

# **Guideline**

for Intensive Care Unit-based Acute Respiratory Infection Surveillance

#### مموّل من الاتحاد الأوروبي Funded by the European Union



#### تنفیذ Implemented by





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This guide is available on the website of the Ministry of Public Health: www.moph.gov.lb - (  $\rightarrow$  prevention  $\rightarrow$  surveillance)

Reference: MOPH circular no. 18 (2015)



# **Guideline**

# for Intensive Care Unit-based Acute Respiratory Infection Surveillance

#### Introduction

الدليل الوطنى لترصد التهاب التنفسي الحاد في اقسام العناية الفائقة

#### المقدمة

فيروسات الانفلونزا (او النزلة الوافدة او الخنان) متعددة ومتقلبة. يطرأ على فيروس الانفلونزا تعديل طفيف لبضع خصائصه سنويا مما يسبب ظهور العدوى الموسمية السنوية. في لبنان، تبدأ العدوى الموسمية عند الخريف وتبلغ نروتها في نهاية شهر كانون الثاني. وللفيروس القدرة على انتاج انماط جديدة مما يسبب فاشيات عالمية (جانحات) مع عواقب صحية شديدة.

عند ظهور خطر جائحة الانفلونزا (A(H5N1)، بادرت وزارة الصحة العامة بوضع خطة وطنية للكشف عن الفيروس واحتوائه. فتم وضع نظام ترصد الالتهاب التنفسي الحاد في اقسام العناية الفاتقة في المستشفيات منذ العام 2005. وتم تعزيز هذا النظام بعيد ظهور جائحة (H1N1) خلال 2009.

مازالت فيروسات الانفلونزا المستجدة تتطلب وجود نظام ترصد خاص حتى اليوم. ففيروس (H5N1) وفيروس (H7N9) مازالا يسجلان حالات بشرية في العالم.

عند قراءة هذا الدليل، ستتعرفون على نظام ترصد الالتهاب التنفسي الحاد في اقسام العناية الفانقة، ومكوناته من تعريف للحالات، طرق الابلاغ، منهجية التحليل وتحديد مؤشرات المتابعة.

نشكر كافة اقسام العناية الفائقة التي تقوم بالابلاغ الاسبوعي لوزارة الصحة العامة.

ونشكر كل من قام باعداد هذا الدليل من قبل برنامج الترصد الوباتي، وترجمته وطباعته من قبل منظمة الصحة العالمية بدعم من الاتحاد الاوروبي بالشراكة مع مفوضية الامم المتحدة العليا لشؤون اللاجئين.



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# A. Generalities

# 1. Context and regulations

Lower respiratory infections represent the third cause of death worldwide. In addition, the emerging of respiratory infectious diseases constitutes substantial risk for humans. Since 2003, several new agents have been emerging leading to high morbidity and/or mortality, as SARS, the novel influenza viruses AH5N1, AH1N1, AH7N9 and lately the MERS-CoV.

In 2005, an Intensive Care Unit ICU-based surveillance was established in Lebanon. The MOPH decision no. 617/1 dated on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2005 requests from the ICUs in public and private hospitals in Lebanon to adopt a weekly reporting system [Annex 1]. The target event was to report any acute respiratory distress.

In 2013, the MOPH circular no. 2 dated on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 modified the reporting form in order to include any ICU-based acute respiratory infection ARI [Annex 2].

# 2. Objectives

The main objectives of ICU-based surveillance are to:

- Measure and monitor on weekly basis morbidity indicators related to acute respiratory infections in Lebanon
- Detect abnormal pattern and novel agents at an early stage, and investigate them
- Assist decision makers on proper control measures.

# 3. Objectives and target audience of this guideline

This guideline aims to provide hospitals ICUs (both public and private) as well as the MOPH staff an easy tool to run the ICU-based surveillance system.

At the end of this guideline, our target audience will:

- Know the objectives of the ICU-based surveillance system
- Know how to fill adequately the ICU reporting form
- Understand how medical coding is performed
- Understand and compute the needed indicators
- Be able to recognize an alert and to understand the investigation procedures
- Know the terms of reference of key players
- Be able to interact with various key players in the system.

# B. Information system and methods

#### 1. Data sources

Data sources are both ICUs in public and private hospitals across Lebanon.

The MOPH decision requests each hospital to designate a focal person from the ICU staff in charge of reporting to the MOPH.

#### 2. Target cases and case definition

#### 2.1 Case definition

The general case definition of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) is any patient with fever and respiratory symptoms. The general case definition of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) is any patient with ARI requiring hospital admission.

For ICU-based surveillance, the target case definition is:

- Acute Respiratory Infection with fever and dyspnea
- Whatever was the etiological agent
- Admitted to ICU

The ARI can be due to various agents:

- Bacterial: Streptococcus pneumoniae, Haemophilus influenzae, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Listeria, Staphylococcus, Chlamydia...
- Viral: seasonal influenza, novel influenza, adenovirus, classical coronavirus, novel coronavirus, hantavirus, human metapneumovirus, parainfluenza, respiratory syncytial virus...
- Parasitic.

#### 2.2 Inclusion

Any new ICU admission for ARI is targeted for reporting.

The ARI cases include:

- Community-acquired infections
- Hospital-associated infections.

#### 2.3 Exclusion

- a) Are excluded the patient who has been admitted to the ICU for any reason and who developed ARI in that ICU in later phase.
- b) Are excluded the newborns admitted to ICU after birth and before discharge.

# 3. ICU logbook

At hospital level, the presence of ICU logbook will help to fill the ICU weekly form in adequate manner. The minimum data in the logbook are: name, age, date of admission to ICU, and medical etiology. Such logbook will provide:

- The number of new admissions and of those for ARI
- The basic demographic and medical information for ARI cases.

#### 4. Weekly form

Data is collected using a specific form [Annex 3]. The form is sent every week by the hospital even if no cases were reported. The reporting form is a nominative line-listing. The name of the patient

is specified.

# 4.1. Categories of variables

The form includes the following categories of variables:

- General information: hospital name, week identification, total number of new admissions to ICU and total number of new ARI cases
- Case-based information for each ARI patient including demographic and medical variables.

Table (1): Variables included in the line-listing form				
Categories	Sub-categories	Variables		
General information	Source identification	Identification of the hospital: hospital name     Identification of the week and the year. The week starts on Monday.     Identification of the focal person: name and phone number		
	Number admissions	Number of new     admissions for the week     Number of new     admissions for ARI		
Case-based information (for each ARI case)	Demographic data	- Name - Gender - Age - Date of admission		

		- Place of residence: locality and caza
	Exposure	- Health worker - Laboratory worker - Animal-related occupation - Travel history in the previous 10 days before onset, and country
	Medical information	- Fever  - Use of mechanical ventilation  - Death, and date  - Etiologies
	Laboratory investigation	- Specimen collection and results
For MOPH use	For MOPH	- ID form in the database

#### 4.2. General recommendations

For better use and analysis of the form, it is highly recommended to:

- a) Write clearly.
- b) Avoid using abbreviations. Some abbreviations can be interpreted in different ways.
- c) Fill with all available information. All variables are important.

