

COVID-19 diagnostic testing for all permanent and fixed term ERI employees, based at Rosherville and remote sites, on a referral basis from August 2020 for the next 12 to 24 months in all the 9 provinces of RSA

BACKGROUND / INTRODUCTION

On 15 March 2020, a COVID-19 Pandemic 'national state of disaster' was announced within South Africa and a list of measures to combat the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) which is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus where tabled.

A national Lockdown was then implemented, to reduce the rapid spread of the virus

To reduce the impact of COVID-19 outbreak conditions on businesses, workers, customers, and the public, employers are required to ensure screening is conducted on all employees entering the work environment, in order to monitor the health of the workforce, and to ensure that employees can complete their tasks safely and without unacceptable health risks to themselves, their colleagues, and the community.

SARS-CoV-2 is a rapidly spreading disease; according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) the reproductive rate for the virus is approximately 2.2 (meaning that on average each person spreads the infection to two others).

While the Lockdown measures helped contain the spread of the virus, it is projected that there will be an increase in confirmed COVID 19 cases as these measures are reduced, people returning to work on full capacity, thereby increasing the demand for tests to help contain the spread of the virus. In addition to screening of employees, Eskom has decided on testing to further reduce the risk of transmission.

A long term Laboratory service contract is therefore required for corporate functions employees in all the 9 provinces to provide the full comprehensive service of screening, swabbing, testing and provision of test results for individuals and groups.

ESKOM and its subsidiaries, including contractors, have contracted 203 positive cases of COVID-19 (as at 05/08/2020)

Announcement from ESKOM GCE office that as of 01 June 2020, testing for COVID-19 to

COVID-19 diagnostic testing for all permanent and fixed term ERI employees, based at Rosherville and remote sites, on a referral basis from August 2020 for the next 12 to 24 months in all the 9 provinces of RSA

be implemented at various ESKOM sites nationwide – this includes “hot spot” testing and screening when required by government stakeholders (NDOH)

COVID-19 testing to be triggered by various medical scenarios confirmed by occupational healthcare services – employer initiated as per statutory requirements gazetted for the OHS Act (85 of 1993) and COID Act (130 of 1993)

The contract will include travelling to site where employees are based and where planned/scheduled surveillance are required.

SCOPE OF WORK (SOW)

Professional Laboratory Service providers have to provide full comprehensive Cov-19 Laboratory Services for all permanent and FTC employees within Eskom Rotek Industries SOC Limited in all the 9 provinces.

The services required are:

- Conduct diagnostic swabbing, transporting, testing, and providing results
- On “as and when required” basis
- Maximum turnaround time for results should be 48 hours maximum
- Period of 12 to 24 months, with a possible review/extension to 3 years if needs so arise

The specification of Product or Goods:

- The service provider will be required to come and collect test samples on site and/or employees may be referred to laboratory services for tests by Occupational Health Services
- Swabbing, taking of Reverse Transcriptase PCR (RT-PCR) upper respiratory tract samples (nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swabs) on all suspected cases referred by Eskom Occupational Medical Practitioner
- Perform the testing of specimens
- Service provider to supply their own Protective Personal equipment to be used when taking samples, (N95 face mask, a face protective shield or goggles, gloves, a gown or plastic apron).
- The Laboratory services to provide a report within 48 hours following the assessment
- Test results to be emailed to the Occupational Health Service
- Provide monthly group report with trend analysis

COVID-19 diagnostic testing for all permanent and fixed term ERI employees, based at Rosherville and remote sites, on a referral basis from August 2020 for the next 12 to 24 months in all the 9 provinces of RSA

- Turnaround time is 48 hours maximum
- Have a national footprint in all the 9 provinces of South Africa
- Quote per person per day

The Service Provider includes provision of Qualified Registered Nurses:

- Proof of qualification in nursing with a minimum diploma
- Proof of SANC registration
- Proof of training in phlebotomy
- Basic Computer literacy
- Grade 12

As per indicated Scope of Work below, Eskom Rotek Industries and the contractor must adhere to the following:

- The Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations(OHSA) requires that Medical Surveillance be conducted on all safety and health sensitive positions, in order to monitor the health of the workforce exposed to Occupational Hazards, and to ensure that employees can complete their tasks safely and without unacceptable health risks to themselves, their colleagues, third parties and the company.
- ERI needs Laboratory Service contract for all permanent and FTC employees in all the 9 provinces to provide the full comprehensive service of screening, swabbing, testing and provision of test results individuals and groups
- Testing is our “window” onto the pandemic – tells how it is spreading
- It informs our understanding of the pandemic and the risks it poses in different populations.
- Assists in early identification, isolation of infected individuals including
- Enables tracing and quarantining of their contacts
- Assists in planning and allocating resources and staff efficiently
- Reduces the spread and impact of the virus to business
- Assists in properly assessing the effectiveness of interventions implemented in the prevention and containment of the infection
- The surveillance for COVID-19 is essential to permit early recognition of suspected cases, early diagnosis, containment and prevention of onward transmission
- It is also important to note that COVID-19 is a notifiable medical condition and persons under investigation and confirmed cases must be reported to the Department of Health
- The Service Provider has to ensure that all Eskom and Eskom Rotek Industries SHEQ policies, procedures and instructions are adhered to when performing Professional Laboratory Services on sites and/or power stations
- The Service Provider has to ensure that a fully functional mobile unit/s are utilised at remote ERI sites and/or ESKOM power stations on an as and when required basis. The

COVID-19 diagnostic testing for all permanent and fixed term ERI employees, based at Rosherville and remote sites, on a referral basis from August 2020 for the next 12 to 24 months in all the 9 provinces of RSA

mobile units are to be available at ERI sites and/or ESKOM power stations at a notice period within a maximum 10 working days once request is made for a mobile unit/s

- The Service Provider has to ensure that the mobile unit/s comply to all national legislation and applicable SABS and ISO standards of operations
- Technical requirements for operating mobile units:
 - i. Proof of ownership or assets register or rental agreement displaying item, asset registration number and proof of maintenance (old) maintenance (new)
 - ii. Proof of nationwide facilities available to conduct phlebotomy testing on request, including closest towns in rural areas where ERI remote sites might be operating
 - iii. Proof of conformance to all related SANS requirements in phlebotomy testing
 - iv. Proof of ownership or assets register or rental agreement displaying item, asset registration number and proof of maintenance (old) maintenance (new) in case of mobile unit required for testing at remote sites
 - v. End user reserves the right to inspect mobile unit/s at any time, prior to awarding of contract and/or during the placement of mobile unit/s

SCOPE

Laboratory Tests Service Scope of work

Description	Price Estimate	Quantity/year
Perform test individually and groups of employees referred by Eskom OMP Reverse Transcriptase PCR (RT-PCR) Combined nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs		11,000.00
Travelling	At Eskom rates	

Signed: 
Jacobus Dirksen

Date: 09 June 2020

Occupational Healthcare Services Manager

ESKOM ROTEK INDUSTRIES SOC