



सत्यमेव जयते

DO NO.V-25011/139/2014-HR

30/4, April, 2015

In order to reduce the diagnostic time in various viral diseases e.g. H1N1, influenza, swine flu etc. and to put in place an early warning system for various viral epidemics, the Union Cabinet has approved a Centrally Sponsored Plan scheme on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013 for establishing a network of regional, state and local Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) across the country.

2. At the regional level, AIIMS, Jodhpur has been identified as one of the location for setting up of a Regional Level VRDL and assigned the important role of monitoring and keeping surveillance of existing as well as new strains of viruses. The proposed VRDL will be equipped with BSL-3 facilities. The other important function assigned to AIIMS, Jodhpur is to act as a mentor and lead the other VRDLs of the region.
3. 100% funding assistance is provided by DHR for such Regional VRDLs which inter alia includes civil works/ furnishing and equipment etc. for microbiological and epidemiological diagnosis for serology, polymerase chain reaction, isolation, tissue culture and sequencing for all viruses, in addition to equipment like DNA sequencer, micro array, liquid chromatography mass spectrometer, etc. to carry out basic and applied research at a total estimated cost of Rs.15 crores.
4. The foremost objective of the scheme, of sending early warning of any new viral out-break, can be achieved only once the chain of VRDLs is complete at all levels across the country. It is, therefore, requested that a proposal for setting up a regional level VRDL may please be forwarded to DHR at the earliest so that funds for the same could be tied up. I am also attaching a list of major administrative issues for your information and urgent action in this regard.

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5. For the sake of convenience, the approved guidelines for the scheme can be accessed at the website of Department of Health Research at [www.dhr.gov.in](http://www.dhr.gov.in). For any clarification, the undersigned or Dr. Nivedita Gupta, Scientist E /Deputy Director, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029 (Mobile No.9313978049/ Office No.26589397) may also be contacted.

Yours sincerely

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(R. P. Meena)

**Prof. Sanjeev Mishra**

Director

All India Institute of Medical Sciences

Bansi,

Jodhpur- 342 005.

Copy to:

Shri K C Samaria

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Govt. of India

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

Copy also to:

Nivedita Gupta, Scientist E /Deputy Director,

Indian Council of Medical Research,

Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029





(R.P. Meena)

Joint Secretary.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY AIIMS, JODHPUR FOR SETTING  
UP REGIONAL LEVEL VRDL

1.	Identification of 740-940 sq. mt. of space for setting up the Laboratory
2.	Appointing a Nodal Officer from AIIMS, Jodhpur for interaction with DHR
3.	Preparation of a detailed project proposal
4.	Signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with DHR.