



## **ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)**

**Title:** Community Sentinel Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

**Solicitation Number:** 1000215059

### **1. The Purpose and Explanation of an ACAN**

An Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) allows the Public Health Agency of Canada to post a notice for no less than fifteen (15) calendar days, indicating to the supplier community that a goods, services or construction contract will be awarded to a pre-identified contractor. If no other supplier submits, on or before the closing date, a Statement of Capabilities that meets the minimum requirements identified in the ACAN, the Contracting Authority may then proceed to award a contract to the pre-identified contractor.

### **2. Rights of Suppliers**

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the services or goods described in this ACAN may submit a Statement of Capabilities demonstrating how they meet the advertised requirement. This Statement of Capabilities must be provided via e-mail only to the contact person identified in Section 12 of the Notice on or before the closing date and time of the Notice. If the Bidder can clearly demonstrate they possess the required capabilities, the requirement will be opened to electronic or traditional bidding processes.

### **3. Proposed Contractor**

McMaster University Department of Family Medicine  
1280 Main Street West  
Hamilton, ON L8S 4L8

### **4. Definition of Requirements or Expected Results**

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is the main Government of Canada agency responsible for public health in Canada. PHAC's primary goal is to strengthen Canada's capacity to protect and improve the health of Canadians and to help reduce pressures on the health care system. The ability of PHAC to work with all levels of government and with non-governmental organizations to mitigate threats to public health is critical to fulfilling its vision for healthy Canadians and communities in a healthier world.

The Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Infectious Diseases (CIRID) is part of PHAC's Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Branch. CIRID's mandate is to prevent, reduce or eliminate vaccine-preventable and respiratory infectious diseases, to reduce or eliminate the negative impact of emerging and re-emerging respiratory infections and maintain public and professional confidence in immunization programs in Canada.

Surveillance of influenza and other respiratory infectious diseases is needed in order to accurately track, plan for, and respond to public health issues, as well as to inform public health policy in Canada. Influenza surveillance data are also collected by PHAC, via the FluWatch surveillance program, as part of global commitments to international partners, including the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

FluWatch was established in 1996 as a routine surveillance program to monitor seasonal influenza and is composed of a number of systems that gather information on circulating influenza viruses, ILI, laboratory-confirmed cases, and influenza-associated hospitalizations and deaths among Canadians. The FluWatch program currently collects influenza-like-illness data each week from two data streams:

- Provincial/territorial aggregate ILI data collated by provincial/regional sentinel networks.
- Individual sentinel practitioner aggregate ILI data from volunteer practitioners (sentinels) each week, reported to FluWatch via a upload platform on the Canadian Network for Public Health Intelligence (CNPHI).

The sentinel ILI surveillance is a long-standing component of FluWatch that has been maintained for close to two decades. FluWatch evaluations have highlighted the need to address attrition in the number of participating sentinel practices from season to season, or week to week within a season, resulting in reduced representativeness and diminished ability to detect real-time trends. Sentinel practitioners are busy individuals with a principal mandate to provide patient care and are volunteering their time to participate in ILI surveillance. By reducing the administrative burden of collecting and submitting ILI surveillance data, it will improve participation rates. In addition, investing and maintaining ILI surveillance ensures that this platform, which is essential to Canadian pandemic preparedness and the detection of emerging respiratory pathogens, is in place and ready for escalation for the next pandemic.

CIRID is seeking to invest in a stable and reliable data and geographically representative source for real-time estimation of community-based influenza-like illness (ILI) rates in Canadians. The surveillance network developed through this contract will enable primary health care providers to easily and seamlessly provide regular, timely, standardized information to PHAC's FluWatch program, ease administrative burden to sentinel practitioners for data collection, and will assist CIRID in meeting national and international surveillance standards for seasonal and pandemic influenza preparedness.

The contractor must provide professional services that will provide CIRID standardized weekly influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance data from practitioners working in primary care in the community using data extracted from an electronic medical record system. There are three main objectives to the requirement:

- (1) Eliminate the weekly administrative burden of submitting ILI data by establishing a system that enables sentinel practitioners to automatically transmit ILI surveillance data to the CNPHI system on a weekly basis.
- (2) Increase the number of participating FluWatch sentinels by recruiting physicians or nurse practitioners.
- (3) Disseminate the sentinel ILI data to key stakeholders, through mechanisms such as the weekly FluWatch report, for situational awareness and public health action.

## **5. Minimum Requirements**

Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a Statement of Capabilities that it meets the following minimum requirements:

1. One principal member of the project team, substantively involved in all phases of the project, must have demonstrated experience in designing, developing and implementing an active influenza-like-illness surveillance extraction tool within an EMR within the last five (5) years.
2. Supplier must have previous experience developing an active influenza-like-illness surveillance extraction tool that has been scientifically-validated through peer-reviewed literature.
3. The supplier must use an open source technology to develop the tool.

4. The supplier must have an existing system or mechanism to provide the influenza-like-illness surveillance extraction tool to participating sentinels free of charge with no licensing fee or maintenance fee in order to reduce barriers to adoption.
5. The Supplier must provide at least one lead resource with a nursing or medical background (RN or MD) with at least five (5) years experience in family medicine and currently actively practicing medicine
6. The Supplier must be affiliated with a Department of Family Medicine at a Canadian institution
7. The Supplier must demonstrate that it has access to or can capitalize on its standing in the EMR industry and family medicine community as a means for recruiting and engaging physicians and nurse practitioners for influenza surveillance.
8. The supplier must describe a plausible strategy to recruit a minimum of 10 clinics in three specific influenza surveillance regions.

#### **6. Reason for Non-Competitive Award**

Section 6 (d) of the Government Contracts Regulations is being invoked, as McMaster University is the only supplier capable of performing the work.

#### **7. Period of the Proposed Contract**

The contract period shall be from date of contract award until August 31, 2022 with the option of two (2) additional 1-year periods.

#### **8. Estimated Value of the Proposed Contract**

The total estimated value of the proposed contract should not exceed \$225,000.00 including all option periods and all applicable taxes.

#### **9. Closing Date and Time**

The Closing Date and Time for accepting Statements of Capabilities is November 1, 2019 at 2 p.m. EDT).

#### **10. Contact Person**

All enquiries must be addressed by e-mail to:

Name: Erin Massey

E-Mail: [erin.massey@canada.ca](mailto:erin.massey@canada.ca)