



Folkhälsomyndigheten
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF SWEDEN

Recipient
*Director General/
Health Board
10617 Tallinn, Estonia*

Administrative Official
Johan Aarum

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Information about the planned refurbishment of the BSL3/4 laboratories at the Public Health Agency of Sweden

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your continued confidence in using us as your primary facility for the analysis of high consequence pathogens. This is an important commitment that serve to strengthen our joint preparedness against potential biological threats to human health in our part of Europe.

The BSL3 and 4 laboratories at PHAS was commissioned in 2002 and, although still well-functioning, now needs refurbishment to secure continual operation at the highest standard. To allow for this, the BSL3 and 4 facilities at PHAS will be closed from August 2024 with an expected re-opening date of May 31 2025. We will duly notify you should there be any changes in the time-plan.

During this period, PHAS will continue to honour our agreement in full with regard to diagnostic analysis, confirmatory analysis and more in-depth analysis if required. This means that you can continue to send samples to PHAS. To secure the proper analysis of all samples, including downstream investigations of samples that becomes positive, PHAS has contracted other facilities that will complement our analysis if needed. PHAS will cover all extra costs arising from the use of such contracted facilities, including shipment- and analysis costs.

Additional information

At the end of 2023 ECDC announced the formation of the initial six European Reference Laboratories (EURLs). PHAS is happy to inform you that we will coordinate the EURL for Emerging, rodent-borne and zoonotic viral pathogens (EU4H-2023-DGA-MS-IBA-02-03) and participate in the EURL for High-risk, emerging and zoonotic bacterial pathogens (EU4H-2023-DGA-MS-IBA-02-04), the latter coordinated by our partner Robert Koch Institute in Germany. Part of your agreed services with us will be covered by the newly formed EURLs, planned

to be operational in the first quarter of 2025. This includes, for example, diagnostics of agent X. However, we would like to stress that in our current bilateral agreements we offer a considerably higher and more timely preparedness than what will be provided through the EURLs. We therefore hope that you see our continued cooperation around this as important, not the least in view of our joint Nordic/Scandinavian preparedness against biological threats. In this regard, we will be in contact with you again closer to the re-opening of our BSL3 and 4 facilities to initiate discussions around renewal of our current agreements and possibilities to strengthen our cooperation further.

Meanwhile, please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or thought concerning the above.

Yours sincerely,



Johan Aarum
Head of Unit for Diagnostic Preparedness of Notifiable and High Consequence
Pathogens
Public Health Agency of Sweden
+4610-205 21 77
johan.aarum@folkhalsomyndigheten.se