

12th Meeting Caribbean National Epidemiologists and Laboratory Directors

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POS, Trinidad and Tobago***

Laboratory Services and Networks Your priorities?

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Preventing disease, promoting and protecting health

Priority Diseases/Pathogens categories requiring laboratory confirmation

Epidemic-prone diseases/pathogens under IHR

Cholera, Avian influenza, Antrax, Viral hemorrhagic fevers: Yellow fever, Ebola, Venezuelan Equine encephalitis, Multiresistant pathogens

Vaccine preventable Diseases

Poliomyelitis (AFP), Measles, Rubella, Congenital rubella, Diphtheria *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, Typhoid fever *Salmonella typhi*

Endemic epidemics

Dengue, Chikungunya, Hepatitis A, Seasonal Influenza and Non Influenza respiratory viruses, Malaria, Leptospirosis, Tuberculosis, Food/water borne pathogens (bacteria, virus, parasites), Neurological diseases (viral, fungal, bacterial, parasites)

Specific diseases

HIV, Blood Borne Viral hepatitis and HTLV, Sexual Transmitted diseases, Opportunistic Infections in immunocompromised patients



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Timely high quality reference laboratory services can be provided if adequate...

1. Organization and management
2. Quality management
3. Biorisk management
4. Data and information management
5. Procurement, inventory and storage of reagents
6. Equipment and maintenance
7. Testing performance
8. Facilities and work conditions
9. Human Resources

Estimates are that...

- While **70-80%** of medical decision-making is influenced by laboratory information
- Only approx. **5%** of health budgets in the Caribbean are expended on laboratory operations

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Current challenges and limitations

1. Overloading of primary testing services
2. Critical lack of human resources
3. Insufficient support services for laboratory operations, e.g LIMS, inventories and procurement process



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Priorities for 2015

1. Filling vacant positions (Bacteriologist/Parasitologist, Virologist, Molecular Biologist, Laboratory Network manager and technical staff)
2. Strengthening operations capacity (LIMS, inventory and procurement systems)
3. Implementation of the Caribbean Public Health Laboratory Network (CPHLN)
4. Implementation of new programs (TB, antimicrobial resistance, response to new threats, quality monitoring and support, monitoring of diagnostic kits and algorithms)



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Your priorities for CARPHA Laboratory activities among its core functions?

1. Reference, referral and Laboratory Network Co-ordination
2. Reference material resource
3. Communicable, non-communicable and chronic disease prevention, control, and surveillance
4. Monitoring, alert and response
5. Scientific advice
6. Laboratory improvement and regulation (Quality Assurance); Public health policy development
7. Integrated data management
8. Public health-related research
9. Training and education of public health professionals
10. Partnerships and communications



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