

WHO Consultation on the Composition of Influenza Vaccine for the Southern Hemisphere 2012

26 - 28 September 2011

Chavannes-de-Bogis, Switzerland

Background

Timely adjustment of influenza vaccine content is necessary due to the constant antigenic and genetic evolving nature of influenza viruses, including those circulating and infecting humans.

Twice annually, WHO organizes consultations with an advisory group of experts to analyse the data generated by the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)¹ on circulating influenza viruses and issues recommendations on the composition of the influenza vaccine for the following influenza season. These recommendations are used by the national vaccine regulatory agencies and the pharmaceutical companies to develop, produce and license influenza vaccines.

Objectives

1. Analyse the antigenic and genetic characteristics of influenza viruses circulating and infecting humans, taking into consideration of available epidemiological and clinical information from individual countries and regions;
2. Make recommendations on the composition of the influenza vaccines for use in the southern hemisphere 2012;
3. Review the antigenic and genetic characteristics of recent A(H5N1) viruses that the WHO Collaborating Centres of the WHO GISRS received and the need to develop new A(H5N1) candidate vaccine viruses for pandemic preparedness purposes;
4. Review the antigenic and genetic characteristics of other subtype influenza viruses, if any, infecting humans recently, and the need to develop new candidate vaccine viruses for pandemic preparedness purposes.

Participants

1. Representatives from [WHO Collaborating Centres on influenza](#) of GISRS;
2. Representatives from Essential Regulatory Laboratories (ERLs) of GISRS;
3. Representatives from National Influenza Centres and the WHO H5 Reference Laboratories of GISRS;
4. Experts on antigenic cartography;
5. Representatives from OFFLU.

Agenda

- Review of antigenic and genetic characterization data of seasonal, A(H5N1) and other subtypes of influenza viruses analysed by WHO Collaborating Centres and other reference laboratories;
- Review of the global influenza activity;
- Analysis of results of vaccine serological studies;
- Recommendations for influenza vaccine composition for the southern hemisphere 2012;
- Review the need and subsequent selection of new A(H5N1) and other subtype viruses for the development of new candidate vaccine viruses;
- Discussion of other relevant topics.

¹ Former GISN (Global Influenza Surveillance Network). Since 24 May 2011, the adoption of the WHA 64.5, GISN has been renamed as GISRS (Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System).

29 September 2011 (morning): Information meeting

WHO Information Meeting on the Composition of Influenza Vaccines for the Southern Hemisphere 2012

BEST WESTERN Hôtel Chavannes-de-Bogis
Les Champs Blancs, 1279 Chavannes-de-Bogis, Switzerland
www.hotel-chavannes.ch

Participants:

Representatives from national/regional vaccine regulatory agencies, influenza vaccine manufacturers and members of the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System.

Registration is required and free of charge. For registration, please send an email to GISN@who.int, with subject: Information Meeting on Influenza Vaccine Compositions for the Southern Hemisphere 2012

PROVISIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

- Opening and welcome
- Selection of Chair
- Summary report of influenza in the world and virus characterization
- Vaccine serology studies
- WHO recommendation for the composition of influenza vaccines for use in the southern hemisphere 2012
- Availability of candidate vaccine viruses and reference reagents
- Round-table discussion
- Summary of round-table discussion
- Closing