

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [VraagAanbodTriage](#)  
**Subject:** FW: COVID Testing Support Opportunity?  
**Date:** woensdag 25 maart 2020 17:07:10  
**Attachments:** [image007.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[pcrcovid.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

Aanvulling op de vorige mail.

Met vriendelijke groet,

[REDACTED],

[REDACTED]

RIVM-Centrum Infectieziektebestrijding  
 Postbus 1 [REDACTED]  
 3720 BA Bilthoven

[REDACTED]

[rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl](http://rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl)  
[ryp.nl](http://ryp.nl)

**Van:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@hesiglobal.org>

**Verzonden:** woensdag 25 maart 2020 16:14

**Aan:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cbg-meb.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>

**CC:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cbg-meb.nl>

**Onderwerp:** RE: COVID Testing Support Opportunity?

Thank you, [REDACTED], for the introduction and outreach.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss further or if you have additional insights you would like to share.

Some of my colleagues (from the pharma sector based in Europe as well as additional government research colleagues in US) believe there may be opportunity to advance access to COVID testing based on the paper here and the experience they have had in their own labs. **The idea is to develop a publicly accessible simple, cost effective protocol to inactivate the virus in the nasal swabs, and run a 1-step or 2-step RT-qPCR that could be used worldwide** (essentially an expedited, RNA-extraction-less approach to PCR that would reduce processing time and reduce current bottleneck around availability of reagents). We don't know if it is truly viable at scale with sufficient precision or if others are doing it (apparently it has been considered in the testing community before but perhaps not enough pressure to pursue it fully). However, if there is a quick turnaround way to enhance the testing capacity it may be an effort worth exploration.

To be clear, this is not being proposed as a commercial venture and would be voluntary by all parties. HESI's partnerships are around making methods and data publicly accessible to the scientific/medical community to improve public health. I have been in touch with a number of HESI members in the government research, government regulatory, pharma, and academic sectors in US, Europe, and Canada thus far. There is some interest, but these are very early discussions and of course there are challenges in getting access to labs right now with so much shutting down. However, I do think it may be possible if we have the right team of experts and resources.

Looking forward to your reply.

5.1.2e

5.1.2e

Health and Environmental Sciences Institute

740 15<sup>th</sup> St NW, 5.1.2e

5.1.2e

Washington DC 20005

[www.hesiglobal.org](http://www.hesiglobal.org)**From:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@cbg-meb.nl>**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 9:41 AM**To:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <martine.bakker@rivm.nl>**Cc:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@hesiglobal.org>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@cbg-meb.nl>**Subject:** FW: COVID Testing Support Opportunity?**Importance:** High

Dear colleagues

I approach you in English as this is a mail to support 5.1.2e from HESI.

5.1.2e of Health and Environment Science Institute (formerly ILSI-HESI), which research institute might be well-known to you. Other colleagues such as 5.1.2e, 5.1.2e, 5.1.2e and myself have been (or still are) involved in many projects over the last 20 years.

The question below might be clear. There is no commercial interest from HESI, as it is a not-for profit research organisation.

I would like to hear from you whether you or other RIVM colleagues are in the position to take the message in this mail. Please let me know. If yes, please contact directly 5.1.2e (the mail is from a few hours ago) to give a follow-up.

With kind regards

5.1.2e

5.1.2e

5.1.2e

5.1.2e

Graadt van Roggenweg 500, 3531 AH Utrecht, The Netherlands

5.1.2e @cbg-meb.nl

5.1.2e

**Van:** 5.1.2e [5.1.2e@hesiglobal.org]**Verzonden:** woensdag 25 maart 2020 12:04**Aan:** 5.1.2e**CC:** 5.1.2e

**Onderwerp:** COVID Testing Support Opportunity?  
**Urgentie:** Hoog

Dear [REDACTED],

I hope you and your family/friends are holding up OK during this difficult period. I wish I were reaching out under better circumstances.

I spent some time on phone with colleagues from Bayer (in France/Germany including [REDACTED] who believe there may be opportunity to advance access to COVID testing based on the paper here and the experience they have had in their own labs (essentially an expedited RNA-extraction less approach to PCR and thus expedite time and reduce current bottleneck around reagents. I don't know if it is viable or others are doing it, but if there is a quick turnaround way to enhance the testing capacity that seems an effort worth undertaking. AND – the expertise that HESI's network has in RNA prep and testing could contribute quickly to data development, regulatory input, etc. There are elements of needing to ensure safe deactivation of the virus to avoid potential infection during testing but that could be achieved I am sure. Apparently they have done extraction-less analysis on samples in house with some success before as well.

Any initial reactions – have you had an experience here? Is this a conversation you'd like to be part of? Do you know of others already leading in this space? To be clear Bayer is not looking to develop a product to sell here (nor is HESI) – just individual scientists looking to try to build data around a more expedited approach that could help advance the huge gap in testing right now.

Your perspectives welcomed. Have had some positive initial feedback and am circulating for input.

\*\*\*\*From [REDACTED] Bayer.

*I would like to suggest to rapidly build a HESI taskforce in order to get around the table representatives for public, regulation and industry sectors including the companies producing the kits to collectively find a simple, cost effective protocol to inactivate the virus in the nasal swabs, run a 1-step or 2-step RT-qPCR that could be used worldwide.*

*First encouraging results attached.*

*WHO, CDC, scientific councils on Covid19 recommend ALL to test the population on a large scale. The states must coordinate the effort, but we can try to make use of the large qPCR testing capacities available in the public and private sectors using an easy-to-use protocol.*

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
5.1.2e

Health and Environmental Sciences Institute



740 15<sup>th</sup> St NW, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
5.1.2e

Washington DC 20005

[www.hesiglobal.org](http://www.hesiglobal.org)

**Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware.

**Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware.

---

**This inbound message has been checked for all known viruses by KPN's Secure Information Exchange service, powered by Symantec.cloud.**

---

---

This outbound message has been checked for all known viruses by KPN's Secure Information Exchange service, powered by Symantec.cloud.

---

**Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware.