



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

06 June 2017

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2017 - 0258

FOR : SECRETARY OF HEALTH OF AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM) AND ALL DOH REGIONAL OFFICES (RO) DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Internet Connection for National TB Program (NTP) Rapid TB Diagnostic Laboratories (RTDL), Culture Laboratories, and Drug-susceptibility Test (DST) Laboratories

The creation of Integrated Tuberculosis Information System (ITIS) is one of the strategies to improve data collection, processing, reporting and utilization for effective, and efficient management of the National TB Program. It was designed to collect, consolidate, and report "real time" TB data from health facilities involved in the management of TB. One new feature of ITIS is the availability of the Laboratory Module, which aims to improve the recording and reporting system of NTP Laboratories throughout the country. To fully utilize the said system, an internet connection must be in place in all NTP RTDLs, Culture Laboratories, and DST Laboratories.


In view thereof, all concerned laboratories are hereby directed to connect at least one (1) computer to the internet during operating hours (i.e., Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM). PMDT Laboratory requests and results (i.e., Direct Sputum Smear Microscopy, Xpert, TB Culture, and DST) are to be coursed through ITIS.

For RTDLs, the procured GeneXpert (GX) computer will be allowed to connect to the internet once the endorsed antivirus software is installed. The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) will support the provision of antivirus for all GX computer. The following are the guidelines in the usage of the GX computer:

1. Install the endorsed antivirus software provided by the Program through PBSP before connecting the GX computer to the internet, the software will automatically update once a web connection is detected;
2. Ensure that the installed antivirus software will not be used beyond expiry;
3. The use of internet connection in the GX computer is solely for the ITIS Laboratory Module and any other information system that NTP has endorsed;
4. Refrain from opening the GeneXpert System and ITIS Laboratory Module or any other information system at the same time;
5. Ensure that the GeneXpert System is properly closed before opening the IT IS Laboratory Module;

6. Never install other software other than the GeneXpert software unless instructed by NTP and/or National tuberculosis Reference Laboratory (NTRL). Use of the GX computer for other purposes like social communication (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.), entertainment (e.g. YouTube, etc.), and other unauthorized software is strictly prohibited; and
7. Only authorized staff is allowed to access the GX computer and ITIS Laboratory Module.

For compliance.


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Secretary of Health