# 4.3 Hospital and week identification

- a) The hospital name is specified.
- b) The ICU is specified. Hospitals may have several ICUs as ICU, PICU, NICU... Two options are available:
  - Option A: Each ICU may fill the form as individual unit. Later, at data-entry phase, all ICUs related to one hospital are considered as one ICU
  - Option B: One weekly form is filled for all ICUs in one hospital.
- c) The year is specified.
- d) The week is specified. In Lebanon, weeks start on Monday. The week is filled by specifying the date of the Monday. Weeks are numbered using the ISO 8601 norm. The first week of the year is the one containing the first Thursday or the 4<sup>th</sup> January. Example: The first week for 2014 is the week starting on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2013, as it contains the first Thursday of 2014.

Table (2): Example of hospital and week identification				
Hospital name ICU Year Week				
ABC	ICU		From Monday: 03/03/2014	

#### 4.4. General information

Every week, the new admissions are reported:

- The new admissions to the ICU whatever was the medical diagnosis
- The new admissions with the diagnosis fitting with ARI/SARI.

Table	Table (3): Two examples on filling the number of new admissions				
#	Variables	Count			
1	New admissions for the week	4			
	New admissions for the week, for SARI, number of cases	0			
2	New admissions for the week	5			
	New admissions for the week, for SARI, number of cases	2			

The patients already admitted to ICU for various etiologies and who developed ARI in later stage in the same ICU are not included in the counts.

# 4.5. Demographic variables

- a) The name of the patient is mentioned. The name at birth is the recommended one.
- b) The age is specified in years (ex: 50 y). For under 1 year, the age is specified in months with the unit (Ex: 7 months).
- c) The gender of the patient is specified.
- d) The date of admission is the date of admission to the ICU of the reporting hospital.
- e) The place of residence is the current main place of living in Lebanon of the patient. The needed information is the caza and the locality. Mentioning the locality without the caza may be confusing as some localities may have the same names but in different cazas. Example: There are 3 localities named Bireh in Lebanon: one in Rashaya caza, one in Akkar caza and one in Chouf caza.

Tabl	Table (4): Three fictive examples on filling the demographic variables						
#	Name	Ger	nder	Age	Date of	Resid	dence
				)	admission	Caza	Locality
1	Nour Nour	F■	Μ□	58 y	04/03/2014	Chouf	Kfar Fakoud
2	Alia Alia	F□	M $\blacksquare$	23 y	05/03/2014	Zahleh	Kfar Zabad
3	Jad Jad	F■	М 🗆	10 m	06/03/2014	Koura	Kfar Saroune

#### 4.6. Exposure variables

Two exposure variables are explored:

- The occupation of the patient
- The travel history.

The occupation variables focus on the following:

- Health care provider: medical and paramedical staff providing care to patients
- Laboratory worker dealing with human or animal specimen.
   Example: personal working in human laboratory, or in animal/ food laboratory
- Animal related profession dealing with live, dead or slaughtered animals. Example: veterinarian, agriculture inspector, farmer, shepherd, slaughter, butcher ...

If the answer is "yes", the detailed information is specified.

The travel variable focuses on any travel history:

- In the 10 days before the onset of ARI symptoms
- In any country.

If the answer is "yes", the country is specified.

Tabl	Table (5): Four examples on filling the exposure variables				
#		Travel history			
	Health worker	Laboratory worker	Animal-related	10 days before onset	
1	□ No ■ Yes, specify: Medical doctor	■ No □ Yes, specify:	■ No □ Yes, specify:	□ No ■ Yes, specify: UAE	
2	■ No □ Yes, specify:	□ No ■ Yes, specify: Lab technician in hospital lab	■ No □ Yes, specify:	■ No □ Yes, specify:	
3	■ No □ Yes, specify:	■ No □ Yes, specify:	□ No ■ Yes, specify: farmer	□ No ■ Yes, specify: China	
4	■ No □ Yes, specify:	■ No □ Yes, specify:	■ No □ Yes, specify:	■ No □ Yes, specify:	

#### 4.7. Medical variables

The medical variables include 4 items reflecting the known situation at the time of filling the report:

- The fever highlighting the diagnosis of infection. Some patients may not show fever at certain time of the course of the disease.
- The requirement of mechanical ventilation as supportive care, including intubation and any artificial ventilation.
- The outcome and the death. If death has occured, the date of death is specified.
- The medical diagnosis. The patient may present several medical diagnosis. The ones that lead to ICU admission are specified. If the etiological infectious agent is known, it is also specified.

Tabl	Table (6): Four examples on filling the medical variables					
#	Fever	Mechanical	Death	Etiologies		
	(30°C & above)	ventilation	(date of death)			
1	■ No	■ No	■ No	Viral pneumonia		
	□ Yes	□ Yes	□ Yes			
2	□ No	■ No	■ No	Surinfection +		
	■ Yes	□ Yes	□ Yes	Chronic Bronchitis		
3	□ No	□ No	□ No	Acute Distress		
	■ Yes	■ Yes	■ Yes	Respiratory		
			(09/03/2014)	Syndrome		
4	■ No	■ No	■ No	Bacterial		
	□ Yes	□ Yes	□ Yes	pneumonia due		
				to Streptococcus pneumoniae		
				prieuriorilae		

The comorbidities not related to the current admission to ICU are not needed to be specified.

Some medical terms are confusing. They represent non-specific health conditions, or signs and symptoms common to several diseases, or health conditions common to various diseases. It is recommended to avoid the unspecific medical terms. The table below includes some frequent ill-defined terms.

Table (7): Examples of non-specific medical terms				
Unspecific medical terms	Rationale	Recommendations		
Shock	There are 3 types of shock: 1) Hemodynamic; 2) Septic; 3) Cardiogenic. Each has its specific causes.	Specify the type of shock, and the cause.		
Infection	There are several agents causing infections and there are several infection sites.	Specify the causative organism if known and the location (primary and secondary). If the causative agent was not identified, specify the suspected infectious group and the location of the infection.		

	i	0 15 11
Pneumonia	Pneumonia is due to various agents: bacterial, viral, parasitic Also it can be caused by various conditions (immobility, lung disease)	Specify the causative agent, and the underlying condition (if any).
Pulmonary edema	Pulmonary edema may be: 1) Hemodynamic (cardiac or extra-cardiac origin); or 2) Due to lung injury (respiratory origin).	Specify the cause of the pulmonary edema.
Respiratory/lung failure	Respiratory failure may be acute or chronic. It is the consequence of various diseases: asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, interstitial lung diseases, neurologic diseases, muscular diseases, infection	Specify the underlying cause of respiratory/ lung failure.

