

**WHO Regional Office for Europe and  
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control  
Annual Influenza Meeting  
Budapest, Hungary  
14–16 June 2016**

**25 May 2016  
Original: English**

## **Provisional Programme**

**Tuesday, 14 June 2016**

12:00-12:45 Registration of participants and light lunch

### ***Session 1: Welcome and Introduction – Chair Ministry of Health Hungary TBC***

13:00-13:15 Opening and aims of the meeting (Ministry of Health, Hungary TBC; Caroline Brown, WHO/Europe; Pasi Penttinen, ECDC)

13:15-13:30 Presentation by Hungary (suggested topic: Influenza surveillance in Hungary. Overview of the 2015–2016 influenza season). (Ministry of Health, Hungary TBC)

13:30-13:45 Characteristics of the 2015–2016 influenza season (René Snacken, ECDC)

13:45-14:15 A review of characteristics of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses that emerged in 2015–2016 (John McCauley, WHO CC, Francis Crick Institute, London)

14:15-14:45 Global influenza update and risk factors for severe disease due to influenza (Katelijn Vandemaële, WHO headquarters)

14:45-15:00 Discussion

15:00-15:30 *Coffee break*

## ***Session 2: Parallel group work sessions for virologists and epidemiologists***

15:30-18:00

### **Group Work – Virologists**

#### **Topic 1 Quality assessment and training – 35 min + 10 min Q&A (Lead Dmitriy Pereyaslov, WHO/Europe)**

##### **Quality assessment:**

- Results of the 2015 ERLI-Net EQA (Ian Harrison, Public Health England/ERLI-Net Coordination) – 5 min
- Results of the 2015 WHO EQAP (Sergejs Nikisins, WHO/Europe consultant) – 5 min

##### **Training:**

- Update on WHO/Europe training activities and the NIC Laboratory Assessment Tool (Dmitriy Pereyaslov, WHO/Europe) – 10 min
- Exchange training initiative for senior public health experts (Cornelia Adlhoch, ECDC) – 5 min
- ECDC/ERLI-Net twinning programme – 3 min each:
  - Rachel Guiomar (National Institute of Health, Portugal)
  - Nataša Berginc (National Laboratory of Health Environment and Food, Slovenia)
  - Alina Elena Ivanciuc (Cantacuzino Institute, NIC, Romania)

#### **Topic 2 Application of next generation sequencing (NGS) to influenza surveillance – 45 min + 15 min Q&A discussion (Lead Cornelia Adlhoch, ECDC; Moderator; Rod Daniels, WHO CC Francis Crick Institute, United Kingdom)**

- Implementation of NGS in influenza surveillance: experience of NIC Saint Petersburg and NIC Moscow (Andrey Komissarov, Research Institute of Influenza, the Russian Federation) – 10 min
- NGS of influenza A and B and sequence assembly pipeline used at the Public Health Agency of Sweden (Åsa Wiman, Public Health Agency, Sweden) – 10 min
- Application of NGS to influenza surveillance – implementation and analysis pipeline. (Adam Meijer, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, the Netherlands) – 10 min
- Workload: from lab-bench to bioinformatics analysis – work flow, prerequisites, person resources, time estimates, costs, equipment, requirement, technical solutions, bioinformatics pipeline. (Ian Harrison, Public Health England, United Kingdom) – 10 min
- ECDC whole genome sequencing strategy and roadmap for molecular and genomic surveillance (Eeva Broberg, ECDC) – 5 min

15:30-18:00

### **Group Work – Epidemiologists**

#### **Topic 1 Training opportunities and needs**

**(Lead Mark Katz, WHO consultant)**

- Experience from Sienna summer school (Sayohat Hasanova, WHO/Europe)
- ECDC virtual academy (EVA) and Senior Exchange programme (Kari Johansen, ECDC)

Topic 2 Evaluating the quality of influenza surveillance systems  
(Lead Mark Katz, WHO consultant)

