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| **Benefits of Contributing to a Virtual Biorepository (VBR) Resource for Coordinated Access to Clinical Specimens** |

We are in the process of establishing a not-for profit biorepository without walls, or Virtual Biorepository (VBR) resource, with the primary purpose of facilitating access to specimens and panels for development and evaluation of diagnostics. Additional future uses of specimens may include supporting vaccine and therapeutics development and research.  
The immediate goal is to identify where appropriate COVID-19 specimens are collected and stored and whether the sites holding these specimens are agreeable to accrue and share them as partners in the VBR.  This COVID-19 VBR is intended to meet a critical need for qualified specimens and serve as foundation for building a sustainable biorepository infrastructure for the future.  
Please complete this brief survey to help us understand better what are important benefits and advantages to you and your organization/country for contributing specimens and participating in the VBR network.  
  
The survey will take about 15 minutes. We are interested in your suggestions, please use the comments box at the end.

**Survey**

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Top of Form

#### **1. What is the nature of your institution? w**

Research Institution

Commercial (IVD, biotechnology, pharmaceutical co.)

Non-profit (government, academic, other)

Biorepository

Public Health or Clinical Laboratory

Other

#### **2. Which of the following describes your role? w**

Laboratory Scientist

Principal Investigator

Laboratory or Biorepository Manager

Institution Leader

Public Health Official (Ministry of Health, other)

Other

#### **3. What is your geographic location? w**

Europe

Asia-Pacific

Africa

Latin America

North America

#### **4. Below is a list of potential VBR benefits: which of these are most important to you and to the organization you represent? (Please select all that apply)**

Greater visibility and utilization of specimens

Reputation as trusted source of specimens

Additional funding opportunities

Networking and collaboration with local and international partners

Building capacity for biorepositories/collections for infectious diseases

Supporting test developers and industry in the region

Career growth and/or training opportunities

Authorship in publications

Other (please specify)



#### **5. Which of the following support functions considered by the VBR, would be most valuable to your current or future biorepository or collections? (Please select all applicable answers)**

#### **w**

Listing in a directory of specimen resources

Inclusion in an online catalog of available specimens (with ownership of specimens retained by specimen contributors)

Coordination of access and distribution of specimens (communications, review of requests, assistance with legal/ethical issues)

Laboratory Informatics/IT tools and support

Access to expertise in biorepository/collections management

Standardized procedures and processes (SOPs, quality standards,

templates for MTAs, consents, etc.,)

Coordination of laboratory services (if needed)

Other (please specify)



#### **6. Which additional resources would allow you to participate in the VBR? w**

IT support and tools

Additional staff

Equipment and equipment maintenance

Facility improvements

Expertise for biorepository/collections management

All of the above

Other (please specify)



#### **7. Benefit sharing and the Nagoya Protocol:  The Nagoya protocol infers that countries can benefit from contributing resources to development of products that may potentially include diagnostic tests, vaccines, and therapeutics, and recommends approaches to equitable and fair benefit sharing (Nagoya Protocol, Article 5 and Annex) The VBR will respect the benefit sharing principles in the Nagoya Protocol, and develop transparent, equitable and ethical policies for use of specimens.  Does your country have a specific policy that requires any contribution of biological specimens to be in accord with the principles of the Nagoya protocol mentioned above, and would it prevent you from contributing specimens to the VBR? w**

Yes

No

Not applicable

I do not know

Please explain if selected “yes”



***Does your country have rules to prevent sharing/shipping specimens outside your country?***

Yes

No

***If answered “yes”: please indicate if you would you be willing to participate in VBR by having test kits or requests sent to you to perform in your country, in accordance with your regulations:***

#### **8. Would you be interested in participating in the VBR network? Please explain. w**



#### **9. Would you consider setting aside a small set of qualified specimens from your COVID-19 specimen collections to be used for evaluation of reference panels? w**

Yes

Undecided

Other (please explain)

#### **10. Comments: please provide any additional suggestions about benefits and advantages of participating in the VBR Network: w**



Bottom of Form