# 4.8. Laboratory variables

This part verifies if any specimen was collected for virological testing for influenza and other emerging viruses.

The variable is specified wherever the tests are performed in the same hospital, or in reference laboratories.

The target specimens are the respiratory specimens:

- Sputum
- Nasal wash
- Naso-pharyngeal swab or throat swab
- Tracheal aspirate
- Broncho-alveolar lavage
- Pulmonary biopsy.

#### The target tests are:

- Rapid test
- PCR test
- Virological culture.

Tab	Table (8): Four examples on filling the laboratory variable		
#	Specimen collection for virus investigation		
1	■ No □ Yes, specify:		
2	□ No ■ Yes, specify: nasal wash for influenza rapid test: positive for influenza A		
3	□ No ■ Yes, specify: tracheal aspirate for MERS-CoV (pending)		
4	□ No ■ Yes, specify: throat swab for Influenza (pending)		

The specimens and the tests are specified, even if the results are still pending.

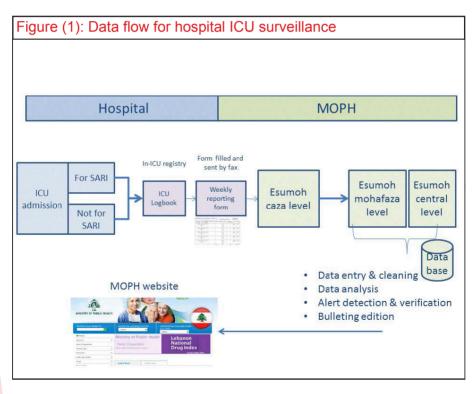
#### 4.9. Reporter

At the end of the form, the person who has filled the form mentions his/her full name and contact details. Such information is highly needed for any verification and/or investigation.

#### 5. Data flow

- a) At hospital ICU level, on weekly basis, the assigned focal person verifies the ICU logbook. Then he/she fills the weekly line-listing reporting form. The form is sent to the MOPH/Esumoh caza team. In case there are technical communication issues with the MOPH caza level, the hospital faxes the form to the higher level (MOPH mohafaza team or central team). In Beirut, forms are sent directly to the MOPH/Esumoh central team. Forms are sent on weekly basis, by fax. The hospital focal person may be assisted by a team.
- b) At the MOPH caza level, the Esumoh team receives and reviews the form. In case of non-reporting or missing data, the team contacts the hospital. Received and verified forms are sent by fax to the MOPH/ Esumoh corresponding mohafaza team.

- c) At the MOPH mohafaza level, the Esumoh team receives the forms and performs coding and data entry in a specific application. Also, the team conducts data cleaning and data analysis. Descriptive outputs are generated. Indicators are monitored for potential alerts. In case of alert, case verification and investigation are conducted in coordination with the caza team. Once a week, a copy of the local database is sent to the central team.
- d) At the MOPH central level, the Esumoh team receives copies all the local databases and merges them in a national database. National descriptive outputs are generated and screened for alert detection. The team follows on case verification and investigation. Validated outputs are published on the MOPH website.



# C. Data management

# 1. Checking the form

Forms are checked for the following points:

- The hospital name is filled
- The specified date for starting the week is filled and is indeed a Monday
- The unspecific medical terms are checked with the hospital
- The missing information is checked with the hospital.

#### 2. Data Coding

Medical coding is performed using the tenth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).

The ICD is a classification of diseases: a system of categories to which morbid entities are assigned according to established criteria. It translates diagnoses of diseases and other health problems from words to alphanumeric codes. Those codes enable:

- Easy storage, retrieval and analysis of the data
- Data comparison.

The ICD-10 is developed, adapted and promoted by WHO. Training on ICD-10 is available at the WHO website, at the following link: http://apps.who.int/classifications/apps/icd/ICD10Training/

Other websites provide technical guidance to use the ICD-10 as:

- www.icd10data.com
- www.findacode.com

#### 2.1. Volumes

ICD-10 has 3 volumes:

- Volume 1: The tabular list. The classification in this volume is divided into chapters, each of which is identified by a Roman numeral (i.e. I, II, III, IV, V etc.) and a title.
- Volume 2: The instruction manual. It contains rules and guidelines for the use of the classification for coding of

mortality and morbidity data.

 Volume 3: The alphabetical index. It contains many more diagnostic terms than the tabular list, reflecting the many and varied ways that doctors and other clinical staff describe diseases.

The ICD-10 includes 21 chapters [Annex 5] and over 11400 four-character codes.

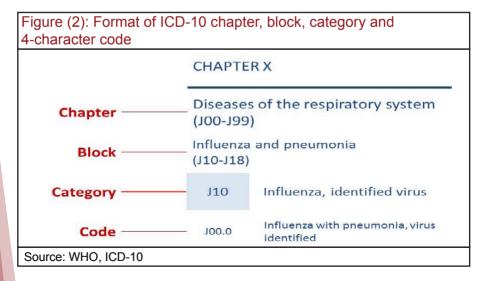
#### 2.2. Code format

The format of the tabular list includes chapters, blocks, categories and codes:

- Each chapter is divided into blocks which group together categories having some common factors
- Blocks are divided into categories represented by threecharacter codes (or core codes)
- The 3-character code (category) may be subdivided into codes with four characters. Certain codes also have optional supplementary characters to add more detail.

Medical coding may be performed using:

- The 3-character codes (or category or core code)
- The 4-character codes.



#### 2.3. NOS and NEC

"NOS" stands for "Not Otherwise Specified". It is the equivalent of saying: "unspecified", "unqualified", or "no further information".

"NEC" stands for "Not Elsewhere Classified". It indicates that certain specified variants of the listed conditions may appear in other parts of the classification, and that, where appropriate, a more precise code should be looked for in the Index.

#### 2.4. Dagger and asterisk

Certain conditions use two codes – dual coding:

- Primary code represented by a dagger (†)
- Optional code represented by an asterisk (\*).

Primary code or dagger refers to the code that must always be used for single condition coding. It represents the underlying disease.

Optional code or asterisk refers to an additional code for a specific manifestation of the underlying condition.

Example: A patient suffers from pneumonia due to whooping cough:

- The primary code is A37.9†: Whooping cough
- The optional code is J17.0\*: Pneumonia in diseases classified elsewhere.

# 2.5. Chapter X

Chapter X is related to respiratory diseases.

Ten blocks are identified, as specified in table (9).

