

**Recommendations of
Regional Training Workshop on PCR-based Diagnosis of Influenza A (H1N1)
NIH, Thailand from 9-12 June 2009**

Member countries should

1. Develop and implement contingency plans to assure surge capacity for influenza laboratories to respond effectively to ongoing pandemic
2. Establish quality PCR based influenza diagnostic facilities in national/designated laboratories and gradually forge a national network of such laboratories
3. Bridge their national laboratories, in case these do not have adequate facilities to diagnose influenza A (H1N1) with willing laboratories in other countries through a mutually acceptable agreement
4. Arrive at a national consensus for protocol for laboratory testing of specimens to obviate unnecessary burden on laboratories and obtain optimum data for public health action.
5. Encourage national laboratories to share data, clinical material and virus isolates with Global Influenza Surveillance Network for global good
6. Assure greater linkages of laboratory staff with public health and medical professionals for efficient utilization of laboratory services through a formal mechanism
7. Utilize the technical assistance and support for troubleshooting from WHO H5 Global Reference Laboratory, National Institute of Virology, Pune, India and National Influenza Centre, National Institute of Health, Nonthaburi, Thailand in strengthening laboratory capacity.

WHO should

1. Ensure regular supply of the essential reagents including PCR primers to all Member countries on quarterly basis.
2. Collaborate with international developmental partners in establishing PCR facilities in Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Timor Leste
3. Support and make efforts to sustain regional influenza laboratory network
4. Organize on-site training to laboratories personnel in selected countries
5. Facilitate designation of National Influenza Centres in those Member countries of South-East Asia Region which currently do not have any National Influenza Centre.