



GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

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Please send inputs for inclusion to: nicolash@who.int*

30 April 2009

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINE (HPV)

30/04/2009 from Alison Brunier, WHO/HQ:

WHO issues position paper on inclusion of human papillomavirus vaccines in routine immunization programmes

In a position paper published in the Weekly Epidemiological Record on 9 April, WHO recommended that HPV vaccination should be introduced into national immunization programmes where prevention of cervical cancer is a public health priority, where introduction is programmatically feasible and economically sustainable, and where cost-effectiveness aspects have been duly considered. As HPV vaccines are most efficacious in females who are naïve to vaccine-related HPV types, HPV-immunization programmes should initially prioritize high coverage in the primary target population of girls aged 9-10 through 13 years. Where possible, such programmes should be part of a coordinated strategy that includes education about risk behaviours for HPV infection and information on the continued value of screening programmes for cervical cancer

Prior to publication, the paper was reviewed by a number of experts within and outside WHO and follows the recommendations of WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on immunization. The paper summarizes background data on HPV-induced disease, provides information on the currently-available HPV vaccines, and concludes with WHO's position on their use. References to key literature are provided in the text, with links on the WHO web site to a comprehensive WHO background paper, grading tables presenting the level of scientific quality underpinning the main conclusions, and a powerpoint presentation:

WHO position paper on human papillomavirus vaccines with link to

<http://www.who.int/wer/2009/wer8415.pdf>

Supporting material for position paper with link to

<http://www.who.int/immunization/documents/positionpapers/en/index.html#hpv>

VACCINATION WEEKS

30/04/2009 from Hayatee Hasan, WHO/HQ:

Two regions - the Americas and Europe - united during the week of 21 April 2009 to vaccinate millions of children, adults and seniors against vaccine preventable diseases. The European Immunization Week (IEW) took place from 20-26 April 2009, while the Vaccination Week in the Americas will be held from 25 April - 2 May 2009.

A news story highlighting the two events has been posted on the IVB website: http://www.who.int/immunization/newsroom/regions_unite_millions_vaccinated/en/index.html

And for the first time, the EIW is using innovative Internet-based techniques and social media to advocate for immunization across Europe. An animated video, which has been posted on YouTube, aims to spread the EIW message online) as well as directing traffic to the EIW website (www.euro.who.int/eiw2009). Social networking sites such as Facebook, BKontakte and Studivz have also been used to reinforce the message.

VACCINE MANAGEMENT

30/04/2009 from Jessica Winn, UNICEF: Cold Chain & Logistics (CCL) Taskforce

This is the first of regular updates in the GIN from the CCL Taskforce to help coordinate collective work in cold chain and logistics (CCL) systems strengthening. Other partners interested in joining the Taskforce, or sharing information about CCL should contact jwinn@unicef.org.

- Field testing has just been completed in Ethiopia for the new Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) tool. EVM merges the two previous WHO and UNICEF vaccine management tools- the Vaccine Management Assessment (VMA) and the Effective Vaccine Stores Management (EVSM) - into one consolidated tool, combining the best features of each. EVM will be a web-based access tool that will allow countries to conduct self-assessments of their cold chain, vaccine management infrastructure, equipment and procedures from national to periphery levels. The EVM will be accompanied by a quality management guide and will include the functionality to support external audits of the self assessment. The EVM is scheduled to be released by the end of 2009. For more information on EVM, please contact Mr. Modibo Dicko (dickomo@who.int), Hailu Kenea (keneah@who.int) or Solo Kone (kones@who.int).
- A **Solar Autonomy Tool** is in final review by PATH. It uses long term solar radiation data (at least five years, preferably 10-20 years) to determine the likely longest period of poor solar radiation in numbers of days. This helps designers of solar power systems for refrigerators to size the energy storage and solar array appropriately to provide enough power to keep the solar refrigerator working over a period of lower solar input. Enquiries to Steve McCarney at smccarney@path.org.
- UNICEF is finalizing the contracts for consultants to review the Japan pandemic grant used for strengthening CCL systems. Four countries will be visited, with a specific focus on reviewing how the **Fridge-tag and SolarChill** are being used, and to assess the functioning of the SolarChill. Enquiries to Jwinn@unicef.org
- AMP and ImmunizationBASICS are planning a review of session size data from Burkina Faso and India. These data will be used to inform analysis on optimal number of doses per vial being undertaken by the Vaccine Presentation and Packaging Advisory Group (VPPAG)
- Regional Inter-Country **Vaccine Management Training** (UNICEF EAPRO with WPRO, SEARO and MoH, Thailand) was conducted 23-27 March 2009. The curriculum was adapted from WHO's Global Training Network Vaccine Management modules, covering a range of topics including cold chain capacity and availability, proper temperature monitoring, vaccine forecasting, stock management, distribution systems, vaccine wastage and vaccine vial monitors. Participants had personal plans of action to improve vaccine management practices upon return to their country programmes. Enquiries to Diana Chang-Blanc at dchangblanc@unicef.org

