

WHO recommends compositions of influenza virus vaccines twice a year during the months of February and September for Northern and Southern hemisphere, respectively. Recently, the Southern Hemisphere recommendation has been released on September 29, 2023.

Southern Hemisphere (released in September, 2023)

Trivalent vaccine

- an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- **an A/Thailand/8/2022 (H3N2)-like virus;** and
- a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus.

For quadrivalent egg- or cell culture-based or recombinant vaccines the WHO recommends inclusion of the following as the B/Yamagata lineage component:

- **a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus.**

Northern Hemisphere (released in February, 2023)

- an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- 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

Recommendations:

1. 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 30 sites are collecting the data and monitoring the influenza activity round the year.

2. Phylogenetic analysis of HA gene of A(H1N1) pdm09, A(H3N2) and Type B Victoria lineage stains from India showed the globally prevalence clades are in circulation and they are matching with the WHO recommended Vaccine component of Southern hemisphere 2024.

3. The surveillance data for antiviral resistance among the tested Influenza viruses indicates complete sensitivity to neuraminidase inhibitors. Suggesting that the current neuraminidase inhibitors remain effective for the treatment of Influenza infections.

4. On this background, it will be prudent to use Southern hemisphere 2024 quadrivalent vaccine in the coming influenza season. However, if SH 2024 recommended component influenza vaccine is not available then it is recommended to procure latest available quadrivalent influenza vaccine.