



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
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Date: 16 March 2016

Mr Dragos Galbur
Head
Foreign Relations and European Integration
Ministry of Health
str. Vasile Alecsandri, 2
MD-2009 Chisinau
Republic of Moldova

Our reference:		Your reference:
Notre référence:	CBR_PDM	Votre référence:
Unser Zeichen:	_hbr	Ihr Zeichen:
См. наш номер:		На Ваш номер:

Dear Mr Galbur,

Based on criteria for maintaining WHO recognition and annual review of NIC performance during the 2014/2015 influenza season, we are pleased to inform you that the WHO-recognized NIC in Republic of Moldova headed by Dr Constantin Spinu at the National Influenza Center in your country performs well against these criteria and maintains WHO recognition.

The Regional Office annually sends a letter to those Member States with a WHO-recognized National Influenza Centre (NIC) to state whether they have met the criteria for extension of WHO-recognition, as described in the letter sent by the Regional Director in May 2011.

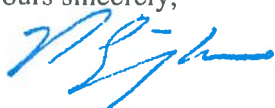
By means of this annual assessment, we aim to support countries to maintain the National Influenza Centres in the WHO European Region as they play a key role in influenza surveillance at the national level and participate in regional and global surveillance, through the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS), by contributing to the implementation of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework, and participating in the joint European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control/WHO Regional Office for Europe Flu News Europe weekly influenza update. The data generated by the NIC are critical to understanding the timing and spread of influenza epidemics and the contribution of different viruses to morbidity and mortality. Influenza viruses shared by the NIC with the GISRS contribute to the twice annual selection of viruses for seasonal influenza vaccines, monitoring susceptibility to antiviral drugs, detection of emerging influenza viruses and assessment of the risk posed by novel influenza viruses with pandemic potential. According to their Terms of Reference, NICs are required to send shipments of representative seasonal influenza viruses to the WHO Collaborating Centres for Reference and Research on Influenza (WHO CC), and comply with the Standard Material Transfer Agreement 1 of the PIP Framework for sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits by shipping, within one week, clinical specimens and/or viruses that cannot be readily identified with diagnostic reagents provided through the WHO GISRS to a WHO CC or H5 Reference Laboratory of their choice. We kindly request you to continue to support these shipments.

WHO counts on your support to the NIC to maintain its WHO-recognition status and fulfil NIC Terms of Reference as well as strengthening virological influenza surveillance and to enhance NIC capacities to respond to emerging influenza viruses such as avian influenza A(H7N9) virus.

WHO will continue to support the NIC with technical guidance, relevant training, and networking opportunities.

I would like to thank your country for collaborating so closely with WHO and I look forward to its continuation.

Yours sincerely,



Nedret Emiroglu M.D.
Director
Division of Communicable Diseases and
Health Security

Copy for information to:

H.E. Mr Victor Moraru, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Avenue de France 23, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

H.E. Mr Aureliu Ciocoi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Moldova, Gotlandstrasse 16, D-10439 Berlin, Germany

Ms Dafina Gercheva, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations House, 131, 31 August str., MD-2012 Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Mr Haris Hajrulahovic, Head of WHO Office, WHO Country Office, Republic of Moldova, Sfatul Tarii Str. 29, MD-2012 Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Enclosure

Details of the NICs in your country, status of WHO-recognition and key reference documents

NIC should demonstrate each year that they comply with the WHO NIC terms of reference. Those NIC that did not meet the criteria will have one year for corrective action, which will be supported by WHO where possible.

1. NIC details

Dr Constantin Spinu
National Influenza Center
MD 2029
Str. Cosmescu 3
Chisinau
Republic of Moldova
Fax: +37 322 729725

Date of recognition by WHO: 18 March 2013

Status of WHO recognition in 2014/2015¹:

- Maintained: NIC meets the criteria
- Provisionally maintained: NIC failed to meet all the criteria

2. Key reference documents:

1. How to become a WHO-recognized National Influenza Centre: Guidance on the process for influenza laboratories in the WHO European Region [web site]. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/publications/2010/how-to-become-a-who-recognized-national-influenza-centre-guidance-on-the-process-for-influenza-laboratories-in-the-who-european-region>)

2. Terms of Reference for National Influenza Centres [web site]. Geneva, World Health Organization, (http://www.who.int/influenza/gisn_laboratory/national_influenza_centres/terms_of_reference_for_national_influenza_centres.pdf).

3. Pandemic influenza preparedness framework for the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits. Geneva, World Health Organization; 2011, (<http://www.who.int/influenza/pip/en/>)

4. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control/WHO Regional Office for Europe, Flu News Europe, Joint ECDC–WHO/Europe weekly influenza update, (<http://flunewseurope.org/>)

¹ This status holds also for the 2013/2014 season due to the fact that the letter was not sent in 2014