Influenza preparedness

The Executive Board, having considered the report by the Director-General on influenza preparedness, decided to recommend to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly the adoption of the following decision:

The Seventy-third World Health Assembly, having considered the report by the Director-General on influenza preparedness, decided:

(1) to note the release of WHO’s Global Influenza Strategy 2019–2030, and its linkages to the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework for the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits;

(2) to request the Director-General:

(a) to support Member States, upon their request, to develop or update national influenza preparedness plans, and to consider implementing an annual influenza vaccination programme for target populations, taking into account, as relevant and appropriate to national circumstances, the goals and strategic objectives of WHO’s Global Influenza Strategy 2019–2030;

(b) to promote timely access to, and distribution of, quality, safe, effective and affordable seasonal influenza vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments;

(c) to continue to engage Member States and all relevant stakeholders to promote and uphold the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework for the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits, and to encourage international collaboration for the rapid, systematic, and timely sharing of influenza viruses with human pandemic potential, and equitable and timely access to quality, safe, effective and affordable pandemic influenza vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics, and other benefits, on an equal footing;

(d) to prioritize and contribute to international efforts to sustain and enhance influenza surveillance through WHO’s Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS), by continuing to work with Member States, GISRS laboratories, and other relevant stakeholders, to:

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1 Document EB146/18.
(i) gather and share information, voluntarily provided, about influenza virus-sharing and its associated benefits; and

(ii) encourage countries to voluntarily share information and best practices on mitigating hinderances to the rapid, systematic, and timely international sharing of seasonal and pandemic influenza biological materials and its associated benefits;

(e) to promote synergies, as relevant and appropriate, between and among: implementation of national plans for influenza preparedness and response, the International Health Regulations (2005), and immunization programmes;

(f) to consult Member States and relevant stakeholders, including manufacturers, in a manner consistent with WHO’s Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, to identify gaps in, and priorities for, affordable, scalable, and sustainable global influenza vaccine production capacity, supply chains, and distribution networks; and

(g) to report on implementation of this decision through the 150th session of the Executive Board to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly.

Fourteenth meeting, 8 February 2020
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