

ABOUT EQA programs offered by NPHL

National Public health Laboratory (NPHL) is the government national reference laboratory under the Department of health services (DoHS) and Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP). It is directly linked with different levels of government laboratories in the country. Established in 1968 as Central Health Laboratory, and renamed as National Public Health Laboratory in 1991, it has the mandate for organizational and administration responsibilities for the health laboratory services (public health and clinical diagnostic) in both public and private sectors throughout the country. Networking, Licensing, monitoring, supervision, capacity, strengthening and conducting research activities and external quality assessment schemes for the laboratories are the major functions of NPHL.

NEQAS Unit has been established in NPHL in 1997 AD with the collaboration of the International Nepal Fellowship (INF). In earlier phase government laboratories were enrolled in NEQAS programs, which now have been extended to the private sector too. Various EQA programss has been in operation since then.

Besides improvement in the quality of laboratory result, these EQA programs also helps in policy levels by providing that can be used in the preparation of laboratory standards and policies.

Table 1: List of NEQAS programs offered by NPHL

SN	NAME OF PROGRAM	TARGETED LAB	FREQUENCY OF CYCLE
1	General/Basic NEQAS program <i>a. Basic clinical Biochemistry</i> <i>b. Basic Haematology</i> <i>c. Gram's stain</i> <i>d. Peripheral blood smear (PBS morphology)</i>	All lab /hospital/ clinic/polyclinic/ of government, semi-government & private sectors	3 times of years (<i>Shrawan- Bhadra, Mangsir- Poush & Chaitra- Baishak</i>)
2	Dried tube specimen (DTS) EQA program - HIV 1 & 2 rapid test & ELISA	HIV testing sites only	Twice a year (Ashwin & Chaitra)
3	EQA program for bacteriology - Bacteria Identification - Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST)	AMR sites only	4 times a year (March, June, Sep & Dec)
4	CD 4 EQA program (distribution only) - CD 4 count	CD 4 testing sites only (28)	Bimonthly
5	Transfusion Transmitted Infections (TTIs)serology for blood transfusion service centre (NEQAS –TTIs) <i>a. HIV 1 & 2</i> <i>b. Hepatitis B Virus Surface Antigen (HBsAg)</i> <i>c. Anti HCV antibody</i> <i>d. Syphilis Antibody</i>	Blood Transfusion service center only	Twice a year (Shrawan- Bhadra & Chaitra- Baishak.)

6	COVID-19 PCR EQAS - proficiency testing	For all COVID-19 PCR Sites	4 times of year Jestha, Bhadra, Mangsir, Falgun,
7	COVID-19 PCR EQAS - Retesting	For all COVID-19 PCR Sites	Monthly

FOR DETAILS CONTACT

The participants are requested to contact us for any queries. Contact us e mail: nphl@nphl.gov.np, nphlneqas@gmail.com

Phone No : **+977-1-5352421** (9 am -3 pm) or direct contact in NEQAS department of NPHL.

Note: All NEQAS programs are being upgraded in regular intervals as per demand of time.