Title: CDC in Kazakhstan: Implementing Quality Control in Laboratories

On-screen graphic: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Health and Human Services logo

Narrator speaks:

As of August 2021, Kazakhstan has reported more than half a million confirmed COVID-19 cases.

The tests to confirm cases are conducted in public health labs of the National Center for Expertise.

Here, in one of those labs, microbiologists perform crucial yet often unappreciated work.

On-screen text: Olga Hegai, Microbiologist, National Center for Expertise, Kazakhstan

Ms. Hegai speaks:

During the pandemic, public health laboratories had to work at full capacity.

Here, in our lab, we carried out several thousand COVID-19 tests each day.

Our main goal was to identify the sources of the infection, that is, those who were sick.

We also examined contact persons in order to interrupt the transmission the coronavirus infection.

Narrator speaks:

During the pandemic CDC donated high-end equipment and supplies to the National Center of Expertise to help it fight the disease.

However, CDC’s support to laboratories in Kazakhstan started long before that.

On-screen text: Dan Singer, MD, MPH, Country Director, CDC Kazakhstan, DGHP Program Director, Central Asia

Dr. Singer speaks:

We have been working with Kazakhstan for three years before the pandemic to bring all of the regional laboratories – not just the national central reference laboratories, but the regional reference laboratories – up to an international standard for quality management (ISO 15189).

Learning the techniques of laboratory quality management systems, which is a very specifically defined expertise is something we have been working on for years.

Just before the pandemic started, we were able to get all the laboratories at the regional level up to this international standard.

On-screen text: Yerken Alzhanov, Director of the Department of Strategic Development and International Collaboration, National Center for Expertise, Kazakhstan

Mr. Alzhanov speaks:

CDC has provided technical support by organizing a trip for several of our staff to public health laboratories in the United States, where our specialists had an opportunity to see how American public health laboratories work in Indianapolis.

They learned what a quality management system is, how to organize and support this system, and how to perfect it.

On-screen text: To learn more about CDC’s global health work visit www.cdc.gov/globalhealth. Follow @CDCGlobal on social media.