PUBLICATIONS

WHO PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

30/04/09 from Mario Conde, WHO/HQ:

Immunological Basis for Immunization Series: Rubella (ISBN 978 93 4 159684 8)

The main purpose of these modules - which are published as separate disease/vaccine-specific modules - is to give vaccination professionals (EPI managers, etc), a brief and easy-to-understand overview of the scientific basis of vaccination. This can be accessed online at: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241596848_eng.pdf

WHO Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: Monitoring System - 2008 Global Summary (WHO/IVB/2008)

A global summary of data pertaining to vaccine-preventable diseases is now online at: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2008/WHO_IVB_2008_eng.pdf

This covers disease incidence of diphtheria, measles, mumps, pertussis, polio, rubella and CRS, neonatal and total tetanus, and yellow fever, as well as vaccination coverage for BCG, DTP, Hepatitis B, Hib, measles, polio, tetanus toxoid and yellow fever. It also includes recommended immunization schedules for those countries that reported on this. The data is reported on an annual basis to the WHO regional offices by countries.

Global Literature Review of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* invasive disease among children less than five years of age 1980-2005 (WHO/IVB/09.02)

This literature review updates and replaces the previous version (WHO/V&B/02.18). It provides a synthesis of all the data from the literature review used to estimate the global burden of Hib and pneumococcal disease.

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2009/WHO_IVB_09.02_eng.pdf

GAVI-RELATED INFORMATION

GAVI INDEPENDENT REVIEW PROCESS

Next Review Dates:

PROPOSAL REVIEWS - ISS, HSS, INS, New Vaccines & Measles 2nd Dose:

29 May - 12 June 2009. Submission deadline: 1 May 2009.

19-30 October 2009. Submission deadline: 11 September 2009.

6-16 April 2010. Submission deadline: 4 March 2010.

25 October - 5 November 2010. Submission deadline: 27 September 2010.

MONITORING IRC

15-30 June 2009 and 21-25 September 2009.

Submission deadline: 15 May 2009 for both rounds.

15-30 June 2010 and 20-24 September 2010

Submission deadline: 14 May 2010 for both rounds.

GUIDELINES ON RE-APPLICATIONS FOR NEW VACCINES SUPPORT

30/04/2009 from the GAVI Secretariat: GAVI recently provided an update on how countries can reapply for new vaccines when their current support for a particular vaccine ends. Currently, countries are expected to receive support up to 2015. In order to re-apply for New Vaccines Support, countries will need to submit the standard APR form and attach an updated comprehensive Multi-Year Plan (cMYP). The country will receive an extension of support for the duration of the cMYP, and the monitoring IRC will also approve the new vaccination targets in the APR for two years, as it is current practice. However, countries in default of their co-financing commitments will not be approved for continuation of support.

This decision is being implemented as of this year and consequently applies to countries ending their support in 2009. For more information, please contact Santiago Cornejo at scorejo@gavialliance.org

COUNTRY INFORMATION¹ BY REGION

AFRICAN REGION

REGIONAL INFORMATION

30/04/2009 from Auguste Ambendet, AFRO Central:

Central African EPI Managers' Meeting

Participants from the 11 countries of the central block of the African region met from 1-3 April 2009 at the EPI Managers meeting in Libreville, Gabon. Firm resolutions were made at this meeting where they shared their experiences and envisaged solutions towards childhood survival, including the eradication of polio, reinforcement of the national immunization systems and improving immunization data quality.

Despite accelerated efforts, wild poliovirus persists in four countries in the sub-region (Angola, DR Congo, CAR and Chad), and polio virus type 3 has re-emerged leading to the risk of exportation of polio to the surrounding countries. More than one million children have not been vaccinated with DTP3 by end 2008, and there has been a delay in eliminating MNT in the sub-region.