- Evaluating the quality of sentinel influenza surveillance – what methods and tools are available (Tamara Meerhoff, Radboudumc, the Netherlands) – 5 min
- Challenges of implementing SARI surveillance in SEE countries and use of regular assessment (Silvia Bino, South East European Center of Infectious Diseases Surveillance and Control, Tirana, Albania)
- Tajikistan experience with sentinel site selection methodology and on-going pilot sentinel influenza surveillance implementation in two selected sites (Abdulakhad Safarov, WHO Country Office, Tajikistan)

Topic 3 RSV surveillance  
(Lead Pasi Penttinen & Eeva Broberg, ECDC)

- Introduction to outcomes of ECDC expert consultation on RSV surveillance and proposed objectives of European RSV surveillance (Pasi Penttinen, ECDC)

19:00 *Buses depart for official dinner*

**Wednesday, 15 June 2016**

08:30-09:00 Registration for Day 2

***Session 3: Seasonal influenza risk assessment – Chair TBC***

09:00-10:30 Plenary presentations as introduction

09:00-09:20 ECDC 2015–2016 seasonal influenza risk assessment for EU/EEA countries (René Snacken, ECDC)

09:20-09:30 WHO/Europe 2015–2016 seasonal influenza risk assessment for the WHO European Region (Caroline Brown, WHO/Europe)

09:30-10:15 Characteristics of the 2015–2016 influenza season (EuroMoMo and country presentations)

- Characteristics of the 2015–2016 influenza season – EuroMoMo (Tyra Grove Krause, Statens Serum Institut, Denmark) – 10 min
- The results of influenza season 2015–2016 in Ukraine – Characteristics of the 2015–2016 influenza season on a base of data from influenza sentinel surveillance system in Ukraine (Alla Mironenko, L.V. Gromashevsky Institute of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases, Ukraine) – 7 mins
- Influenza: Control and response measures carried out in Republic of Moldova, 2014–2016 (Constantin Spinu, National Influenza Center, Republic of Moldova) – 7 mins
- Influenza surveillance during the 2015–2016 season in Portugal (Raquel Guiomar, National Influenza Reference Laboratory, Portugal) – 5 mins
- Characteristics of the influenza season 2015–2016 : The data used in the risk assessment (Dinagul Otorbaeva, Department of Supervision and Prevention of Infectious Diseases, Ministry of Health, Kyrgyzstan) – 7 mins

- National weekly and end of season influenza risk assessment fed by different data sources in Germany (Silke Buda, Respiratory Infections Unit, Department for Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Robert Koch Institute, Germany) – 7 mins

10:15-10:30 Discussion

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-12:30 Group work session on risk assessment for seasonal influenza (Lead Mark Katz & Caroline Brown, WHO/Europe; René Snacken, ECDC)

- What information from the risk assessment do countries need?
- Is this information needed routinely or exceptionally?
- How can risk assessments performed by countries be incorporated into the regional risk assessment?
- What should be the methodology and focus of joint ECDC and WHO/Europe risk assessments?

12:30-13:30 *Lunch*

#### ***Session 4: Improving influenza surveillance – plenary presentations then group sessions***

##### *Plenary*

13:30-14:00 Overview of Flu News Europe reporting in 2015–2016, country profiles and changes in 2016–2017 (Caroline Brown, WHO/Europe) – 10 mins

Introduction to Topic 1: Thresholds and start of season indicators (Tomás Vega, Temporary Adviser to WHO)

Introduction to Topic 2: Improving data from surveillance of severe disease (Tamara Meerhoff, WHO/Europe)

Introduction to Topic 3: Generation of genetic characterization data for risk assessment (Eeva Broberg, ECDC)

Introduction to the group work: Objectives and way of working (Mark Katz, WHO consultant)

**N.B.** Participants must choose which topic they will attend during registration on Day 1.

14:00-16:30 Topic 1: Thresholds and start of season indicators - establishing thresholds and intensity levels for SARI using hospital surveillance data (Lead Tomás Vega, Temporary Adviser to WHO)

Country presentations:

- A new surveillance system for severe influenza in hospitalized patients, experiences from Norway 2014–2016 (Ragnhild Tønnessen, Institute of Public Health, Norway)
- First results from a newly established SARI-surveillance based on ICD-10 codes (Kristin Tolksdorf, Respiratory Infections Unit, Department for Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Robert Koch Institute, Germany)

