surges on-campus.

Funding Source: General Revenue Funds, Federal & State Grants as available