



Australian Government

Department of Health
Therapeutic Goods Administration

AIVC recommendations for the composition of influenza vaccine for Australia in 2022

7 October 2021

The Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee (AIVC) met on Wednesday 6 October 2021, to recommend the composition of the influenza virus vaccines for 2022. At this meeting, the expert committee reviewed and evaluated data related to epidemiology, antigenic and genetic characteristics of recent influenza isolates circulating in Australia and the southern hemisphere, serological responses to the 2020-2021 vaccines, and the availability of candidate vaccine viruses and reagents.

The committee recommended that the following viruses be included in quadrivalent influenza vaccines for the 2022 southern hemisphere influenza season:

Egg-based quadrivalent influenza vaccines:

- an A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- an A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus;
- a B/Austria/1359417/2021-like (B/Victoria lineage) virus; and
- a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata lineage) virus.

Cell- or recombinant-based quadrivalent influenza vaccines:

- an A/Wisconsin/588/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- an A/Darwin/6/2021 (H3N2)-like virus;
- a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus; and
- a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus.

The composition of trivalent influenza vaccines is recommended to include the H1N1, H3N2 and the B Victoria lineage virus.

Candidate Vaccine Viruses (CVV) recommended for H1N1 and H3N2 are different for egg- and cell- or recombinant-based vaccines as, in some instances, the same virus is not optimal for both production systems. When this is the case, different viruses with similar properties are selected as the prototypes to facilitate timely vaccine production. Further information is available in [Frequently Asked Questions \(https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/influenza/who-influenza-recommendations/vcm-southern-hemisphere-recommendation-2022/202109_qanda_recommendation.pdf?sfvrsn=b9faa1cf_12\)](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/influenza/who-influenza-recommendations/vcm-southern-hemisphere-recommendation-2022/202109_qanda_recommendation.pdf?sfvrsn=b9faa1cf_12) on the World Health Organisation's website.

The AIVC recommendation for the composition of influenza vaccines for Australia in 2022 differs from the 2021 southern hemisphere and 2021/22 northern hemisphere recommendations with the inclusion of two new strains for the A (H3N2)-like and B Victoria lineage viruses.

The recommendation made by AIVC aligns with the recommendation made by the World Health Organisation ([WHO recommendations for the 2022 Southern Hemisphere vaccines](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/recommended-composition-of-influenza-virus-vaccines-for-use-in-the-2021-southern-hemisphere-influenza-season) (<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/recommended-composition-of-influenza-virus-vaccines-for-use-in-the-2021-southern-hemisphere-influenza-season>))

The TGA has accepted the recommendation of the AIVC.

The TGA considers that the following viruses or reassortants are suitable vaccine strains:

- those as listed on the WHO Influenza vaccine web pages: [Influenza vaccine viruses and reagents](https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/vaccines/who-recommendations/candidate-vaccine-viruses) (<https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/vaccines/who-recommendations/candidate-vaccine-viruses>) for **H1N1, H3N2 and B viruses**.

If other candidate vaccine viruses or reagents become available their suitability for use should be discussed with the TGA by emailing influenza.reagents@health.gov.au (<mailto:influenza.reagents@health.gov.au>).

Category: Advisory bodies/Committees

Tags: seasonal influenza vaccines, AIVC

URL: <https://www.tga.gov.au/node/940679> (<https://www.tga.gov.au/node/940679>).