Topic 2: Generation of genetic characterization data for risk assessment  
(Lead Eeva Broberg, ECDC)

- Summary of virus characterization WG activities and decisions (Brunhilde Schweiger, Germany, Chair of the Virus Characterization Working Group) – 10 min
- How virus characterization data from TESSy have been used in the recent seasonal risk assessments, for vaccine composition meeting and in early season reports (Olav Hungnes, Institute of Public Health, Norway) – 10 min

Country presentations:

- Resistant A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses on the rise in Norway 2016 (Karoline Bragstad, Institute of Public Health, Norway) – 10 min
- Features of the influenza epidemic 2015–2016 in Russia and possible factors that defined its severity (Anna Sominina, Research Institute of Influenza, Russian Federation) – 10 min

16:30-16:45      *Coffee break*

***Session 5: Plenary – RSV – Chair Bruno Lina, France***

16:45-17:00      RSV: burden of disease, clinical signs, vaccine development (Thea Kølsten Fischer, SSI, Denmark)

17:00-17:10      Targeting RSV – antivirals and vaccine development (Kari Johansen, ECDC)

17:15-17:30      Update on WHO activities (Wenqing Zhang, WHO headquarters)

17:30-17:40      Surveillance options: WHO pilot country Germany (Brunhilde Schweiger, RKI, Germany)

17:40-17:50      Use of EuroFlu data to determine burden of disease due to RSV (Jonathan Nguyen-Van-Tam, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom)

17:50-18:00      Update on ECDC RSV activities (Eeva Broberg, ECDC)

18:00-18:15      Discussion

18:00-18:30      Rapporteurs work on group session feedback for plenary

18:30              *End of day two – free evening*

## Thursday, 16 June 2016

08:30-09:00 Registration for Day 3

### *Session 6: Seasonal influenza vaccine – Chair Richard Pebody and Dan Jernigan*

Key-note speaker – Michael Laessig

- 09:00-09:30 Models for predicting the fitness of influenza viruses: application to influenza vaccine strain selection (Michael Laessig, University of Cologne, Germany)
- 09:30-09:40 Comments by Wenqing Zhang (WHO headquarters) and John McCauley (WHO CC) on how modelling supports the VCM
- 09:40-09:45 Discussion
- 09:45-10:00 Results influenza vaccine effectiveness studies 2015–2016 in EU/EEA, Amparo Larrauri (I-MOVE network)
- 10:00-10:15 Update on seasonal influenza policies and uptake in Europe, Jolita Mereckiene (VENICE network) and Pernille Jorgensen (WHO/EUROPE)
- 10:15-10:45 *Coffee break*
- 10.45-11.00 Dan Jernigan
- 11:00-11:15 Improving influenza vaccination coverage in health care workers using traditional vaccination campaigns complemented by social media activities engaging staff (James Brown, Head of Communications, Engagement & Marketing, Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust)
- 11:15-11:45 Country presentations – 10 min each
- Impact of yearly seasonal influenza vaccination of children in the United Kingdom 2015–2016 (Richard Pebody, Public Health England, United Kingdom)
  - Influenza infection in Israel 2015–2016: Vaccine inefficiency (Michal Mandelboim, Central Virology Laboratory, Sheba Medical Center, Israel)
  - Albania – results from a new vaccine monitoring system for HCW (Silvia Bino, South East European Center of Infectious Diseases Surveillance and Control, Albania)

***Session 7: Feedback from the group sessions – Chair: Pasi Penttinen and Caroline Brown***

- 11:45-12:45      Topics – 5 minutes presentation plus 5 minutes discussion (rapporteurs and facilitators):
- Training and quality assessment for NICs
  - Training for epidemiologists and quality assessment for surveillance systems
  - Information required for seasons' risk assessment (includes sequencing)
  - Improving the quality of data from severe disease surveillance
  - Planned changes on Flu News Europe in the 2016–2017 season and planned use of the country profiles (includes thresholds and other indicators)
  - RSV
- 12:45-13:00      Next steps and closure of the meeting (WHO/Europe and ECDC)
- 13:00-14:00      *Lunch and departures*