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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE
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Date: 31 January 2020

Ms Tamar Gabunia
First Deputy Minister
National Counterpart
Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the
Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social
Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
0119 Tbilisi
Georgia

Dear Ms Gabunia,

Annual status update (ASU) on measles and rubella elimination – 2019

The Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization programme (VPI) of the WHO Regional Office for Europe is pleased to inform you that the ninth meeting of the European Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination (RVC) will be held in June 2020, to review status and achievements towards measles and rubella elimination in countries and in the Region. The RVC will base its decision on the status of measles and rubella elimination in each Member State and the Region on reports submitted by the respective national verification committees (NVCs).

All Member States are requested to submit their ASU on measles and rubella elimination activities for the year 2019 with all relevant information **no later than 15 April 2020**. Adhering to this deadline is essential to ensure sufficient time for the analysis of data before the RVC meets. An ASU template for 2019 and all additional documents, prepared and approved by the respective NVC, should be uploaded to SharePoint or submitted via e-mail (eurvc@who.int) to the WHO Regional Office for Europe (RVC Secretariat). We kindly ask you to use the credentials and instructions for using SharePoint as previously provided.

Attached you will find a template for the 2019 ASU. To ensure consistency, please follow the proposed format as explained in the instructions. To facilitate your work on preparation of the ASU 2019, please use an Excel file and its pre-prepared tables with formulas that will help you in calculating data. A few extra worksheets are developed to facilitate analysis of data at subnational level and to allow presenting detailed molecular epidemiology information if available, for your convenience. We recommend to submit this file together with ASU 2019.

In addition, we encourage you to submit any additional information that will assist the RVC in determining the status of measles and rubella elimination in your country. Additional information that does not fit in the template may be uploaded as a separate document. VPI stands ready to support you in ensuring timely completion of the ASU.

We would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasize the importance of ensuring that data submitted in this annual update are accurate and consistent with other national reports submitted to the Regional Office.

We would also like to stress that all reports and additional information received from the NVCs during the verification process will be carefully reviewed and analysed. RVC conclusions based on this information will be publicly presented in various forms, as part of planned communication activities to recognize Member States' efforts and progress towards the Region's immunization goals.

Should you have any questions regarding the provided template and uploading of documents, please contact Dr Dragan Jankovic (jankovicd@who.int), Dr Zhanara Bekenova (bekenovaz@who.int) and Ms Malika Abdusalyamova (abdusalyamovam@who.int).

We would like to stress that your efforts in documenting the absence of endemic transmission in your country are highly appreciated and critical to achieving measles and rubella elimination in the Region.

The RVC and Secretariat are committed to providing you with any support that you may require.

Yours very truly,



Dr Siddhartha Datta
Programme Manager
Vaccine-preventable Diseases
and Immunization

Copy for information to:

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