Table (9): The blocks included in the chapter X in ICD-10		
Label	Block	
Block: Acute upper respiratory infections	J00-J06	
Block: Influenza and pneumonia	J10-J18	
Block: Other acute lower respiratory infections	J20-J22	
Block: Other diseases of upper respiratory tract	J30-J39	
Block: Chronic lower respiratory diseases	J40-J47	

Block: Lung diseases due to external agents	J60-J70
Block: Other respiratory diseases principally affecting the interstitium	J80-J84
Block: Suppurative and necrotic conditions of lower respiratory tract	J85-J86
Block: Other diseases of pleura	J90-J94
Block: Other diseases of the respiratory system	J95-J99
Source: WHO. ICD-10	

The category/code J81 refers to pulmonary edema excluding the cardiogenic origin and toxic origin.

The list of categories for chapter X is available in Annex 6.

#### 3. Data entry

A specific application is developed by Esumoh for data entry and data analysis for ICU-based surveillance.

The data-entry includes two components:

- A screen for ICU identification. For each ICU, the information related to hospital coordinates (caza and locality), focal person name, and contact details is entered. Such screen is entered once a year for each hospital and updated when needed. For each hospital, one ICU is specified. If the hospital has several Intensive Care Units, there are merged into one in the database.
- A screen for the weekly reporting form [Annex 4].
  - In case no new ARI admission was reported, the parts (1) and (2) of the screen are filled with the information related to ICU and week identification with the mention of no ARI/SARI case.
     The ICU may have new admissions but not ARI/SARI cases.
  - In case new ARI/SARI admissions are reported, part (3) is filled in addition to parts (1) and (2). The part (3) includes the demographic, exposure, medical and laboratory information. A screen is filled for every ARI patient.

Data entry is performed at the mohafaza and central levels.

#### 4. Data cleaning

Forms and database are checked. Data cleaning searches the database for missing and unspecified information. In order to retrieve the needed information, Esumoh teams contact the ICUs.

#### 4.1. Missing data

Cases with unspecified core variables are checked. The target core variables are:

- Week
- Age
- Etiology.

# 4.2. Unspecified medical information

Cases are screened for ill-defined medical terms:

- Medical terms related to symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings (Chapter XVIII)
- Unspecified medical terms.

#### 5. Data Analysis

Data analysis is performed at MOPH/Esumoh mohafaza and central levels.

Cases are analyzed by:

- Time: week, month, year
- Place: hospital, place of residence
- Person: age group, gender
- Disease: diagnosis, fever, mechanical ventilation, death
- Exposure: occupation and travel history.

The used indicators are the following:

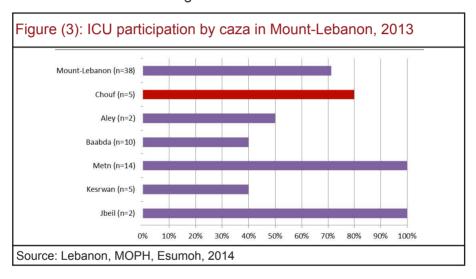
- ICU participation
- ICU completeness of weekly reporting from participating hospitals
- ICU with nil ARI cases
- Proportion of verified ARI
- ARI weekly counts
- ARI weekly ratios
- ICU-based ARI incidence.

For analysis purpose, all ICUs related to one hospital are considered as one ICU.

# 5.1. ICU participation proportion

The ICU participation proportion is the proportion of reporting ICUs at any week divided by the number of all ICUs. It is usually computed on annual basis.

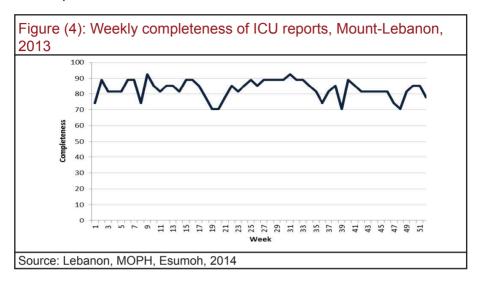
The ICU participation proportion can be computed at caza, mohafaza and national level. The target is to reach 100%.



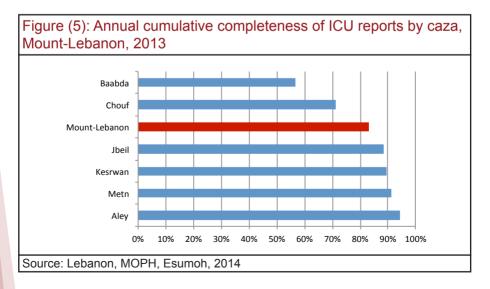
**5.2.** Completeness of weekly reporting from participating ICUs Weekly completeness is the proportion of ICUs who reported the weekly form (even if no ARI cases) among the expected number of forms to be received from participating ICUs.

Weekly completeness of zero-reporting =	Number of received forms from ICUs for a specific week x 100
or zero-reporting –	Number of expected forms from participating
	ICUs for that specific week

The completeness is computed for the ICU, caza, mohafaza and national levels. The target of good reporting is to reach at least 80% of completeness.



Cumulative completeness is the proportion of weekly received forms among the total expected forms from participating ICUs for a specific time period.



#### 5.3. Proportion of ICUs with nil ARI case

The proportion of ICUs with nil ARI admission is the number of ICUs who reported zero ARI admission among the total number of reporting ICUs for a specific period of time.

Proportion of ICUs
with nil ARI admission =

Number of ICUs with zero ARI admission x 100
Number of reporting ICUs

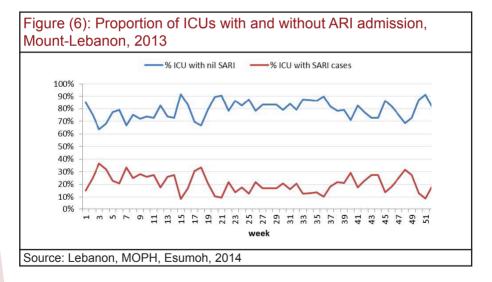
Also, the proportion of ICU with at least one ARI admission can be computed.

Proportion of ICUs
with ≥ 1 ARI admission =

Number of ICUs with ≥ 1 ARI admission x 100

Number of reporting ICUs

Those indicators reflect the quality of reporting.



#### 5.4. Verified ARI

ICU may report cases who are ARI patients and those who are not. There is need to verify the diagnosis of reported ARI cases in order to select only the ARI cases in later analysis stages.

The verification includes:

- Verifying the ICD-10 codes
- Select the group of patients compatible with ARI.

In ICD-10, the ARI may be found in 4 different chapters:

- Chapter I: Infectious diseases
- Chapter X: Respiratory diseases
- Chapter XVI: Certain perinatal conditions
- Chapter XVIII: Symptoms and signs.

The diseases selected for ARI includes 29 ICD-10 categories codes, found in 3 chapters. They are listed in the table (10).

