

Global surveillance, benefits and virus sharing: Technical briefing



The need for global influenza surveillance

- World faces distinctly different influenza threats
 - Seasonal influenza
 - H5N1
 - Pandemic influenza
- Every country depends upon current knowledge of events & viruses elsewhere to respond to threats at home
- No virus can be understood without analyzing viruses from other countries



What is the Global Influenza Surveillance Network (GISN)?

- Member State Activity supported by host country funds
 - NIC, WHO CC, H5 Ref Labs
- The world's warning system against influenza threat
 - Identify new variants & potential pandemic threats
- A unique public health resource
 - Training, expertise and reagents
- Guarantee of vaccine strains for manufacturing



GISN needs to improve

- A new era
 - Both industrial & developing countries equally interested in key influenza-related issues
- Calls by countries for
 - Clearer rules of engagement
 - More transparency over handling of viruses
 - More open sharing of information
 - More equitable sharing of resulting benefits



Virus Sharing & Vaccine Access Must be Addressed in Parallel

- Virus sharing by countries essential for risk assessment
 - Awareness, communications, education
 - Updating of diagnostic tests
 - Research & development of better technologies
 - Development, access & use of safe, effective vaccines
- Access of all countries to these benefits is necessary



Major Steps Underway

Resolution WHA60.28: *Pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits*

- Establish international stockpile of H5N1 vaccine
- Establish mechanism for equitable distribution of pandemic vaccines
- Revision of GISN
 - Reviewed TOR for NIC, H5 Ref Labs and WHO CC
 - Standard terms and conditions for sharing viruses
 - Oversight mechanism



Preparation for an Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM), November 2007

- Next steps:
 - Documents will be published on WHO website
 - Consultation between Regional Office and MS
- Questions?



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