NEWS UPDATE – 1-7 February 2014

Objective 1: increase in seasonal vaccine use

Parent attitudes about school-located influenza vaccination clinics
The use of alternative venues beyond physician offices may help to increase rates of population influenza vaccination. This study shows the potential to use schools for large-scale influenza vaccination programs in the U.S.

Canadian study finds flu vaccine working well against H1N1
6 February 2014 / Eurosurveillance
Canadian researchers today in Eurosurveillance released a preliminary estimate that this year's influenza vaccine reduces the risk of infection from the 2009 pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1) virus by 74%—apparent good news in a season when that strain is by far the most common one in North America.

Cost-Effectiveness of Alternative Strategies for Annual Influenza Vaccination among Children Aged 6 Months to 14 Years in Four Provinces in China
1 February 2014 / Lei Zhou et al., PLoS One
To support policy making, the study developed an initial model to assess the cost-effectiveness of potential strategies to increase influenza vaccination rates among children in China. The model proved to be a useful tool in identifying elements for evaluating vaccination strategies. However, more data are needed to produce more accurate cost-effectiveness estimates of potential vaccination policies

Objective 2: increase in vaccine production capacity
n/a

Objective 3: research and development
n/a

Outbreak news

Study reaffirms that H7N9 rarely spreads person to person
5 February 2014 / NEJM
A detailed epidemiologic study, released today by The New England Journal of Medicine, of the first 9 months of the H7N9 avian flu outbreak in China reinforces the image of the illness as one that rarely spreads from person to person but may possibly do so when there is prolonged, close contact between the sick and the healthy.

H5N1 avian influenza: First human case reported in Cambodia in 2014
4 February 2014/The Global Dispatch (USA)
After reporting 26 human H5N1 avian influenza cases in 2013, by far the most of any country, the Kingdom of Cambodia has announced their first case of the lethal bird flu on 2014, according to a Ministry of Health press release Feb. 4.

Study: H10N8 virus in first human case is novel strain
3 February 2014 / The Lancet
Chinese scientists reported today that the first human infection with an H10N8 avian influenza virus involved a new strain that carries genes from H9N2 viruses and has a mutation associated with adaptation to mammals. Writing in The Lancet, the scientists detailed the results of their genomic analysis of the virus, which was isolated from a 73-year-old Chinese woman who died Dec 6. Her illness was the first known human case involving that strain.

**China reports 14 more H7N9 cases, 3 fatal**
3 February 2014 / CIDRAP
Over the past 3 days, China reported 14 new H7N9 influenza infections, including 4 in children and 3 fatal cases.

**Vietnam, China report H5N1 cases**
3 February 2014 / Than Nien News
Vietnam and China have each confirmed a case of H5N1 avian flu in recent days, with Vietnam's case proving fatal.

**Study: H7N9 patients much older than H5N1, H1N1 patients**
3 February 2014 / Clin Infect Dis
An international team that compared patients hospitalized with H7N9 avian flu, H5N1, or 2009 H1N1 flu found that H7N9 patients were much older and much more likely to be male, according to a new study in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. The study also found that heart disease was associated with an increased risk of hospitalization with H7N9 flu.

**Vietnam: Dong Thap woman is second H5N1 avian influenza fatality for 2014**
The Global Dispatch (USA), 1 February 2014
A 60-year-old woman from Binh Thanh District, Dong Thap province, Vietnam has died from a confirmed case of influenza A/H5N1 infection, according to a Tuoi Tre report today.