



## Protocol for HIV Screening test and reporting to HPA

Number: HPA/SOP/CD/TB-HIV/003

Date: 30 April 2019

Version 2

### 1. HIV Screening

Test kits for HIV screening used in all Maldives labs should be done using test kits which confirm to criteria set by the Quality Assurance Division of the Ministry of Health.

Tests currently used for HIV screening are very sensitive. However, a positive result from a screening test does not definitely mean the client is HIV positive. HIV status can only be determined once the requisite confirmatory tests are completed at the reference laboratory (IGMH Laboratory) according to the national HIV testing algorithm.

Testing should follow national counseling and informed consent guidelines for HIV testing.

### 2. Reporting of positive screening results

- Negative screening results can be provided to patient.
- Any screening positive result for HIV should be immediately informed to the designated persons in HPA via telephone, followed by documents with details. This is the responsibility of the health facility where test has occurred, and information should be shared by the technician who performed the test, the head of the laboratory, or the person designated by the facility to communicate such information. Test results should not be shared other than the designated persons.
- Written document sent to HPA should consist of the client's full name, address, ID number (or passport number for foreigners) and contact number, and test result. In addition, for foreigners who are on a work-permit, nationality and details of employer and their contact numbers should be added.
- Designated contacts in HPA:

Head of Communicable Diseases Control (currently Dr. Fathimath Nazla Rafeeg ph:7594427) or National AIDS Program Manager (currently Mr. Abdul Hameed senior public health program officer ph:7995838) are the contact points. Documents should be faxed to 3014484 (If it is from an Island).

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### **Health facilities in Male'**

Detailed information of the cases with screening positive should be send to Health Protection Agency (HPA) in sealed off envelop labeled as **CONFIDENTIAL**. The detailed information required by HPA (annex 2)

The envelop should be labeled with the following details:

**TB/HIV Unit  
Health Protection Agency  
Roashanee Building (4<sup>th</sup> flr)**

### **Health facilities in atolls:**

Detailed information of the cases with screening positive should be send to Health Protection Agency via Fax (3014484) confidentiality must be maintained at all level of the health facilities even when reporting to HPA.

EMPLOYERS OR FAMILY MEMBERS ARE **NOT** TO BE GIVEN INFORMATION ABOUT TEST RESULTS.

### **3. Confirmatory Testing:**

- Once screening positive result has been confirmed, HPA will contact the client to arrange confirmatory testing in IGMH.
- Depending on the patient's wishes, either a sample may be sent to IGMH or the client will come in person for confirmatory testing in IGMH.
- If the client wishes to send sample without travelling to IGMH, the testing facility will be contacted by HPA to take a sample.
- HPA will assist the facility in making logistic arrangements in sample transport to IGMH.
- In IGMH, the designated lab focal point (or a designated alternative incase the original designated focal point is not available) will receive the sample and perform testing.
- If the patient wishes to go in person to IGMH, the lab focal point will be informed and receive the patient, take sample, and perform testing.
- Confirmatory testing will follow the national HIV testing algorithm.
- Test result will be conveyed from IGMH to the National AIDS Program.
- National Program will arrange for the results to be disclosed to the patient.

Those who are confirmed to have HIV will be entered into National HIV Register and will be managed as per the national treatment guidelines.



#### **4. Sample Collecting, Sample packing and Labeling sample pack**

##### **4.1 Sample collection**

1. Collect 3ml blood sample, (Red-top-tube)
2. let it stand for 30mins and centrifuge for 10mins
3. Separate serum in to a microcentrifuge vial
4. 1.5 ml serum can be collected
5. Store at 2- 8<sup>0</sup>C if it is to be stored for 7days. If it is more than one-week sample has to be stored at -70<sup>0</sup>C

##### **4.2 Sample packing**

For sample packing place the sample in the micro centrifuge vial in a secure small container. Place the small container in an ice box along with ice packs to keep the sample in a refrigerated state.

##### **4.3 Sample pack labeling**

Bringing a sample **for** HIV confirmatory and handing over the sample to IGMH focal point is the National AIDS Programmed responsibility. Therefore, the sample should be labeled as below especially sample are sending via AIR cargo:

**Health Protection Agency**  
**Roashanee building 4<sup>th</sup> flr**  
**Tel:3014494 / 7684492**



### Meaning of some important words in this protocol:

- **Health Facilities:** IGMH, Regional Hospitals, Atoll Hospitals, Health Centers and Private Hospitals and clinics registered in Ministry of Health
- **Employer:** The one who hired /recruited a staff for work
- **Employee:** Those who has hired / recruited for work
- **Confirmatory:** the test that has been conducted to confirm the disease. -+
- **Negative result:** Confirmatory test negative
- **Positive result:** Confirmatory test positive
- **Health Facilities in Male':** All **health** facilities in Male' including Vilma', HulhuMale' and private hospitals and clinics.
- **Health Facilities in Atolls:** All health facilities in atolls including hospitals, health centers and private hospitals and clinics
- **UNFIT:** A person is **MEDICALLY UNFIT** to work in Maldives





**Annex 2**  
**HIV screening test positive case reporting format**

(Please write the name of health facility)

Name:

Age:

Gender:

Nationality:

Id no. / Passport no. (If a foreigner):

Permanent Address:

Current Address:

Contact no:

If a foreigner:

Name of the Employer:

Employer's contact no: