



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

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REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA
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Dear Colleagues,

Invitation to Information Session on the Implementation of the Revised NIC TOR

We are pleased to invite you to an information session on the implementation of the revised National Influenza Centres (NIC) Terms of Reference (TOR) for seasonal influenza. The information session will take place online on 11 December 2024, from 11:00 to 12:30 CET.

The role of NICs, Ministries of Health, and Nagoya Protocol Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) stakeholders in the surveillance of seasonal influenza viruses and the implementation of public health measures, including vaccines, is critical. Seasonal influenza continues to cause outbreaks and epidemics, impacting the physical, social, and economic well-being of millions each year.

Since the last update of the NIC TOR in 2017, many countries have begun implementing the Nagoya Protocol (NP) and related ABS arrangements. While the NP represents a significant step forward in addressing the sharing of genetic resources, its implementation varies across countries, leading to challenges that require further clarity particularly in activities of public health importance.

In response to the need for clarity on the scope and purpose of seasonal virus sharing, the WHO Global Influenza Programme (GIP) has revised the seasonal component of the NIC TOR. The updates include an explicit agreement by NICs that the influenza viruses they share with WHO Collaborating Centres (WHO CCs) can be used for development of Candidate Vaccine Viruses (CVVs) and shared with manufactures for possible inclusion as a component of a seasonal influenza vaccine. The continued sharing of influenza virus materials is critical for risk assessment and in the prevention and control of influenza. An annex is included in the revised TOR, which details the ongoing benefits available and provided to Member States through the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS).

The revised NIC TOR has been successfully piloted in 20 countries across the six WHO regions. As the pilot phase concludes, we are pleased to invite non-pilot countries to this information session to facilitate the transition of your NIC to the revised NIC TOR.

The Information session objectives are:

1. Provide background on the process of revising the NIC TOR.
2. Highlight key updates to the revised NIC TOR.
3. Review the implementation process for transitioning to the revised NIC TOR.

Attached please find a provisional programme of the information session and the revised NIC TOR for your reference and perusal.

To register and receive instructions on how to connect to the session, please use the following link:
<https://who.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqce6gpzgoE9ffap5F8rRvLrz9A9iFmIZb>.

Thank you for your continued collaboration. We look forward to your participation and valuable contributions to the information session.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Marc-Alain Widdowson
Team Leader
High Threat Pathogens
Infectious Hazard Management

Encls:

ToR for NIC
Agenda