



THE HELLENIC PASTEUR INSTITUTE PARTICIPATES IN A CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM WITH A PROPOSAL ENTITLED

«STRATEGIES FOR THE CONTROL OF ENVIRONMENTAL VIRAL CONTAMINATION IN PUBLIC PLACES»

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The Hellenic Pasteur Institute (H.P.I.), member of the International Pasteur Network, has by definition the mission of the daily protection and the enhancement of Public Health through the timely and valid diagnosis of serious infectious diseases, their surveillance, evaluation and mainly the prevention. The H.P.I., providing high-quality research and diagnostic services, is always at the forefront of dealing with epidemics and pandemics, such as influenza and coronavirus.

Researchers of the Hellenic Pasteur Institute participate in a Corporate Social Responsibility Program (<https://www.pasteur.gr/el>) with a proposed study aiming to answer, for the first time in Greece, the key question that concerns the general public, regarding the determination of the risk of infection by respiratory viruses in crowded places, such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools and public transport (metro, buses and trains).

Air sampling will be carried out with innovative technology in the aforementioned public places. The viability of airborne viruses in the collected material will be determined performing cell-based assays. In parallel, with the use of molecular techniques, the presence, the concentration in air samples and size distribution of the most common respiratory viruses that cause clinical symptoms (such influenza, coronaviruses, etc.) will be determined. Finally, the viruses that will be isolated/cultivated from the air samples will be subjected to genomic analysis for their further characterization and epidemiological surveillance.

The proposed project will have a significant impact on society, public health and health economics, as it will allow for the first time to determine the risk of contamination by airborne viruses responsible for respiratory infections in high-traffic areas. As a result, the measures to address the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory viruses, will be more targeted, as they will be based on data derived from the epidemiological requirements of the country.