EPI Managers, WHO, UNICEF and other immunization partners held discussions regarding this issue at the EPI Managers meeting and noted that 90% of these unimmunized children concentrated in four countries (Angola, Cameroon, Chad, DR Congo). Consensus was achieved on the necessary measures to strengthen

¹ HSS= Health Systems Strengthening;
ICP = Inter Country Programme;
ISS = Immunization Services Support;
INS = Injection Safety Support;
NVS = New Vaccine Support;
DQA = Data Quality Audit;
DQS = Data Quality Self Assessment;
FSP = Financial Sustainability Plan;
RED = Reach Every District;
cMYP = Fully costed multi-year plan;

the immunization as well as to maintain or increase the vaccine coverage in 2009, as well as to reduce the burden of polio in the sub-region.

The following recommendations were made at the meeting:

- Conduct a risk-evaluation at the district-levels to implement qualitative preventive campaigns.
- Improve the quality of supplementary immunization activities through internal and external monitoring systems.
- Achieve in all provinces a rate of non-polio AFP of at least 3 per 100,000 children under 15 years, and 80% of stool samples from all provinces within 14 days.
- Mobilize at least 50% of operational costs for measles supplementary activities.

In addition, partners should support:

- Countries to establish national regulatory authorities
- A forum for EPI Managers prior to EPI Managers' meetings.

World Health Day - 2009

The theme of the 2009 World Health Day, "Save Lives: Making hospitals safe in emergencies" has had a major impact in WHO/Gabon. The Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Luis Gomes Sambo declared that between 1992 and 2004, two major types of global humanitarian crises occurred in Africa. In 2008 itself, more than 90% of Member States from the African Region were confronted with emergency situations in the form of natural catastrophes such as floods, droughts and disease outbreaks, as well as man-made disasters due to different degrees of conflicts. Countries need to elaborate laws and implement programmes for safer hospitals, especially during these situations of emergency. Dr Sambo affirms that safe hospitals built with protective material against natural and human disasters can save lives, and it is vital that this be taken into account in the future.

RWANDA

30/04/2009 from the GAVI Secretariat:

Introduction of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine: Senior leaders from the GAVI Alliance, WHO, UNICEF and PneumoADIP joined Dr Richard Sezibera, Rwanda's Minister of Health, and a group of doctors and nurses at a rural clinic east of Kigali to administer the first doses of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine to the Rwandan children last Saturday 25 April 2009. While 35 high- and middle-income countries, including South Africa, currently provide routine childhood immunization against pneumococcal disease, the introduction of the vaccine in Rwanda signals a new era in vaccine access and delivery in the developing world. For more information, please see:

http://www.gavialliance.org/media_centre/features/2009_04_23_rwanda_pneumo_guide_rwanda.php

TANZANIA

30/04/2009 from Mutale Mumba, AFRO E&S:

Introduction of Pentavalent Vaccine: Tanzania had an official launching ceremony for the introduction of the pentavalent (DTP-HepB-Hib) vaccine on 31 March 2009 with the first vaccines being administered on 1 April 2009. Nationwide cascade training of health workers in the administration of the new vaccine was completed prior to introduction.

SOUTH EAST ASIA REGION

DPR KOREA

30/04/2009 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO:

EPI Coverage Evaluation: DPR Korea conducted its first ever EPI coverage evaluation survey to assess the quality of routine immunization coverage based on the *validity* of immunizations according to national immunization schedule and to confirm the immunization coverage routinely available through administrative reports. The survey was made up of ten independent province-specific surveys all conducted with the same protocol and tools as recommended in the WHO Immunization Coverage Cluster Survey manual. Specifically, the survey set out to determine immunization coverage (crude, valid and fully immunized by 52 weeks) for BCG, DTP+HepB, OPV and measles, and to obtain independent information on infant protection against tetanus, based on tetanus toxoid immunization of pregnant women within each province.

INDIA

30/04/2009 from Lahouari Belgharbi, WHO/HQ:

NRA Assessment: India has successfully completed the NRA assessment and has come back functional with high performance in some indicators. India now meets all the critical indicators, and has drawn up an updated institutional development plan (IDP) to guide the government of India to build a stronger NRA.

