

Influenza Updates

The newsletter of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza in Melbourne

Special bulletin, October 2014

Recommendations for Southern Hemisphere 2015 vaccine announced

The WHO Consultation on the Composition of Influenza Vaccines for the Southern Hemisphere 2015 was held in Geneva on 22-24 September. Following the Consultation, WHO made the following recommendation:

It is recommended that trivalent vaccines for use in the 2015 influenza season (southern hemisphere winter) contain the following:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- an A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus^a;
- a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus.

It is recommended that quadrivalent vaccines containing two influenza B viruses contain the above three viruses and a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

^aA/South Australia/55/2014, A/Norway/466/2014 and A/Stockholm/6/2014 are A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like viruses.

This differs from the previous vaccine recommendations (for the northern hemisphere 2014-2015), reflecting antigenic drift in circulating A(H3N2) and B/Yamagata lineage viruses. More details about the most recent recommendations can be found at: http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2015_south/en/

Contribution of National Influenza Centres to the vaccine recommendations

We would like to thank everyone who sent us influenza samples during the past 2-3 months prior to the Consultation. Your viruses provided essential data on recently circulating strains and helped to inform the choice of recommended vaccine strains.

We are especially pleased that two viruses mentioned in the vaccine recommendation were originally sent to our Centre by laboratories in the Asia-Pacific region:

- **B/Phuket/3073/2013** was sent by the Thai National Influenza Centre (Bangkok, Thailand).
- **A/South Australia/55/2014** was sent by SA Pathology (formerly IMVS Pathology, Adelaide, Australia).

Please continue to send us your samples, as of course the influenza virus continues to circulate and evolve, and need for constant surveillance remains.

WHO officials, advisers from the WHO Collaborating Centres for Influenza and Essential Regulatory Laboratories, and observers from other centres in WHO GISRS at the WHO Consultation on the Composition of Influenza Vaccines, 22 September 2014 (image courtesy of WHO).

