New WHO influenza vaccine recommendations for use in the 2010-11 influenza season in the northern hemisphere

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The World Health Organization (WHO) today, 18 February 2010, published recommendations for the composition of influenza virus vaccines for the forthcoming season in the northern hemisphere (November 2010 to April 2011) [1]. They foresee a trivalent vaccine including also a 2009 pandemic influenza A(H1N1) strain:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus;
- an A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus*;
- a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus. •

* A/Wisconsin/15/2009 is an A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)like virus and is a 2010 southern hemisphere vaccine virus.

Each year, representatives of the WHO Collaborating Centres on Influenza meet to analyse the data and make recommendations for the following year's vaccine strains. The recommendations are used by pharmaceutical manufacturers to update the composition of the vaccine, so that vaccine strains are matched to circulating strains the following year. WHO also provides the manufacturers with prototype strains for the seasonal vaccine.

References

World Health Organization (WHO). [Internet]. Recommended viruses for influenza vaccines for use in the 2010-2011 northern hemisphere influenza season. Available from: http://www. who.int/csr/disease/influenza/recommendations2010_11north/ en/index.html