INDONESIA

30/04/2009 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO:

Measles Campaign: A measles campaign is planned for three provinces (Aceh, North Sumatra and North Maluku) for mid June targeting 1.91 million children aged 9-59 months in 59 districts.

TIMOR LESTE

30/04/2009 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO:

A **Multi-intervention campaign** (TT, measles, distribution of Vitamin A and iron/folate tablets) is scheduled for 1-10 June 2009.

WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

REGIONAL INFORMATION

30/04/2009 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO:

Vaccine Management Training: A Regional Inter-Country Vaccine Management Training, organized by UNICEF EAPRO, was conducted from 23-27 March 2009, in close collaboration with the Faculty of Khon Kaen University and WHO SEARO and WHO WPRO. Nineteen participants from 11 countries were in attendance, with facilitators from UNICEF, WHO and the Ministry of Health, Thailand. The training curricula was adapted from WHO's Global Training Network Vaccine Management modules, covering a range of topics including cold chain capacity and availability, proper temperature monitoring, vaccine forecasting, stock management, distribution on small-group work and plenary discussion, with a site visit to Khon Kaen's regional well-child clinic to synthesize learning principles. Participants identified personal plans of action to improve vaccine management practices upon return to their country programmes.

CHINA

30/04/2009 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO: A joint WHO/UNICEF mission is scheduled for 18-19 May 2009 to discuss China's status on elimination of **maternal and neonatal tetanus**.

CAMBODIA

30/04/2009 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO: An **Effective Vaccine Store Management assessment** is being conducted from 24-30 April 2009.

LAO PDR

30/04/2009 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO:

Final round of **OPV campaign** successfully conducted in 37 districts in 11 provinces, reaching 91% of 191,855 children targeted (0-59 months). This follows previous OPV rounds conducted in 94 districts (9-22 February). Of these February rounds, children targeted in 57 districts (12 provinces) had been previously reached during Child Health Days 8-22 December 2008

VIETNAM

30/04/2009 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO: A **National EPI assessment** was conducted 30 March - 10 April 2009, using a standardized tool to review performance in the areas of immunization service delivery, information management, cold chain and logistics, advocacy and communications, and immunization safety. Six provinces were visited, with a total of 24 commune health centers in 12 districts assessed. A coverage evaluation survey in the same six provinces was conducted from 6-17 April 2009.

MONGOLIA

30/04/2009 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO: Using the RED framework, Mongolia has developed and is piloting a health **micro-planning strategy** for improved access to immunization and maternal and child health services. The testing of the approach was conducted in 2008 in Byanzurkh District, Ulaanbaatar and is currently being scaled-up. A summary article can be found at:

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1045>

PACIFIC ISLANDS

30/04/2009 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO: A **Vaccine Management Assessment training** was conducted in Vanuatu from 23 March to 24 April 2009. An Effective Vaccine Store Management assessment is being conducted in Fiji from 24-30 April 2009. Measles campaigns are planned for Kiribati in June, Vanuatu in July-August and the Solomon Islands in September this year.

