



## ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)

**Title:** Hospital-based surveillance of influenza and routine monitoring of seasonal influenza vaccine effectiveness (VE)

**Solicitation Number:** 1000218962

### 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 11 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

Dalhousie University  
6299 South Street, PO Box 15000  
Halifax, NS B3H 4R2

### 4. Definition of Requirements or Expected Results

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Infectious Diseases (CIRID) 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 vaccination programs in Canada.

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, influenza-like-illness, laboratory-confirmed cases, and influenza-associated hospitalizations and deaths among Canadians. The FluWatch program currently gathers data each epidemiological week on influenza-associated severe outcomes from three (3) data streams:

- Provincial/territorial aggregate surveillance data on the following influenza-associated severe outcomes: hospital admissions, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and deaths (since 2009/10);
- Sentinel case-level in-hospital surveillance data on the following influenza-associated severe outcomes in the pediatric population: hospital admissions, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and deaths and

- Sentinel case-level in-hospital surveillance data on the following influenza-associated severe outcomes in the adult population: hospital admissions, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and deaths.

The sentinel case-level in-hospital surveillance of influenza-associated severe outcomes among adults has been the least stable data stream of the three data streams outlined above, specifically with respect to data providers (i.e. changes in the data provider) and changes in scope (i.e. geographic representativeness and number of sentinel sites).

Enhanced 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 the PHAC as part of global commitments to international partners, including the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, investing and maintaining an enhanced severe outcome surveillance system ensures that this platform, which is essential to Canadian pandemic preparedness, is in place and ready for escalation for the next pandemic.

The specific objectives are:

1. Establish and/or adapt a secure network to provide surveillance of at least eight sentinel sites and report data on a weekly basis;
2. Provide an annual system overview report which includes a list of the team members and a descriptive list of the sentinel sites;
3. Develop a protocol / methodology for both surveillance of influenza cases and monitoring of vaccine effectiveness;
4. Ongoing identification of influenza cases and collection of case data and laboratory testing for weekly reporting;
5. Provide an estimate of the effectiveness of the seasonal influenza vaccine at two points in the surveillance season.

## **5. Minimum Requirements**

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

Corporate criterion:

- Experience implementing and managing a surveillance program

Resource criteria

- Principal investigator must:
  - a. Be a licensed physician in good standing;
  - b. Have a PHD in epidemiology, immunization or public health;
  - c. Have experience writing peer-reviewed journal publications or reports on a topic related to influenza epidemiology.

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

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

**7. Ownership of Intellectual Property**

Ownership of Intellectual Property will rest with the Contractor.

**8. Period of the Proposed Contract**

The period of the Contract is from March 29, 2021 to August 31, 2022.

**9. Estimated Value of the Proposed Contract**

The total estimated value of the proposed contract should not exceed \$3,750,000 inclusive of taxes.

**10. Closing Date and Time**

The Closing Date and Time for accepting Statements of Capabilities is March 23, 2021 at 2:00PM EDT.

**11. 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)