



Coronavirus Standards Working Group Meeting Summary: Harmonization Study Details

Dear Colleagues –

Thanks for meeting on Friday 4 December – our Harmonization Study is fully subscribed, with 9 materials and 14 labs. We welcomed some new members who are study participants, and reviewed the materials that make up our panel and the lab cohort. The [slides are attached here](#), and [the meeting recording is here](#).

- We made the critical logistical decision to ship materials first to JIMB as a coordination/pilot lab, where the materials will be composed into the study panel and distributed to the participating labs. While this exposes the materials to an extra shipping step, it will assure more consistent handling.
 - JIMB will support measurement labs to complete CDC permits to receive inactivated virus that originated overseas (even though the materials will be supplied in the panel by JIMB).
- The materials are 5 samples of inactivated SARS-CoV-2 virus (including the nominal WHO IS), 2 recombinant virus-like particles, and 2 recombinant bacteriophage particles.
 - materials have been established to be stable by their developers/providers; we will obtain and share knowledge of what has been established.
 - we will gather and make available more information about the samples, including strain information and sequence data where available.
 - this will include knowledge of gene targets where the material is not whole-genome
 - and detailed handling instructions and best handling practices, including to avoid contamination.

- JIMB will work with NIBSC to support shipping logistics and administrative costs associated with making available then WHO IS.
- Brian Krueger of Labcorp and Alina Deshpande of LANL volunteered to sequence the panel samples we distribute -- provisionally, Labcorp will sequence with PacBio and LANL with Illumina technology.
- We will have a Labs Meeting (see invitation under separate cover) on Tuesday 8 December at 1030 PST/1330 EST/1830 GMT/1930 CET. The [Zoom link is here](#).
 - This meeting will dive into some of the details and questions that arose at today's meeting.
- We decided to push the timeline for distribution of sample panels to early January 2021, avoiding end-of-year lab and organizational and vacation shutdowns. This moves our study result submission timeline into early February.
- We briefly talked about design strategy and principles for the platform and the content for reporting and analysis (see slides 10&11). There will be separate follow-up meetings for those efforts, after the discussions at the Labs meeting on Tuesday.

Our next WG-wide meetings will focus on the matters of the study, but I expect to again be looking at vaccine efficacy assays in early 2021. We will have 2 more meetings this year, meeting on 11 December and 18 December.

Best regards to all -- stay safe as we welcome Winter.

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