

Going rate for covid and pcr tests were we getting a bargain or being charged a lot. Was the state testing their own employees or were they using private testing? Comparison of test prices between states, within state, and through time periods. **How did the testing system work for state employees?**

- Press releases and news release and key words to find announcements of state contracts with companies online
- Medicare pays for COVID testing, which is either \$51 or \$100 depending on the test
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Bridget:

Who was doing the testing for the UMASS system? How much did they pay for this? Different for different schools or same for everyone? Research, possibly contact schools

Gaby:

Did Massachusetts public school employees have to get private testing or was it offered? Did they have to pay for it? Maybe reach out to district for protocol?

<https://fortune.com/2021/11/09/one-startup-wants-to-offer-more-than-just-covid-19-testing-sites-in-a-post-pandemic-world/>

- Fortune values company at \$4.6billion, fierce health says \$1.5billion
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“The company, now known as Color Health Inc., plans to announce a new investment Tuesday that values the startup at \$4.6 billion, triple what it was just 11 months ago. Now Color must prove that a business built around a pandemic will serve a purpose [when the virus is contained.](#)”

“Although Color still conducts genetic testing, COVID-related projects now account for more revenue.”

Olivia Sakhai:

Curious what color health is doing with all the money (in MA but beyond MA too > contact for spending breakdown?)

- Call about their spending on testing
- Who they are reporting to in the government

**Potential Questions:**

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- Where is everything not being used?

Ashya:

What happened to the ventilators > research Zoll and contact Zoll, try to learn where the ventilators are, possibly contact hospitals that sent them too and see what they have done with them since.

- in march 2020, they pledged to make 10k ventilators a month (increasing their capacity)
- Zoll Medical Corp is an Approved US Government Supplier (choice of supplier by Department of Defense for military vents)

Department of Veteran Affairs - Zoll required to provide US GOV with ventilators

<https://projects.propublica.org/coronavirus-contracts/contracts/36C77620C0015>

[https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT\\_AWD\\_36C77620C0015\\_3600\\_-NONE\\_-NONE-](https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_36C77620C0015_3600_-NONE_-NONE-)

<https://projects.propublica.org/coronavirus-contracts/contracts/36C77620C0015>

[https://cthrquasispending.mass.gov/#!/year/All%20Years/explore/0-/vendor\\_name/Zoll%20Medical%20Corporation/0/quasi\\_spend\\_type](https://cthrquasispending.mass.gov/#!/year/All%20Years/explore/0-/vendor_name/Zoll%20Medical%20Corporation/0/quasi_spend_type)

Possibilities:

- Donations - where?
- Hospitals - being used?
- Warehouse or storage - what's the plan?

Sent a bunch back to fed gov stockpile

Bunch more in the state stockpile

Other:

- Baker said the order was placed with iHealth, the same California-based manufacturer that provided the 2.1 million tests purchased last month and distributed to select cities and towns.
- Gov. Charlie Baker announced Tuesday that the state has secured an order for 26 million new COVID-19 rapid antigen tests that will be prioritized for K-12 schools and child care centers over the coming months.
- It should be noted that free testing is still widely available in Massachusetts.
- PCR testing for symptomatic individuals and close contacts is usually available at **no cost** to you. If you are insured, generally your insurance will cover the cost.

If you are uninsured, many test sites in the Commonwealth test uninsured individuals for free.

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### **Olivia Sakhai**

**Curious what color health is doing with all the money (in MA but beyond MA too > contact for spending breakdown?) → email in progress**

### **Color Health**

<https://www.color.com/commonwealth-of-massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-program>

- COVID vaccination program
- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is partnering with Color to support access to the COVID-19 vaccine.
- LabCorp's vaccine site at Natick Mall with Color.
- State sponsored locations vs retail locations for vaccine... not sure which if any are directly related to color health?

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2021-11-09/covid-test-startup-ceo-on-100m-series-e-funding-video>

<https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/tech/color-banks-100m-to-build-its-post-pandemic-plan-to-shift-from-covid-testing-to-other-health>

- Just formed in 2015 for gene testing, made a ton of money with COVID to expand healthcare delivery programs
- Color has partnered with nearly 1,000 organizations, including public health departments, universities and employers, to offer access to fast, reliable and convenient healthcare services.
- \$100 million in a series E financing to accelerate the expansion of accessible and equitable public health infrastructure, company executives announced Tuesday.

- Color has raised \$278 million to date, and the latest funding round boosts the firm's valuation to \$1.5 billion, according to the company.
- For profit

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/03/21/metro/inside-states-33-million-scramble-build-better-vaccine-website/>

- On Feb. 18, thousands of people were waiting hours on the state's vaccine website for a chance at an appointment, some getting the soul-crushing image of an orange octopus instead. Governor Charlie Baker was so upset, he said, his "hair's on fire."
- Behind the scenes, state officials were calling in experts near and far to fix the troubled sign-up system, which drew criticism from day one.
- Records show that the state awarded five companies up to \$3.3 million in contracts, mostly within a span of 11 days between late February and early March, to overhaul the system. In some cases, they were creating features that other states had included from the start, such as a pre-registration system to make signing up easier.
- Caroline Savello, the chief commercial officer of Color Health, which provides scheduling and tracking technology for vaccines, said the task of vaccinating everyone is unprecedented, and it involves variables that change on a weekly basis. At least since Color began working on the vaccine website earlier this year, she said the state has consistently prioritized design choices that promote access and equity on the sit
- Feb 17th: Massachusetts signs \$1.25 million contract with Color Health to work on a new appointment scheduling system, as well as an inventory tracking and reporting software for vaccination sites
- VaxFinder crashes on feb 18th
- Feb 25th: State amends contract with Color and asks it to build an digital waiting room to alleviate website traffic on the appointment scheduling websites
- As the Baker administration embarked on a mission to end the technical mishaps, the administration turned to Color Health, a California-based health technology company that had transitioned to coronavirus testing and then vaccine distribution. On Feb. 17, the state and Color signed a deal for up to \$1.2 million to work on a new scheduling platform and to assist vaccine sites with tracking inventory and reporting administration data to the state.
- Roughly a week after the original contract was signed, the state amended it, asking Color to build a "digital waiting room" where people seeking appointments could go without overloading the scheduling website. That feature debuted on Feb. 25.
- Savello of Color, who oversees the company's work in Massachusetts, acknowledged that the effort to distribute the vaccine to the public has required flexibility to solve ever-changing problems

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-11-09/covid-testing-startup-color-gets-funding-plans-for-post-pandemic>

- The startup currently has more than 6,500 Covid testing sites at offices, schools and elsewhere, as well as 500 vaccination sites across the U.S. Color will

expand many of these locations for all sorts of health care purposes, such as administering flu shots or blood-pressure tests. The idea is to offer conveniently located outlets for routine health services, allowing workers and parents to cut out special trips to clinics.