

**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**



Phnom Penh, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2020

O/Ref.: N°035/IPC/DIR/2020

**Institut Pasteur du Cambodge  
COVID-19 related activities - Update - February 25, 2020**

The Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC) is fully committed to working together with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to combat COVID-19 in the Kingdom of Cambodia. IPC is designated as first line laboratory for the diagnosis of COVID-19 by the Cambodian Ministry of Health.

Utilizing our BLS-3-level biosafety and biosecurity capacity in conjunction with multiple diagnostic tests according to the WHO interim guidance, IPC has implemented, validated, and ensured diagnostic capacity to identify and respond to COVID-19 in Cambodia. Working closely with the Cambodian Center for Disease Control (CDC), the coordinating entity designated for notification of suspected cases, [nasal and throat] swab samples from suspected cases are sent to IPC in a timely manner and processed immediately. All samples are subjected to testing according to validated protocols and suspected cases are tested with multiple diagnostic tests to ensure validity.

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, IPC confirmed the first and only COVID-19 case in Cambodia in a traveler visiting Cambodia from Wuhan, China. As of this date, this Cambodian CDC/IPC system has received 55 notifications (61 samples) of suspected cases and 8 close contacts (11 samples) through this notification alert system.

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, IPC was asked to support the Ministry of Health for activities outside the notification alert system to allow for the docking and disembarkment of passengers from the Westerdam cruise ship. Initially, 20 swab samples from symptomatic individuals from the Westerdam were tested and all samples were COVID-19 negative. Subsequently, 1,580 samples from asymptomatic Westerdam passengers (n=804 samples) and crew (n=776 samples) were tested negative for COVID-19.

IPC has also contributed to testing samples from asymptomatic crew from the World Dream cruise ship (n=36) and from asymptomatic Cambodian students who study in China (n=41) - all samples also tested negative for COVID-19.

IPC continues to offer support and to work closely with Cambodian CDC/MoH and continues to receive and test suspected cases of COVID-19 in the Kingdom of Cambodia as well as to continue to increase diagnostic capacity, validate new testing kits, and to capacity build in the National Institute of Public Health Laboratory of the MoH.

IPC is happy to continue to contribute to and support the response and prevention of COVID-19 throughout Cambodia, the Southeast Asia region, and the globe.



Dr. Laurence BARIL  
Director