Welcome again to our second laboratory bulletin for the year 2022. In this bulletin we will briefly highlight our main laboratory related activities performed in the Kyrgyz Republic during March and April 2022.

March 2022

WHO EURO mission to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

From 15 to 18 March 2022, Dr Joanna Zwittyenga, WHO Incident Management Support team for COVID-19 (IMST), laboratory Technical Lead, EURO, visited Bishkek in official mission to provide support on several areas:

- On 15 March - Meeting with national counterparts to review roles of reference laboratories on laboratory licensing.
- 16 March - Presented results of the mentoring programme in the country.
- 17-18 March - Discussions with national stakeholders, on the kick-off of the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (GLLP) in Kyrgyzstan. Draft of Terms of Reference. Selected competencies to be delivered in phase 1 are: Management, Quality Management System, and Biosafety.

Biosafety training to national mentors from Central Asia:

A 3.5 days laboratory biosafety and biosecurity training took place between 23 to 26 March 2022. Training adopted from the latest WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual - fourth edition. National mentors from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan were able to understand and practice main approach of the guidance, which is based on biorisk management and risk assessment based approach.

As shown in the chart, the trends of the pre and post results as follows: pre-test average was 61% with a range of (25 - 100) and mode of 67 while post-test average increased to 89 %, range of post-test is (56 - 100) and mode is 92, and 96. A total of 28% of knowledge increase was achieved.

Laboratory biosafety and biosecurity training for national mentors from Central Asia countries. Bukhara, Uzbekistan between 23 - 26 March 22
• on 6 April, the WHO country office along with different organizations, partners, representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic government celebrated the World Health Day, through several activities such as tree planting and garbage collection.

• WHO supported the Department of SSES through delivery of multiplex assay kits for the detection of both Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 viruses in single test. In mid-April, the WHO laboratory team visited department of SSES to validate assay and provide training on use and troubleshooting of the assay.

• On 12 April, the laboratory team met with the Coordinating Laboratory Council (CLC) and discussed the outline for a national sequencing strategy, reviewed the responsibilities of the National Biosafety Committee, and advancements in development of the template of national contingency plan.

• Sequencing training: from 26 to 29 April, WHO EURO consultant Dr. Maja Stanojevic provided a SARS-CoV-2 bioinformatics training at the TB National Reference Laboratory, on sequence analysis and how to upload sequences to global databases.

What is the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (GLLP)?

To help ensure that laboratories can effectively play a critical role in the prevention, detection, and control of diseases, current and emerging laboratory leaders worldwide need specialized training in leadership and management.

Six leading organizations partnered and developed GLLP targeting professionals working in human and animal health laboratories, as well as laboratories with public health functions as environmental, agricultural, food, chemical and aquatic laboratories, in a OneHealth approach, to help in preparing effective laboratory leaders and managers. The partners include:

• Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
• European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
• Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
• World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
• World Health Organization (WHO).

The programme covers nine core competencies, published in the competency framework, to download it, press here: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241515108

For more information about the programme, please visit: https://www.who.int/initiatives/global-laboratory-leadership-programme

Digesting the norm

In our quality corner, “Digesting the norms” continues every two weeks on Wednesday at 16:00 Bishkek time in online webinar series, through which we go through one topic, or chapter of the norm, on Quality Management System and ISO 15189: 2012 standard with Dr Joanna Zwetyenga. Next session is scheduled for 4 May 22. Russian translation is available. If you don’t have access details, please contact us to receive the information.

Prepared by WHO laboratory technical unit
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Thank you!

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