Table (10): the diseases selected as ARI			
	For ICU- based ARI		
Chapter	Core code	Disease	Group
From	A36	Diphtheria	Diphtheria
chapter I: Infectious diseases	A37	Whooping cough	Whooping cough
discases	A15	Respiratory tuberculosis, bacteriologically and histologically confirmed	
	A16	Respiratory tuberculosis, not confirmed bacteriologically	Pulmonary tuberculosis
	A19	Miliary tuberculosis	

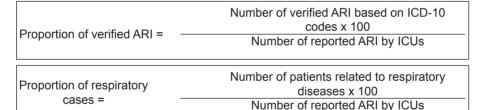
	J00	Acute nasopharyngitis [common cold]	
	J01	Acute sinusitis	
	J02	Acute pharyngitis	
	J03	Acute tonsillitis	Upper
	J04	Acute laryngitis and tracheitis	respiratory infections
	J06	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites	IIIIections
	J36	Peritonsillar abscess	
	J39	Other diseases of upper respiratory tract	
	J05	Epiglottitis	Epiglottitis
From	J10	Influenza due to identified influenza virus	
chapter X: Respiratory	J11	Influenza, virus not identified	Influenza
diseases	J12	Viral pneumonia, not elsewhere classified	
	J13	Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae	Lower respiratory infections
	J14	Pneumonia due to Haemophilus influenzae	
	J15	Bacterial pneumonia, not elsewhere classified	
	J16	Pneumonia due to other infectious organisms, not elsewhere classified	
	J17	Pneumonia due to other diseases classified elsewhere	
	J18	Pneumonia, organism unspecified	
	J20	Acute bronchitis	
	J21	Acute bronchiolitis	
	J22	Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection	
	J80	Adult respiratory distress syndrome	Acute respiratory Distress
From	R05	Cough	Respiratory
Chapter XVIII: Symptoms and signs	R06	Abnormalities of breathing	signs: cough, dyspnea

For simplicity, the 29 ICD-10 core codes are organized in 9 groups used to ICU-based ARI cases analysis and presentation. The 9 groups are:

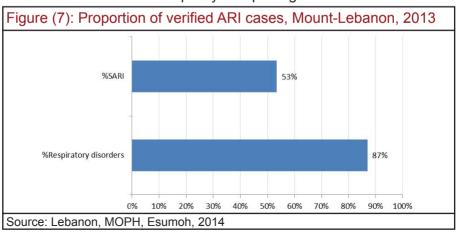
- Diphtheria
- Whooping cough
- Pulmonary tuberculosis
- Upper respiratory infection
- Influenza
- Epiglottitis
- Lower respiratory infection
- Acute respiratory distress
- Breathing abnormalities.

#### Two indicators can be computed:

- Proportion of reported cases related to respiratory diseases, infectious or not
- Proportion of reported cases related to ARI.

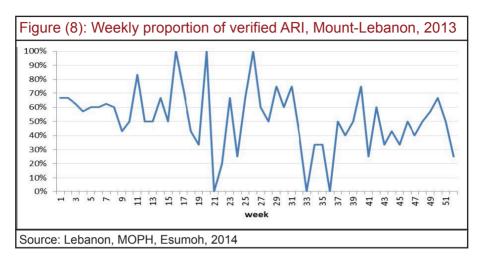


# Both indicators reflect the quality of reporting.



The proportion of verified ARI can by computed:

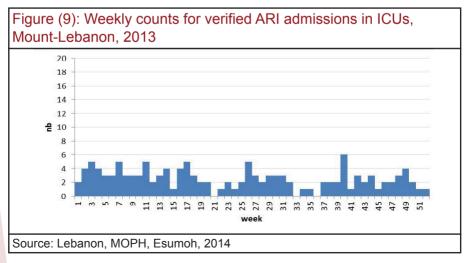
- On weekly-basis
- On cumulative manner for a period of time.



The following indicators are computed using the count of verified ARI (according to case definitions).

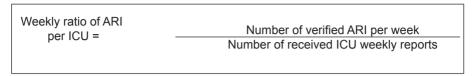
# 5.5. Weekly counts

Weekly counts are used to monitor ARI admissions by time (week) and place (mohafaza, caza, hospital).

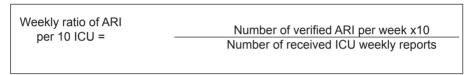


#### 5.6. Weekly ratios of ARI

Weekly ratios can be used to compute the weekly ratio of verified ARI admission by ICU and by week.

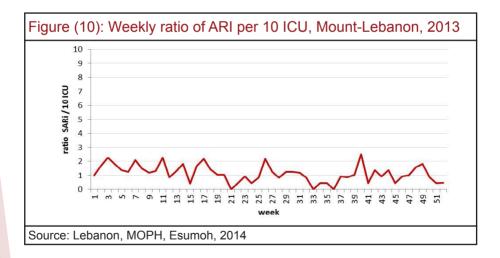


If the ratio shows figures less than 1, then, the weekly ratio of ARI per 10 ICUs can be used.



This indicator is dependent of two main factors:

- The adequate reporting by ICU
- The incidence of ARI in the community.



Compared to historical data, this indicator can be used to detect abnormal increase.

#### 5.7. ICU-based ARI incidence rate

In case of high participation from the ICUs with at least 80% of ICUs participating in the reporting with high weekly reporting completeness (at least 80%), the incidence rate of ICU-based ARI can be computed.

ICU-based ARI incidence rate =   Number of verified ICU-ARI patients x  100000  Population at mid-year
--

The denominator is estimated based on various sources:

- Estimation of the Lebanese population from national surveys conducted by the Central Administration for Statistics CAS (excluding the Palestinian residing in camps)
- Registered population of the Palestinian residing in camps provided by UNRWA
- Registered population of Syrian refugees residing in Lebanon provided by UNCHR.

#### 5.8. Other indicators

Other indicators are computed and monitored for the verified ICU-based ARI patients:

- Count and proportion of health care workers with ARI
- Count and proportion of laboratory workers with ARI
- Count and proportion of animal-related occupation with ARI
- Count and proportion of cases with travel history in the 10 days before onset
- Proportion of ARI cases requiring mechanical ventilation
- Reported case fatality rate of ARI at ICU.

Reported case fatality of ICU-based ARI =	Number of death among ARI patients x100  Number of ARI
	Nulliber of Arti

The reported case fatality rate reflects the data provided by the ICU at the time of reporting. One patient may die in later stages.

