

East TN Regional Health Office (ETRHO) & Lab Replacement Facility

- The goal of this project is to replace the current public health facility located within The University Medical Center campus to another central location for the 15-county area that it serves
- The lab component provides mutual redundancy with the Nashville Lab for certain functions and requires infrastructure to support 24/7 operations
- The Regional Health Operations Center (RHOC) & Emergency Preparedness component serves as an incident command center working directly with Emergency Preparedness for the same 15-county area
- Approx. \$85M Total Project Cost
- 31 months design & construction duration
- No temporary employees are anticipated for this project

East Tennessee
Regional Health Office and Laboratory

University of Tennessee Medical Center Campus



Reasons for Second Facility

- Tennessee operates more than one state laboratory facility. This serves multiple purposes:
 - 1) Redundancy (Several examples of Nashville lab down in last few years);
 - 2) Overflow capacity (e.g. COVID, Ebola, anthrax);
 - 3) Expands state's ability to meet increased and growing demand for testing;
 - Central lab increased capacity will be filled quickly
 - E.g. new whole genome sequencing, newborn drug screening, environmental testing
- Considerations for maintaining location second Laboratory in Knoxville:
 - Improves ability to hire;
 - Partnership with a large university augments capacity;
 - Co-location with our largest regional HD maximizes efficiency;
 - (This also helps reduce cost)
 - Geographic proximity to large sample submitters shortens time to receipt;
 - Opportunity for new academic and lab partnership opportunities, particularly if sited at UT Research Park

Planning for Existing Facility to-Date

- Past maintenance requests include HVAC, water intrusion related to foundation issues, and parking lot improvement;
- Increase in requests call for systemic improvement and facility renovation no longer a cost-effective (or functionally feasible) option;
- As a result, in 2019 DGS and TDH, in collaboration with UT Medical Center, began work to develop programming needs for a replacement facility.
- In addition to these factors, the existing 1974 facility does not currently have the footprint to meet current needs and future growth.