

# Influenza Updates

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

Special bulletin, October 2017

## Recommendations for Southern Hemisphere 2018 vaccine announced

The WHO Consultation on the Composition of Influenza Vaccines for the Southern Hemisphere 2018 was held at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity in Melbourne on 25-27 September 2017. Following the Consultation, WHO made the following recommendation:

*It is recommended that trivalent vaccines for use in the 2018 influenza season (southern hemisphere winter) contain the following:*

- an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- an A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019 (H3N2)-like virus;
- 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.*

This differs from the previous vaccine recommendations (for the northern hemisphere 2017-2018), reflecting changes in circulating A(H3N2) viruses and a growing proportion B/Yamagata lineage viruses. More details about the most recent recommendations can be found at:

[http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2018\\_south/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2018_south/en/)

## Contribution of National Influenza Centres to the vaccine recommendations

We 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 the most recently added virus in the vaccine recommendation, **A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019**, was originally submitted to our Centre by the National Public Health Laboratory (Singapore).

This is in addition to **B/Phuket/3073/2013**, which was first included in the WHO vaccine recommendation in September 2014 and previously sent to the Centre by the Thai National Influenza Centre (Bangkok, Thailand) in 2013.

In this context, we would like to acknowledge the contribution and critical role played by WHO National Influenza Centres in providing influenza samples to WHO Collaborating Centres, not only for the purposes of analysis and surveillance, but also for the provision of potential vaccine candidates.

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 Consultation on the Composition of Influenza Vaccines for the Southern Hemisphere 2018  
Melbourne, Australia; 25-27 September 2017**



*WHO officials, advisors from the WHO Collaborating Centres for Influenza and Essential Regulatory Laboratories, and observers from other centres in WHO GISRS .*

