

**To:** Board of County Commissioners  
Penny Postoak Ferguson, County Manager  
**From:** Sanmi Areola, Director, Department of Health and Environment  
**Date:** August 27, 2020  
**Re:** Additional Purchasing Authority – COVID-19 testing kits and services

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**Issue:** Consider authorizing an emergency exception to competition in the amount of \$200,000 for an agreement with Clinical Reference Laboratory, Inc. (CRL) for COVID-19 testing supplies and processing services.

**Suggested Motion:** I move to authorize an emergency exception to competition in the amount of \$200,000 for an agreement with Clinical Reference Laboratory, Inc. for COVID-19 testing supplies and processing services.

**Background:** On July 31, 2020 Clinical Reference Laboratory announced Emergency Use Authorization from the Federal Drug Administration for a COVID-19 diagnostic test that utilizes the saliva from individuals. Utilizing the highly accurate RT-PCR methodology, CRL is currently one of three laboratories in the country that provide this test. The test is easier to administer than the nasal swab and offers the opportunity for individuals to self-submit samples from their homes.

This will be a very important tool for us currently especially in preventing infections in schools and preventing outbreaks. This test will be our preferred method for testing school students, teachers and staff. School resumed in some of the districts yesterday and we are already addressing COVID-19 issues there.

We are currently in the process of procuring term and supply bids for laboratory COVID-19 testing services. This request, if approved, will allow us to begin utilizing this new to market product while we complete the procurement process.

**Analysis:** JCDHE is offering community-wide COVID-19 testing to allow anyone residing or working in Johnson County wishing to be tested for the virus to do so. Continued testing is a primary tool for lowering infection rates and community spread of the virus. Schools going back into session will be an on-going concern for JCDHE and responding quickly will be key to addressing outbreaks if they occur.

**Funding Overview:** Federal Funds received in response to COVID-19 shall be used for payment of this purchase.

**Alternatives:** To not authorize the exception to competition will force JCDHE to rely on the nasal swab test for school age children as case investigations occur.

**Recommendation:** Authorize the exception to competition.

**Purchasing Review:** TFM-Purchasing reviewed this procurement ensuring the recommendation meets requirements of the County's purchasing policies and procedures and concurs with the recommendation.

**Budget Review:** Budget and Financial Planning has reviewed and approved the item.

**Legal Review:** The Legal Department reviewed the briefing sheet.