



MEMORANDUM

TO: Presidents, Chief Business Officers

FROM: Robert Megna 
Senior Vice Chancellor, Chief Operating Officer

Eileen McLoughlin 
Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance and Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Procurement of Testing Options

DATE: July 9, 2020

Please see below guidance for procuring testing options for your Campus:

1. **Make certain the option and/or product/service being considered serves the purpose of campus reopening which generally requires test accuracy of both positive and negative results.**

For point-of-care antigen tests, positive results are usually highly accurate but negative results may not be accurate and need to be confirmed with a molecular test <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/coronavirus-testing-basics>. Therefore, the point-of-care antigen tests are suitable in near-patient testing environments for clinical practice.

For the purpose of identifying active SARS-CoV-2 infections, RT-PCR tests are the most widely used and are generally considered sensitive and reliable. With properly defined processes and interpretations of tests and test results, RT-PCR tests can be used to identify symptomatic, asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases. Campuses are encouraged to partner with local hospitals or health facilities to leverage their RT-PCR test capacities.



For campuses that have little access to local RT-PCR test capacities, the point-of-care antigen tests could be helpful in identifying symptomatic and/or high viral load infections. They might not be very reliable in identifying asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases.

SUNY System has produced a white paper which outlines a framework to assist SUNY campuses in executing the reopening plans with respect to screening, testing and surveillance. Please refer to the attached for details.

2. **For State-operated Campuses, the procurement must comply with State Finance Law; therefore, you must seek guidance from your campus counsel before executing any testing agreement with a vendor.** There is a concern that some vendors are bundling this particular product with other tests, which provisions require further legal scrutiny. **Community Colleges should consult their municipality law and their own attorneys before executing a contract.** Our Office of General Counsel is available to consult with those attorneys.

Cc: Procurement Officers
Health Center Professionals