



सत्यमेव जयते

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

30<sup>th</sup> April, 2015

Department of Health Research  
प्रति और प्रेषण अनुभाग  
R. & I. Section  
जारी किया... 15/04/15  
Issued ... Singh

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. The Government of India will set up over 160 viral research and diagnostic laboratories across the country in this Scheme. These VRDLs are being established in the selected Government Medical Colleges across the country. Under the Scheme eleven VRDLs (one State Level and ten Medical College Level) are to be established in your State. Once these laboratories are made functional, it is expected that any viral epidemic occurring in your State will be diagnosed quickly to improve the public health response to these viral diseases/epidemics. While reviewing the progress of this scheme in respect of West Bengal it has been noticed that two locations for Medical College Level viz. R. G Kar Medical College, Kolkata and IPGMER, Kolkata have been finalized while location of nine VRDLs (one State level and eight Medical College Level) are yet to be finalised.

3. 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 proposals for setting up all the VRDLs 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.

4. We are also planning a review of this schemes pertaining to West Bengal in near future and I would request for the time, date and venue of the review meeting shortly. Meanwhile, the issues identified may please be got addressed and a nodal officer from the state government may please be nominated for this scheme, with his full communication details. As such proactive involvement of the Medical Education Department of the State Government is solicited.

cont.

5. For the sake of convenience, the approved guidelines for the further 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. Since there are competing demands from other States for funds for establishing these VRDLs, it is requested that the detailed proposal/MoA, as per the guidelines, may be sent to ICMR at the earliest so that funds for Goa can be tied up.


Yours sincerely

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(R. P. Meena)

**Shri Malay Kumar De**  
Principal Secretary (H&FW),  
Department of Health & Family Welfare  
Government of West Bengal,  
Swasthya Bhawan, 4th Floor, 'B' Wing,  
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✓ Copy to:

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Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

  
(R.P. Meena)  
Joint Secretary.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY WEST BENGAL FOR SETTING UP  
OF ELEVEN VRDLs

1.	Identification of Medical Institute where the remaining nine (one State level and eight medical college level) are to be established.
2.	Identification of 250-300 sq. mt. space for State level and 200-300 sq. mt. of space for the medical college level VRDL within the identified medical institutions.
3.	Appointing a Nodal Officer from the identified institutions for interaction with DHR
4.	Preparation of a detailed project proposal in respect of remaining VRDLs.
5.	Signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with DHR in respect remaining VRDLs.