Dear Pacific colleagues:

This posting reviews the laboratory testing options in the Pacific for a Person Under Investigation (PUI) for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

- The closest WHO Collaborating Centre Laboratory (WHO-CC) for testing for Ebola is the US CDC in Atlanta, USA. This laboratory will accept samples from individuals meeting the criteria for a suspected case or a Person Under Investigation (PUI). For a list of all the WHO CC that test for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) please click.

- The Victoria Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL) in Melbourne, Australia, has the capacity to test for EVD, has the required import permits, and has agreed to test samples from Pacific island countries and areas, provided the samples are from individuals that meet the criteria for a suspect case or a PUI. For most South Pacific nations, shipping to VIDRL will be quicker and easier than shipping to the USA, and we expect a quicker test result.

- However, although VIDRL is a very high quality laboratory, it is not a WHO-CC for Ebola virus, and WHO recommends that all EVD samples that are tested in a non-WHO-CC laboratory are validated in a WHO-CC Laboratory. Therefore, we recommend that even if samples are tested at VIDRL, that they are also tested at the US CDC.

- The WHO recommendation for testing of samples in the Pacific vary depending upon location:
  - South Pacific: Two samples shipped simultaneously, one to US CDC and one to VIDRL
  - North Pacific (Inc. American Samoa): One sample shipped to US CDC (protocols are already established)

- WHO will help facilitate and fund the shipment of samples, and will liaise with the respective laboratories. Laboratories must be notified in advance of sample shipment. Please see attached Ebola Pacific Update #7 from 16 October that discussed additional details on laboratory testing.

Kind regards,

Eric Nilles, Viema Biaukula, Axelle Ronsse in collaboration with Salanieta Duituturaga of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Viema L. Biaukula

Surveillance Co-ordinator

Emerging diseases surveillance & response

World Health Organization | Division of Pacific Technical Support | Suva, Fiji
Tel: +679 3234115 (W); +679 8601399 (M) | E-mail: biaukulav@wpro.who.int | Web: http://www.wpro.who.int/southpacific

This message was scanned for viruses with Trend Micro ScanMail, GFI MailSecurity and GFI MailEssentials by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific. However, the recipient is advised to scan this e-mail and any attached files for viruses.

Disclaimer:

This e-mail, together with any attachments, is intended for the named recipients only and is confidential. It may also be privileged or otherwise protected by law.

If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail and delete it and any attachments from your system. You may not copy or disclose its contents to anyone.

--------------
SUBSCRIBING: Send a blank message to: join-pacnet@lyris.spc.int
UNSUBSCRIBING: Send a message to leave-pacnet@lyris.spc.int
CONTRIBUTING TO THE LIST: Send a message to: pacnet@lyris.spc.int
WEB: http://lyris.spc.int/read/?forum=pacnet
Where you can change your settings at any time.