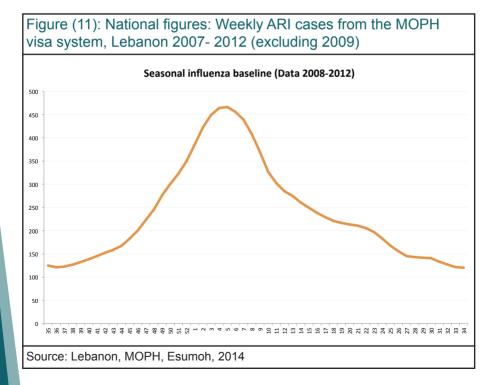
# D. Alert detection, verification and investigation

#### 1. Alert detection

Data is screened on weekly basis in order to detect alerts.

Alert detection is based on detecting abnormal patterns:

- Relative increase of ARI cases: current week is compared with previous weeks in order to detect any increase
- Unexpected increase of ARI based on historical data of the previous years
- Unexpected increase of ARI cases outside the influenza season
- Presence of ARI cases among specific groups: health care workers, laboratory workers and animal-related occupation, travelers
- Unexpected increase of case fatality rate.



#### 2. Alert verification

Once alerts are generated, the verification process is launched.

#### Verification includes:

- Case verification and collection of additional information related to clinical picture, exposure history, imagery findings, laboratory results, and outcomes
- Search for any cluster.

#### Verification is done by:

- Contacting the ICU
- Verifying if similar alert was detected by other surveillance systems.

The verification aims primarily to find out if any etiological agent was suspected or confirmed.

# 3. Laboratory investigation

Laboratory investigation aims to collect respiratory specimens for virological testing.

The target agents are mainly viral agents causing ARI in particular influenza viruses and novel coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

For influenza, the best specimens are naso-pharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs. The national reference laboratory is the Research Laboratory at Rafic Hariri University Hospital RHUH. The reference test is PCR with various primers.

For MERS-CoV, the best specimens are deep respiratory specimens as deep sputum, tracheal aspirates, broncho-alveolar lavage. The national reference laboratory is the Clinical Laboratory at Rafic Hariri University Hospital RHUH, where PCR is performed.

Respiratory specimens are conserved at 4-8°C if referred to reference laboratory within 48 hours. Beyond that, it is recommended to conserve specimens at minus 20°C.

Annex 7 provides instructions for specimen collection of nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs.

Annex 8 provides instructions for packaging for national laboratory.

Annex 9 provides instructions for packaging for international laboratory.

#### 4. Outbreak investigation steps

Investigation includes 10 steps:

- 1) Confirming the outbreak
- 2) Confirming the disease
- 3) Establishing a case definition
- 4) Searching for cases via passive or active methods
- 5) Describing cases by time, place and person
- 6) Generating hypothesis
- 7) Testing hypothesis by carrying out additional studies
- 8) Documenting the investigation
- 9) Recommending control measures
- 10) Continuing surveillance.

# E. Information dissemination

Summary tables are posted at the MOPH website: www.moph.gov.lb. (--> Prevention, --> Surveillance).

The tables are displayed for national and mohafaza levels.



#### F. Terms of reference of key players

#### 1. ICU focal person

Hospitals designate an ICU focal person from the health staff. The focal point may be assisted by other health professionals from the ICU staff.

Hospitals communicate to the MOPH the name of the ICU focal person via an official letter specifying the contact details. In case of any modifications, they are shared with the MOPH.

The terms of reference of the ICU focal person are to:

- Ensure the presence and the regular update of the ICU logbook
- Collect data related to ICU admissions and to ARI patients
- Fill the weekly ICU line-listing form and send it to MOPH/ Esumoh
- Discuss with the medical staff for potential specimen collection for virological testing in reference laboratories
- Coordinate with MOPH and reference laboratories for specimen referral testing
- Coordinate with the MOPH staff in case of verification and investigation.

#### 2. The MOPH/Esumoh caza team

At MOPH caza level, the Esumoh team is in charge to receive the filled forms from ICUs.

The terms of reference of MOPH/Esumoh caza team are to:

- Receive the forms
- Follow up with the ICUs in case of no reporting
- Check received forms and contact the ICU focal point to check for missing or unspecified information
- Send the ICU forms to the MOPH/Esumoh corresponding mohafaza team
- Ensure specimen refferal in coordination with ICU and MOPH/ Esumoh mohafaza and central teams
- Conduct case verification and investigation in coordination with ICU and MOPH/Esumoh mohafaza and central teams.

#### 3. MOPH/Esumoh mohafaza team

At the mohafaza, the MOPH/Esumoh team is in charge of data management for the ICU-based surveillance system. Usually, for each mohafaza, one person is designated to ensure necessary tasks.

The terms of reference are to:

- Receive ICU forms from MOPH/Esumoh caza teams
- Check the forms information and contact the MOPH/Esumoh caza teams and/or the ICUs for any verification and clarification
- Code the etiology in the ICU weekly form, using the 10<sup>th</sup> Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10)
- Perform data entry and data cleaning
- Send a copy of the local database to the Esumoh central team
- Perform data analysis
- Monitor indicators
- Detect alert
- Initiate necessary verification and investigation
- Coordinate with partners for verification and investigation.

#### 4. MOPH/Esumoh central team

At the central level, the MOPH/Esumoh central team is in charge to ensure the overall running of the ICU-based surveillance system, and conducting adequate data management.

For mohafaza without dedicated person for ICU-based surveillance, the central team designates necessary staff to ensure the needed data management.

In addition to the terms of reference mentioned for mohafaza teams, the central team has to:

- Prepare any necessary official texts
- Develop the application for ICU-based ARI surveillance
- Train the staff on the application
- Conduct necessary sessions for ICU focal persons and staff
- Receive copies of the local databases and merge them in national database
- Conduct analysis and generate the national data
- Identify needed indicators and thresholds
- Monitor trends and detect alerts

- Coordinate with partners for necessary verification and investigation
- Coordinate with partners for necessary response measures
- Disseminate the general tables on the MOPH website
- Prepare the national reports.

#### References

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### **Abbreviations**

Abbreviation	Complete term			
ARI	Acute Respiratory Infection			
CAS	Central Administration for statistics			
Esumoh	Epidemiological Surveillance Program			
HCW	Health Care Worker			
ICD-10	International Classification of Diseases-10 <sup>th</sup> revision			
ICU	Intensive Care Unit			
ISO	International Organization for Standardization			
MERS-CoV	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome – Novel Coronavirus			
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health			
NEC	Not Elsewhere Classified			
NICU	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit			
NOS	Not Otherwise Specified			
PICU	Pediatric Intensive Care Unit			
RHUH	Rafic Hariri University Hospital			
SARI	Severe Acute Respiratory Infection			
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees			
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees			
VTM	Viral Transport Medium			
WHO	World Health Organization			

#### Annex 1: MOPH decision no. 617/1 issued on the 29th October 2005



الجمهورية اللبنانية وزارة الصحة العامة الوزير

رقم المحفوظات :2/4 1/203 بيروت في :29/تشرين/الاول/2005

#### قرار رقم 1/617 يتعلق بالإبلاغ عن حالات acute respiratory distress في اقسام العناية الفائقة

إن وزير الصدحة العامة ، بناء لقرصيات منظمة الصحة العالمية، بناء لقانون الأمر اض المعدية في لبنان الصادر بتاريخ 31 كانون الأول 1957، وبناء للاقتراح اللجنة الوطنية للأمر اض الإنتقالية،

#### يقرر ما يلي:

المادة/الأولى/: تعتمد/كافة/المستشفيات/العاملة/على/الاراضي/اللبناية/نظام/الابلاغ/عن /حالات/ acute respirator distress/ التي تم ادخالها الى قسم العناية الفائقة. يهدف النظام الى الكشف عن حالات ناتجة عن الانفلونزا الطيور وبشكل سريع لبدء أعمال التقصي والاستجابة.

