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**ARGUMENTATION FOR SUPPORT REQUEST 23/03/2020**

1. **Situation in Cuba today. Epidemiological novelties introduced by the Coronavirus...**

As of March 23, Cuba has reported 35 confirmed cases (one of them deceased) of COVID-19 in travelers from different countries with SARS-2 coronavirus transmission. Since the World Health Organization's report on the emergency in China, the country has established a three-stage country plan according to the national and global epidemiological situation with the objectives of preventing, identifying, controlling and eliminating transmission if it occurs. This plan is in operation, and all sectors in the country are participating in its implementation and monitoring.

1. **Most important measures taken in Cuba**

Consequently, several lines of action were established to implement and strengthen the surveillance, search and confirmation of cases of COVID-19 in travelers from countries in transmission and identification of their contacts, as well as the strengthening of the surveillance of respiratory viruses that has been maintained in the country for decades. Once the suspicious cases and their contacts are identified, they are isolated in hospital institutions destined to this activity for their surveillance, clinical-epidemiological follow-up and laboratory confirmation

This surveillance has led to the identification of the 35 confirmed cases

Intensive and strong surveillance is maintained at the primary health care level to identify serious cases and outbreaks that may potentially be caused by SARSCov-2 (a producer of VOCs-19).

In addition, strong surveillance was established at airports, marinas and ports to identify patients (these are hospitalized for clinical follow-up and laboratory confirmation). The rest of the travelers are followed by their health area.

Every day the population is provided with a medical report that updates the situation, and the country's top management reports the implementation of new measures aimed at preventing and reducing all possibilities of contagion from travelers (Cubans and foreigners) as well as others to protect the population and its most vulnerable groups.

1. **Role of the IPK in the various phases of the crisis: prevention, diagnosis, detection, treatment...**

IPK is a national and global reference centre for the study of communicable diseases. It is a national level center attached to the Ministry of Health and is the advisory center on communicable diseases of MINSAP, developing clinical, epidemiological and microbiological research in infectious diseases, training of both national and foreign specialists in this field, and hospitalization and case management as well as surveillance and reference activity among others.

With reference to COVID-19, IPK is the advisory center of MINSAP for the training of health personnel and other agencies including the general population, the implementation of diagnosis and laboratory surveillance, clinical case management and the implementation and reference of treatment protocols.

IPK prepared the educational material that has been distributed to all levels of the National Health System -SNS-, and other sectors. It also trained specialists for cascade training in the country, that is, it is multiplied all over the country.

IPK was in charge of preparing the protocols for clinical management and treatment of patients, extended today to all hospitals in the 16 provinces dealing with suspected cases of COVID-19.

IPK trained and introduced the molecular diagnosis of the virus causing COVID-19. Such diagnosis is now also performed in the provincial laboratories of Villa Clara (VC) and Santiago de Cuba (SC). The former serves the entire population in the centre of the country and the latter the east, while IPK is in charge of the west of the country and the general reference activity.

IPK is also hospitalizing people who had contact with suspected and confirmed cases in its surveillance center in Sucre.

IPK also actively participated in the preparation of the Country Plan to address COVID-19.

1. **The specific request: what will be bought, what is it for, in what quantities, for how long, for how many people**

The request for needs to be requested (see annex)

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| **WHAT** | **WHAT IT IS FOR** | **QUANTITIES** | **COST** |
| Diagnostic reagents | Primers and probes for the diagnosis of Covid-19 to be used in the laboratories of IPK, Villa Clara and Santiago de Cuba  Quick strips for the serological diagnosis of cases | They will allow the performance of 11520 molecular diagnostic determinations and 7500 serological tests to confirm infection in patients and contacts | 74750 |
| Inputs | Cryovials  1.5ml eppendorf vials  1ml filter tips  Tips with 200ul filter  10ul filter tips  Pearls  Permanent Markers  2-20ul, 200-1000ul, 50-1000ul variable pipettes and 5ul fixed pipette | Necessary for molecular studies | 43100 |
| Personal protective equipment | Talc-free gloves  Gowns  Mouth caps, hats  Autoclave bags (large and small) | Necessary for the protection of personnel and the proper disposal of waste | 26405 |
| Halogen Lamp | For Applied equipment (equipment used in case diagnosis) | Necessary to change the lamps of the equipment that are already in expiration date for the constant use | 800 |
| Equipment | Freezer of -80C required to store patient samples (3)  Computer with printer (2) | Necessary for storing patient samples | 11800 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL ESTIMATED** |  |  | **156 855** |

1. **Impact of the aid**

The material that is being requested (reagents and supplies) will be used in the three laboratories (IPK, VC and SC) that today carry out the diagnosis of COVID-19 in the country and is aimed at guaranteeing the reagents for the molecular diagnosis of cases (confirmation of infection) and serological diagnosis (faster, simpler and cheaper for early and rapid identification of cases). It also includes various inputs necessary in the diagnosis such as tips, pipettes, markers all necessary in the diagnosis.

The requested material includes means of protection for the personnel working in the 3 laboratories and for the disposal of waste.

Finally, two halogen lamps are included that are necessary for the PCR equipment that has IPK without which they cannot work and that we do not have spare parts.

The requested assistance will allow for increased diagnosis and confirmation of cases and contacts, which will influence the early identification of cases for clinical management and epidemiological isolation with a view to cutting the transmission chain. WHO is recommending as an important measure to study the highest number of cases to identify those infected and isolate them to cut transmission.

**The requested amount 156 855 will allow the acquisition of reagents and supplies for the diagnosis of 19020 patients**