



Funded by the European Union



CBRN Centres of Excellence  
An initiative of the European Union

# MEDILABSECURE PREPAREDNESS

## to the COVID-19 outbreak



The outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus officially called Covid-19 that emerged in the city of Wuhan (Hubei Province, China) in December 2019 is now affecting 80% of the countries worldwide, to the point of being officially reclassified as a pandemic by WHO.

In this context, the human virology working group coordinated by the Laboratory for Urgent Response to Biological Threats (CIBU) at the Institut Pasteur, has been directly involved in the Covid-19 pandemic preparedness from the beginning in January 2020 through active communication, discussions, diagnostic tools sharing and technical support towards Covid-19 reference laboratories members of the network, in order for them to better anticipate and start initiating active preparedness and coordinated response to Covid-19 at national level.

## TRANSFER OF DIAGNOSTIC CAPACITY

### INFORMATION SHARING

Two Covid-19 dedicated sessions:

- MediLabSecure Regional Meeting  
Dakar, Senegal  
January 20-24, 2020
- MediPIET Training of Trainers  
Tunis, Tunisia  
February 24-26, 2020



### NEEDS ASSESSMENT



1 Online needs assessment questionnaire sent to the  
**22** participating countries

#### To determine

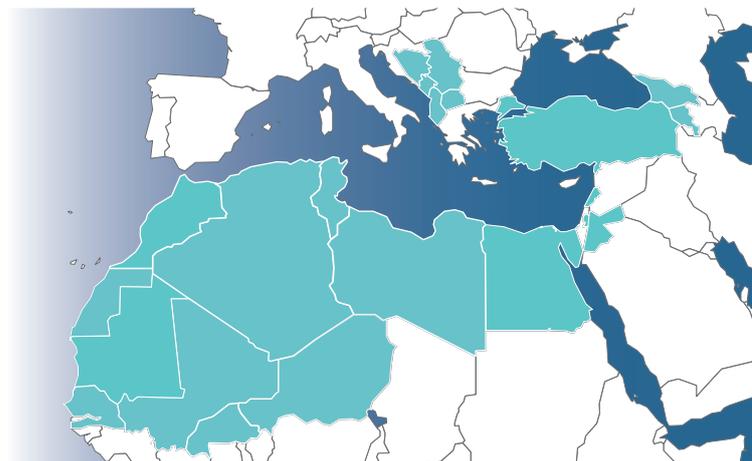
- the type of protocol used
- whether or not a positive control is required
- the need or not for primers and probes

### ACTIONS

- Protocols and information regarding the implementation of the technics in the laboratories, the good laboratory practices and specific biosafety procedures needed in the handling of suspected SARS-CoV-2 samples have been made available by the CIBU to all laboratories members of the network, and more widely on request from countries.
- In continuity with their expertise, CIBU provides on demand support to MediLabSecure beneficiary countries for strain sequencing
- An External Quality Assessment on coronaviruses including the SARS-CoV-2 new virus has been organised by the CIBU for all voluntary laboratories to make sure the diagnostic is correctly implemented
- National reference laboratories requesting support in diagnostic implementation have been provided with first emergency kits
- Laboratories can refer to CIBU their suspect cases to validate their initial diagnostics by confirmation of the first positive cases.

In line with the global context of the epidemic and with the international solidarity spirit which characterizes the Institut Pasteur International Network (IPIN), MediLabSecure, coordinated by the Institut Pasteur, has also provided diagnostic support to several Institutes members of this international collaborative network and mandated Covid-19 national reference laboratories.

### The MediLabSecure Network



### NATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORIES PROVIDED WITH INITIAL DIAGNOSTIC KITS

#### Institutes outside the network

**CAMEROUN**  
*Centre Pasteur Cameroun*

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**  
*Institut Pasteur de Bangui*

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

**GUINEA (Conakry)**  
*Institut Pasteur de Guinée*

**RWANDA**  
*Laboratoire de Référence National, Centre Biomédical du Rwanda*

#### Network members

**ALBANIA**  
*Institute of Public Health*

**ALGERIA**  
*Institut Pasteur d'Algérie*

**BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA**  
*University Clinical Center of Sarajevo*

**JORDAN**  
*Laboratory Directorate of the MoH*

**KOSOVO**  
*National Institute of Public Health*

**LEBANON**  
*Rafik Hariri University Hospital*

**LIBYA**  
*National Center for Disease Control*

**MAURITANIA**  
*National Institute of Public Health Research*

**MONTENEGRO**  
*Institute of Public Health*

**MOROCCO**  
*Institut Pasteur du Maroc*

**NIGER**  
*Centre de Recherche Médicale et Sanitaire (CERMES)*

**NORTH MACEDONIA**  
*Institute of Public Health*

**PALESTINE**  
*Ministry of Health*

**SERBIA**  
*Institute of Virology, Vaccines and Sera, Torlak*

**TUNISIA**  
*Institut Pasteur in Tunis Veterinarian Research Institute*

**TURKEY**  
*Public Health Institute of Turkey*

## IMPACTS

**21** countries asked for initial kits shipment to implement the diagnostic capacity



First cases diagnosed by national reference laboratories members of the network thanks to this support in Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Jordan, Palestine, and Mauritania.



A collaborative work strengthening network ownership and sustainability