12 October 2020

To the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary profession

RE: COLLECTION OF BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES FROM DISEASED ANIMALS FOR BOVINE EPHEMERAL FEVER VIRUS (BEFV), LUMPY SKIN DISEASE VIRUS (LSD) AND ORF VIRUS

The mandate of Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP) is to prevent and control animal diseases that impact food security, human health and livelihoods. Our mission is to supply, manufacture and provide quality animal health solutions through innovation and collaboration with partners.

As part of our mandate and mission, OBP’s Research & Development seeks to validate the efficacy of its vaccines against circulating strains. We therefore request assistance from our partners. In this instance we request all veterinary and para-veterinarians in the country e.g. Lab, research, private and state veterinarians with the acquisition of circulating virus strains for the following diseases:

- Bovine Ephemeral Fever Virus (BEFV)
- Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSD)
- Orf Virus

We request that you inform OBP of any suspect or confirmed cases of the above diseases caused by the above mentioned viruses when brought to your attention. Sample collection for some diseases (e.g. BEF) must be performed in the early stages of disease to enable isolation of the antigen. With this in perspective we therefore request that as far as possible, you assist us with both disease suspicion/identification and sample collection. Samples required would include OCG blood for BEFv and LSDv. Scab and lesion samples for Orf and LSDv respectively. OBP is committed to supply the medical consumables as well as any other materials required for sample collection. Should sample collection by local personnel not be feasible or preferred, OBP will perform sample collection.

If there are any parties interested in collaborating with us please do contact our Resident Veterinarian or our researchers on the details provided below for further discussion.

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OBP fully appreciates the demands of the veterinary profession and thank those who are willing and able to participate in our mandate to promote livelihoods. We look forward to your support and partnership.

Yours Sincerely
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