**المادة/الثانية/:** على/كافة/المستشفيات/العاملة/على/الاراضي/اللبنانية،/الحكومية/والخاصة،/المدنية/والعسكرية،/اللبنانية/وغير/ اللبنانية،/ان/يطبق/العمل/بنظام/الابلاغ/عن /حالات/ acute respirator distress/ التي/تم/ادخالها/الى/قسم/العناية/الفائقة/ بحلول/1/كانون/الثانى/2006.

**المادة /الثالثة /:** يتوجب /على /المستشفى /تعيين /طبيب /من /قسم /العناية /الفائقة /مسؤولا /عن /مراجعة /وإبلاغ /وزارة /الصحة/ العامة عن الحالات. وتعلم المستشفى الوزارة عن اسم طبيب المكلف وكيفية الاتصال به.

**المادة/الرابعة**/:ايتم/ابلاغ/وزارة/الصحة/العامة/./اسبوعيا،/عبر/ملء/استمارة/خاصة/ "ICU- acute respirator distress"/ (مرفقة). ترسل الاستمارات من المستشفيات الى قسم الصحة في القضاء. في بيروت، ترسل الاستمارات الى برنامج الترصد الوبائي.

**المادة/الخامسة**/:/في حال عدم وجود حالات ، ترسل المستشفيات استمارة "acute respirator distress" / موضحة/عدم/ وجود حالات.

**المادة/السادسة**/: يتم/الابلاغ/عن الحالات بشكل اسمي. لكل حالة، توضح المعلومات التالية://الاسم،/العمر،/الجنس/./ قضاء وبلدة الاقامة ، مهنة المريض (في القطاع الصحي او المختبرات او له علاقة بالتداول مع الحيوانات)، وجود سفر الى بلد عانى او يعاني من انفلونزا الطيور (عند الحيوانات او الانسان)، وجود حمى، اللجوء الى التنفس الاصطناعي والامراض المسسة.

**المادة /السابعة /:** تجمع الاستمارات في أقسام الصحة في القضاء، حيث يعين طبيب لمتابعتها. يقوم قسم الصحة في القضاء /بجمع /الاستمارات /واستلامها /والتدقيق /بها /ومراجعة /المستشفيات /لاستكمال /وتوضيح /المعلومات اللازمة. بعدها، ترسل /الاستمارات /بغلاف /مغلق /الى /فرع /الترصد /الوبائي /في /المحافظة /حيث *اي*تم /تأليلها /وتحليلها /واستخراج /جداول /غير/ اسمية /فيما /يخص /اسم /المتوفي /واسم /المستشفى. ريثما يستكمل التجهيز الالي لفروع الترصد الوبائي في المحافظات، تجمع/الاستمارات/لدى/برنامج/الترصد الوبائي في بيروت.

المادة/الثامنة/:/يبلغ/هذا/القرار/حيث/تدعو/الحاجة/%

وزير الصحه العامه الدكتور محمد جواد خليفة



الجمهورية اللبنانية وزارة الصحة العامة المديرية العامة

> رقم المحفوظات: 1/1 بيروت في 9 كانون الثاني 2013

#### تعميم رقم 2 تعديل استمارة ترصد الابلاغ من اقسام العناية الفائقة

في إطار تحديث نظام الابلاغ من اقسام العناية الفائقة واستهداف الالتهابات الرئوية دون سواها ، يطلب الابلاغ عن حالات الالتهاب الرئوي التي أدت الى ضائقة تنفسية ودخول العناية الفائقة severe acute respiratory infection.

بناء عليه، تم تعديل استمارة الابلاغ الاسبوعي (مرفقة ربطا).

يتم تعبئة الاستمارة من قبل قسم العناية الفائقة في المستشفى، بتواتر اسبوعي، وترسل الى قسم الصحة العامة في القضاء. في بيروت، ترسل الاستمارات مباشرة الى الوحدة المركزية للترصد الوبائي.

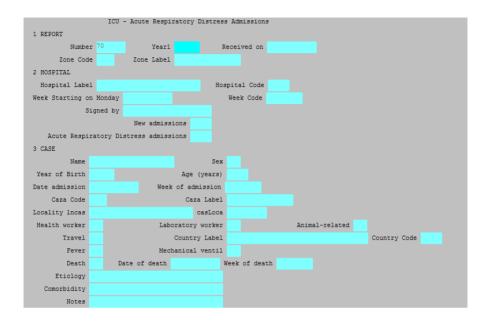
> مدير عام وزارة الصحة العامة الدكتور وليد عمار

Annex 3: ICU-based weekly reporting form

~				specimen Collection MOPH: for virus Num investiga- tion	no ves,	no yes,	no yes,	□ no □ yes,	no ves,	
Week	From Monday:			Eriologics 19. 60 Ji	No.	O O se				
Year		-		Death date of leath)						
ICO		_	Cione 9. errelution	5	□ no	□ no □ yes	□ no □ yes	□ no □ yes	□ no □ yes	Dhono.
Hospital name			ä	Fever (≥38°C )	no pes	no Dyes	no ses	no ses	□ no □ yes	
Hospit			E. Come	history 10 days prior to onset	□ no □ yes,					
	nce	f cases		Animal- related	no pes,	no ves,	no yes,	no pes,	□ no □ yes,	Doto:
	Surveilla	number o		Laborat ory worker	no yes,	no yes,	no yes,	no yes,	□ no □ yes,	
are Units	Infection	Infection, 1		Health	no pes,	no pecify:	□ no □ yes,	□ no □ yes,	□ no □ yes,	
Intensive Care Units	Severe Acute Respiratory Infection Surveillance	] Respiratory I	fection, cases	Locality						Cionoturo.
	re Acute	ber [	tory Infec	Caza						Sign
	Seve	total num for Severe	te Respira	admission						
NONA &	Health	the week, the week,	vere Acu	Age (years)						
OF LEB	Public I	ions for t	ons of Se	der	O E	O F	O F	O F	L L	
REPUBLIC OF LEBANON	Ministry of Public Health	New admissions for the week, total number	If new admissions of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection, cases details:	e E Z						Momes of abunitain.

