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Date: 17 December 2019

Professor Aurelijus Veryga
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
Vilniaus g. 33
Lithuania

Dear Sir,

WHO European Regional Polio Laboratory Network Laboratory Accreditation for 2020

As part of the annual accreditation procedure, the National Polio Laboratory of your country, as a member of the WHO Global Polio 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 National Laboratory is **fully accredited** as a WHO Polio National Laboratory for 2020.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the report of the 33rd Meeting of the European Regional Commission for Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication (2019; see link below), which concluded that all Member States should urgently act, through their respective National Poliovirus Containment Coordinators, on the WHO guidance on the identification of materials potentially infectious for polioviruses (PIM) within any laboratory in the country that handles human stool and respiratory specimens or environmental sewage samples. This guidance should be used to establish and expand the PIM surveys, document the survey approach and address any identified gaps.

It is also important to emphasize that all diagnostic work on the samples where a presence of poliovirus is suspected should be performed in accordance with Annex 6 of the “WHO Global Action Plan to minimize poliovirus facility-associated risk after type-specific eradication of wild polioviruses and sequential cessation of oral polio vaccine use (GAPIII)” (see link below).

Since WHO-accredited national laboratories play an increasing role in securing high-quality laboratory investigations through oversight, coordination of national laboratory networks and polio external quality assessment programmes, I would like to thank you personally for your ongoing support for the National Polio Laboratory and to congratulate the staff of the Laboratory on the successful accreditation.

Enclosed is the summary of accreditation by method. All technical recommendations of the review have been shared with the laboratory using the WHO Global Polio Laboratory Network Management System platform.

Yours very truly,



Dr Piroska Östlin
Regional Director a.i.

Links:

Report of the 33rd Meeting of the European Regional Certification Commission for Poliomyelitis Eradication (RCC)
<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/communicable-diseases/poliomyelitis/publications/2019/33rd-meeting-of-the-european-regional-commission-for-certification-of-poliomyelitis-eradication-rcc-report-2019>

Global Action Plan (GAPIII) and Guidance to minimize risks for facilities collecting, handling or storing materials potentially infectious for polioviruses

<http://polioeradication.org/polio-today/preparing-for-a-polio-free-world/containment/containment-resources/>

Copy for information to:

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