

FEMA Awards Over \$6.6 Million to Worcester Polytechnic Institute for COVID-19 Testing

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BOSTON – The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending more than \$6.6 million to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute to reimburse the university for the cost of contracting to test students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$6,665,844 Public Assistance grant will reimburse the private science and engineering university in Worcester for the cost of diagnostic testing between July 2020 and January 2021.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute set out to test all students and college employees so that those infected with COVID-19 could be removed quickly from campus and interactive activities, thus preventing outbreaks. Approximately 265,945 diagnostic COVID-19 tests were performed at a cost of \$25 per test.

“FEMA is pleased to be able to assist Worcester Polytechnic Institute with these costs,” said FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. “Providing resources for our institutions of higher education in combating the COVID-19 pandemic is critical to their success, and to our success as a nation.”

FEMA’s Public Assistance program is an essential source of funding for states, communities and certain private non profit organizations recovering from a federally declared disaster or emergency.

So far, FEMA has provided more than \$1 billion in Public Assistance grants to Massachusetts to reimburse the commonwealth for pandemic-related expenses.

