

French lab shut after losing SARS virus samples

May 20 2014

French medical authorities have ordered a prestigious laboratory to suspend its activities after it lost more than 2,000 test tubes containing the SARS respiratory virus.

The Pasteur Institute reported the tubes missing last month from one of its labs, but insisted in a statement that the tubes do not pose any infection risk. The institute asked the ANSM medical safety agency to carry out inspections at the lab.

ANSM chief inspector Gaetan Rudant said Tuesday that its inspectors did not find the tubes but did find "dysfunction" in the way the lab tracked its material.

The ANSM ordered the lab's activities suspended and a "tube-by-tube" inventory of all material at the Pasteur Institute.

SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, infected about 8,000 people in 2003, killing nearly 800.

© 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: French lab shut after losing SARS virus samples (2014, May 20) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-05-french-lab-sars-virus-samples.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is

provided for information purposes only.