Severe Acute Respiratory Infection is defined as any person with: fever, dyspnea, and requiring hospitalization. Specimen collection includes: sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirate, nasopharyngeal aspirate, nose/throat swab, lung biopsy, lung autopsy.

#### Annex 4: Data-entry screen



Annex 5: ICD-10 chapters

Chapter	Chapter title	Category
1	Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	Special diseases
П	Neoplasms	Special diseases
III	Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	Diseases of a specific body system
IV	Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	Special diseases
٧	Mental and behavioral disorders	Special diseases
VI	Diseases of the nervous system	Diseases of a specific body system
VII	Diseases of the eye and adnexa	Diseases of a specific body system
VIII	Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	Diseases of a specific body system
IX	Diseases of the circulatory system	Diseases of a specific body system
Χ	Diseases of the respiratory system	Diseases of a specific body system
XI	Diseases of the digestive system	Diseases of a specific body system
XII	Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	Diseases of a specific body system
XIII	Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	Diseases of a specific body system
XIV	Diseases of the genitourinary system	Diseases of a specific body system
XV	Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	Special diseases
XVI	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	Special diseases
XVII	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	Special diseases
XVIII	Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	Special diseases (ill defined)
XIX	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	Special diseases
XX	External causes of morbidity and mortality	Special diseases
XXI	Factors influencing health status and contact with health services	Special diseases

Annex 6: ICD-10	core codes	for chap	ter X (dise	ases of th	ne respiratory
system)					

Block:	Acute upper respiratory infections (J00-J06)
J00	Acute nasopharyngitis [common cold]
J01	Acute sinusitis
J02	Acute pharyngitis
J03	Acute tonsillitis
J04	Acute laryngitis and tracheitis
J05	Acute obstructive laryngitis [croup] and epiglottitis
J06	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites
Block:	Influenza and pneumonia (J10-J18)
J10	Influenza due to identified influenza virus
J11	Influenza, virus not identified
J12	Viral pneumonia, not elsewhere classified
J13	Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae
J14	Pneumonia due to Haemophilus influenzae
J15	Bacterial pneumonia, not elsewhere classified
J16	Pneumonia due to other infectious organisms, not elsewhere classified
J17*	Pneumonia in diseases classified elsewhere
J18	Pneumonia, organism unspecified
	Other acute lower respiratory infections (J20-J22)
J20	Acute bronchitis
J21	Acute bronchiolitis
J22	Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection
Block:	Other diseases of upper respiratory tract (J30-J39)
J30	Vasomotor and allergic rhinitis
J31	Chronic rhinitis, nasopharyngitis and pharyngitis
J32	Chronic sinusitis
J33	Nasal polyp
J34	Other disorders of nose and nasal sinuses
J35	Chronic diseases of tonsils and adenoids
J36	Peritonsillar abscess
J37	Chronic laryngitis and laryngotracheitis

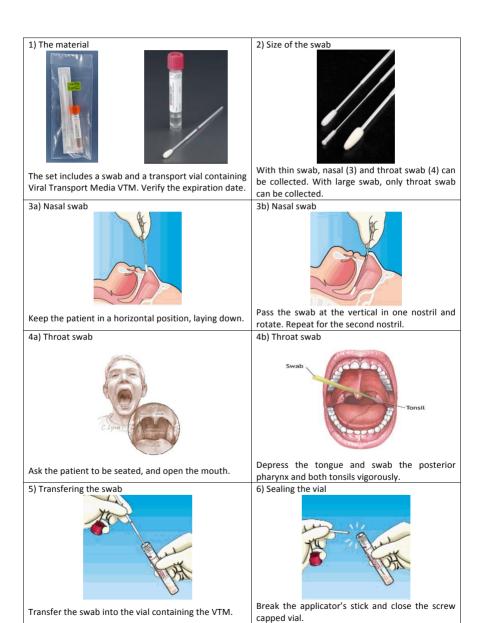
J38 J39	Other diseases of upper respiratory tract
Block: J40 J41 J42 J43 J44 J45 J46 J47	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (J40-J47) Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic Simple and mucopurulent chronic bronchitis Unspecified chronic bronchitis Emphysema Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease Asthma Status asthmaticus Bronchiectasis
Block: J60 J61 J62 J63 J64 J65 J66 J67 J68 J69 J70	Lung diseases due to external agents (J60-J70) Coalworker's pneumoconiosis Pneumoconiosis due to asbestos and other mineral fibres Pneumoconiosis due to dust containing silica Pneumoconiosis due to other inorganic dusts Unspecified pneumoconiosis Pneumoconiosis associated with tuberculosis Airway disease due to specific organic dust Hypersensitivity pneumonitis due to organic dust Respiratory conditions due to inhalation of chemicals, gases, fumes and vapours Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids Respiratory conditions due to other external agents
J80 J81 J82 J84	Other respiratory diseases principally affecting the citium (J80-J84)  Adult respiratory distress syndrome Pulmonary oedema Pulmonary eosinophilia, not elsewhere classified Other interstitial pulmonary diseases
	Suppurative and necrotic conditions of lower respiratory J85-J86) Abscess of lung and mediastinum Pyothorax

# Block: Other diseases of pleura (J90-J94) J90 Pleural effusion, not elsewhere classified J91\* Pleural effusion in conditions classified elsewhere J92 Pleural plaque J93 Pneumothorax J94 Other pleural conditions

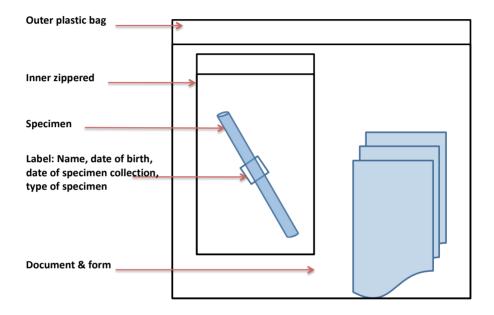
#### Block: Other diseases of the respiratory system (J95-J99)

J95 Postprocedural respiratory disorders, not elsewhere classified
 J96 Respiratory failure, not elsewhere classified
 J98 Other respiratory disorders
 J99\* Respiratory disorders in diseases classified elsewhere

## Annex 7: Instructions for specimen collection of nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs



Annex 8: Instructions for specimen packaging for national referral



## Annex 9: Instructions for specimen packaging for international referral

Based on the type of considered pathogens, various instructions of packaging are followed according to the IATA rules (international air transport association). Three points are to be considered:

