



National plan for laboratory testing on infectious diseases

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The KCDC (Korean Center for Disease Control) established a Division of Laboratory Diagnosis Management in 2016 in order to manage and develop national laboratory thoroughly for infection control. In 2017, KNIH (Korean National Institute of Health) reconstructed its organization and tasks for better management of infectious diseases by transferring the laboratory functions such as laboratory testing, monitoring and pathogen analysis to the KCDC for identifying the infectious diseases.

As of the end of 2016, the CDC and municipalities had performed annual surveys more than 780,000 infectious disease cases, showed an annual average increased 14.7% compared to that of previous years. However, in case of national infectious disease crisis, the need for both of government and public-private partnerships to cooperate each other for the development of better infection diagnosis test has been raised for more efficient response and the implementation plan (2017-2019) was established for the development of the infection diagnosis test.

The plan was based on two strategies, the first was to enhance national infrastructure and the second was to develop the standardization with goals of establishing efficient national infectious disease diagnostic testing system.

A total of 9 units and 25 detailed plans were prepared. In order to strengthen the standardization of the inspection, four unit tasks and 13 sub-tasks have been prepared, including the operation of the national standard laboratory, for the national diagnostic testing infrastructure, 4 units and 12 sub-tasks are being prepared, including the strengthening and consolidation of public-private partnerships.

In particular, in June 2017, the KCDC established a consultation council which consists of the related Society, the Korea Society for Laboratory Medicine, the Korea Association of External Quality Assessment Service, and the Korea Society of Clinical Microbiology. Through this council, KCDC will communicate close with the partnerships trying to make better establishment and implementation of various policies related to that of laboratory testing in infectious diseases.