

Recommendation of composition of the Influenza vaccine to be used in the upcoming influenza season of the year 2023

WHO recommends compositions of influenza virus vaccines twice a year during the months of February and September for Northern and Southern hemisphere, respectively.

Northern Hemisphere (February, 2022 & 2023)

- **an A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus (2022)**
- **an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus (2023)**

Remaining viruses are same in both NH 2022 & 2023, and are below:

- an A/ Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus;
- a Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus; and
- a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus

Southern Hemisphere (September, 2022)

- **an A/Sydney/5/2021 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;**
- an A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus;
- a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus; and
- a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus.

There is an updation in the base strain of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus in the recent recommendations of Northern Hemisphere.

In India, the influenza surveillance is conducted through structured influenza surveillance network of DHR-ICMR VRDLs and its National Influenza Centre (WHO-NIC) housed at ICMR-NIV Pune (also a WHO CC for GISRS) since July 2021. Under the surveillance, a network of 29 sites are collecting the data and monitoring the influenza activity round the year.

Phylogenetic analysis in a subset of influenza strains reveals that the currently circulating strains of influenza viruses in India, match with both the NH 2022 & 2023 and SH 2022 vaccine composition released by WHO. Currently both an A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus (NH) and an A/Sydney/5/2021 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus (SH) strains are circulating in India. It is therefore suggested that any of the available influenza vaccines (NH 2022 & 2023) and SH (2022) can be used for vaccination.