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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
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Date: 4 January 2024

Mr Arunas Dulkys
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
Vilniaus g. 33
Vilnius LT-01506
Lithuania

Dear Sir,

WHO European Regional Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network Laboratory Accreditation for 2024

As part of the annual accreditation procedure, the National Measles/Rubella Laboratory of your country, as a member of the WHO Global Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network, was reviewed by the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

Based on the results of this review, I am pleased to inform you that the laboratory is **fully accredited** as a WHO National Measles/Rubella Laboratory for 2024. Enclosed is the accreditation review summary including the scope of the accreditation and the recommendations of the review for your information.

Measles continues to pose a relentlessly increasing threat worldwide, with an alarming rise in sizable measles outbreaks in the WHO European Region recently. (See the following article: [A 30-fold rise of measles cases in 2023 in the WHO European Region warrants urgent action.](#))

More than ever, it is critical that measles and rubella laboratories are adequately supported to play their essential roles of providing timely case investigation and confirmation and of ensuring, through national oversight and quality assurance programmes, the reliability of measles/rubella results provided by other laboratories. Additionally, strengthening collaboration between laboratories and epidemiological surveillance is key to complying with elimination-standard surveillance and to determining the molecular epidemiology of sporadic cases and chains of transmission, as required to support the verification of disease elimination.

I would like to thank you personally for your ongoing support of the measles and rubella elimination programme and to congratulate the staff of the laboratory on the successful accreditation.

Yours very truly,

Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge
Regional Director

Encls:

Accreditation Review Summary

Copy for information to:

Ms Radvilė Jakaitienė, Head, Division of International Cooperation, Ministry of Health, Vilniaus g. 16, Vilnius LT-01506 Lithuania

H.E. Mr Darius Staniulis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Chemin Louis-Dunant 15, Geneva CH-1202, Switzerland

H.E. Ms Asta Radikaite, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania, Bernstorffsvej 214, Charlottenlund 2920, Denmark

Ms Ingrida Zurlyte, Head of WHO Country Office, WHO Country Office, Lithuania, A. Jaksto 12, (4th floor), Vilnius LT-01105, Lithuania