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Date: 26 January 2026

Dr Marija Jakubauskienė
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
Vilniaus g. 33 Vilnius LT-01506
Lithuania

Dear Madam,

**2025–2026 accreditation of the WHO Measles and Rubella National Laboratory
at the National Public Health Center, Vilnius, Lithuania**

As part of the annual accreditation procedure, the national measles and rubella laboratory of your country, as a member of the WHO Global Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network (GMRLN), was reviewed by the WHO Regional Office for Europe. Based on the results of this review combined with the outcome of the latest onsite visit, I am pleased to inform you that the laboratory is **fully accredited** for measles and rubella serology and real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction for 2025-2026. Enclosed is the accreditation review summary, including the scope of the accreditation, the recommendations of the review and the report of onsite audit, for your information.

To implement the laboratory-supported elimination-standard surveillance of measles and rubella and to optimize laboratory contribution to the verification of disease elimination, it is of the utmost importance that WHO-accredited national laboratories:

- comply with the requirements of the [WHO Manual for Measles Rubella Laboratories](#) and the guidance [Eliminating measles and rubella in the WHO European Region](#);
- report their laboratory data monthly to the newly established [WIISE MR Lab System](#); and
- are empowered to oversee laboratories outside the GMRLN performing measles and rubella testing, to coordinate national measles and rubella laboratory networks, and/or to establish periodic measles and rubella serology and molecular external quality assessment schemes.

Technical advice is available from the WHO Regional Office for Europe to assist in these processes.

In the current context of reduced funding and a rapidly evolving public health landscape, I urge national health authorities to reaffirm their commitment to supporting the sustainability and the expertise of WHO measles and rubella laboratories. These laboratories are integral to our collective efforts to eliminate measles and rubella, diseases that continue to pose significant health threats across the WHO European Region.

I appreciate your continued support to the measles and rubella elimination programme and would like to congratulate the staff of the laboratory on the successful accreditation.

Yours very truly,



Dr Ihor Perehinets
Health Security and Regional Emergency Director
Division of Health Security

Encls: Accreditation review summary, conclusions and recommendations of the accreditation visit to the WHO National Laboratory for measles and rubella, Lithuania

Copy for information to:

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