

## **Minutes of Task Force meeting with Honorable Secretary, MoH**

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2009

Time: 3.00pm

Venue: Main Conference Hall

Honorable Secretary was appraised on the following:

- Initiation of screening of passengers at the Paro airport using thermal scanner and self reported questionnaire
- Suspected outbreaks of ARI in Wamrong and Gelephu followed by outbreak in Ura, Bumthang
- Investigation of outbreaks, sample collection and sample referral to Bangkok
- Requisition of additional test kits from WHO
- IEC materials developed for travelers, general public (posters & leaflets), radio and TV programs and messages
- Issues on funding to carry out the response activities to Influenza A
- Initiation of preparedness activities at JDWNR hospital like training of hospital staff, identification of isolation rooms, training attachment of nurses to PHL for ILI surveillance, establishment of triage system

### **Recommendation:**

1. The weekly health program in BBS should now focus on Influenza A(H1N1). A panel discussion may be organized immediately.
2. As JDWNR hospital gears for its preparedness, it should take this opportunity to re-enforce use of gloves by health workers/doctors while handling patients and practice of hand washing as frequently as possible using either hand rub or soap
3. In-house TV programs and messages to be developed for patients at the waiting area of hospitals
4. At the land crossings, especially in Phuntsholing, foreigners coming via Bagduara to Bhutan should be screened as done in Paro Airport
5. Additional 10 nos of thermal scanners (Thermometer) should be procured for distribution to border district entry point
6. While we investigate and analyze the present ARI outbreaks, it is necessary to refer and look at the ARI trends of the past years
7. Department /agencies dealing with tourist, other foreign officials and issuance of visa clearance and visa should inform health on the travelers coming from affected countries.
8. Share every day global updates on disease situation to all relevant stakeholders