LIST OF MEETINGS & KEY EVENTS RELATED TO IMMUNIZATION

Regional Meetings & Key Events Related to Immunization				
Title of Meeting	Start	Finish	Location	Region
2009 Meetings				
Regional GAVI Working Group Meeting	May	May	tbc	EURO
Vaccine prioritization workshop	05-May	07-May	Bangkok Thailand	SEARO
5th Pacific Immunization Strengthening Workshop	11-May	15-May	Nagasaki, Japan	WPRO
The 9th International Advanced Course on Vaccinology for the Asia Pacific Region (for more information http://www.ivi.int/vaccinology2008/)	11-May	16-May	Seoul, Korea	WPRO
DCD sub-regional meeting for North African Countries (Egypt, Mahgreb)	12-May	14-May	Tunis, Tunisia	EMRO
Africa Regional Workshop on GAVI New Vaccines Co-financing and Sustainability	25-May	28-May	Dakar, Senegal	AFRO
DCD sub regional meeting for middle-eastern countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria)	31-May	02-Jun	Beirut, Lebanon	EMRO
GAVI Board Meeting	02-Jun	03-Jun	Washington DC	Global
XVIII Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases	08-Jun	10-Jun	San José, Costa Rica	PAHO
Bi-Regional Meeting on Japanese Encephalitis Control	08-Jun	09-Jun	Bangkok Thailand	SEARO/WPRO
PAHO Sub-Regional Meeting of the Central American Region, Mexico and the Spanish Caribbean on Vaccine Preventable Diseases	08-Jun	11-Jun	tbc	PAHO
Japanese Encephalitis hands-on lab training	15-Jun	19-Jun	Seoul, Korea	WPRO
Global Meeting on New and Under-Utilized Vaccines Introduction	16-Jun	18-Jun	Montreux, Switzerland	HQ
18th TAG Meeting	30-Jun	02-Jul	Manila, Philippines	WPRO
25th RTAG Meeting	28-Jul	30-Jul	Hammamet, Tunisia	EMRO
Measles hands on lab training	06-Jul	10-Jul	Hong Kong	WPRO
PAHO Sub-Regional Meeting of the Andean and Southern Cone Regions on Vaccine Preventable Diseases	12-Aug	13-Aug	tbc	PAHO
Data Management Workshop	TBD	TBD	Manila, Philippines	WPRO
Regional EPI Lab Network Meeting	Sept	Sept	Manila, Philippines	WPRO
16th Meeting of the GAVI Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group	07-Sep	08-Sep	Luxor, Egypt	EMRO
15th RCC Meeting	Oct	Oct	tbc	WPRO
WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office	03-Oct	06-Oct	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO
Intercountry training workshop on surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases and monitoring & evaluation of national immunization programmes	07-Oct	09-Oct	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO
DCD sub regional meeting for countries in South-West Asia (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan)	18-Oct	20-Oct	Tehran, Iran	EMRO
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting	27-Oct	29-Oct	Geneva	HQ
26th Meeting of the Caribbean Expanded Program on Immunization Managers	16-Nov	20-Nov	tbc	PAHO
GAVI Board Meeting	17-Nov	18-Nov	tbc	Global
GAVI Partners Meeting	18-Nov	20-Nov	tbc	Global
DCD sub regional meeting for countries in the Horn of Africa	23-Nov	25-Nov	Djibouti	EMRO
EMRO Workshop on invasive bacterial diseases surveillance network	15-Dec	17-Dec	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO

LINKS RELEVANT TO IMMUNIZATION

GLOBAL WEBSITES

Department of Immunization, Vaccines & Biologicals, World Health Organization

<http://www.who.int/immunization/en/>

WHO New Vaccines Hib website

<http://www.who.int/nuvi>

Agence de Médecine Préventive

www.aamp.org

EPIVAC

www.epivac.org

GAVI Alliance Website

<http://www.gavialliance.org/>

IMMUNIZATIONbasics (JSI)

www.immunizationbasics.jsi.com

PATH Vaccine Resource Library

<http://www.path.org/vaccineresources>

UNICEF Supply Division Website

http://www.unicef.org/supply/index_immunization.html

UNICEF Supply Division Product Menu for GAVI Vaccines

http://www.unicef.org/supply/files/Product_Menu_2007.PDF

Hib Initiative Website

<http://www.hibaction.org/>

Japanese Encephalitis Resources

<http://www.path.org/vaccineresources/japanese-encephalitis.php>

Malaria Vaccine Initiative

<http://www.malariavaccine.org>

Measles Initiative

www.measlesinitiative.org

Meningitis Vaccine Project

<http://www.meningvax.org/index.htm>

PneumoADIP

www.preventpneumo.org/

RotaADIP

<http://www.rotavirusvaccine.org/>

RHO Cervical Cancer (HPV Vaccine)

<http://www.rho.org>

WHO/ICO Information Center on HPV and Cervical Cancer

<http://www.who.int/hpvcentre/en/>

SIGN Updates

www.who.int/entity/injection_safety/sign/en/

Technet

<http://www.technet21.org/>

REGIONAL WEBSITES

New Vaccines in AFRO

<http://www.afro.who.int/newvaccines/>

PAHO's website for Immunization

<http://www.paho.org/english/ad/fch/im/Vaccines.htm>

Vaccine Preventable Diseases in EURO

<http://www.euro.who.int/vaccine>

New Vaccines in SEARO

<http://www.searo.who.int/en/section1226.asp>

Immunization in WPRO

http://www.wpro.who.int/health_topics/immunization/

Produced by WHO, in collaboration with UNICEF and the GAVI Alliance:



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