

# **VACCINE DEPLOYMENT OF PANDEMIC (H1N1) 2009**

**Interim Guidance from Inter-Country Training  
15 July 2009**

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**World Health  
Organization**

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

# **Inter-country training workshop on Pandemic Influenza Vaccine Deployment Guidelines**

*Rabat, Morocco, 12-15 July 2009*

## **Summary Report**

- WHO EMRO in collaboration with HQ conducted in Rabat, Morocco, from 12 to 15 July 2009, an important training workshop for EMR countries on pandemic vaccine deployment planning. The main objectives of this workshop were:
  - Provide a framework to EMR countries for the preparation of "Deployment Plan" to permit the deployment a pandemic influenza vaccine and other ancillary products in seven days, using WHO guidelines
  - Assure that each country can plan for the *surge* capacity required to achieve a seven day deployment.
  - Encourage each country to conduct exercises and use the "illustrative checklists" to test its deployment and execution capacity.
  - Support core-management activities that underpin the deployment of pandemic influenza vaccine, including the allocation of the required reserve funds for covering the deployment of the pandemic vaccine when time arrives.
- The workshop was attended by representatives from all EMR countries except Egypt (where a similar activity was recently organised), Iraq, Kuwait & Kuwait (apologized).
- The workshop consisted:
  - An introductory session on global and regional overview of H1N1 epidemilologic situation as well as on the progress made in terms of vaccine development
  - 8 technical sessions, most of them conducted in group works. In these sessions, each one of the 8 chapters that constitute the WHO guidelines for the deployment of pandemic influenza vaccine was reviewed and discussed in details with all participants. 6 out the 8 chapters have checklists of main activities that countries should think about when developing a national vaccine deployment plan. These checklists were also reviewed in details with all participants.
  - During the above-mentioned exercise, each country team tried to identify the main gaps of their current EPI vaccine deployment system as well as the main solutions, considering the potential input from other governmental and non governmental institutions.

- The WHO recommendations on influenza A9H1N1) vaccines, dated 13 July 2009 (based on the recommendations of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization, that met in Geneva on 7 July 2009) were distributed to all participants and discussed with them.
- **In summary, all participants agreed on the following action points/recommendations:**
  1. Based on WHO statement (SAGE) recognizing that “the spread of the pandemic virus is actually considered unstoppable, and that vaccines will be needed in all countries”, a country pandemic Preparedness Plan (PPP) is not comprehensive if it does not include a strong component on vaccine deployment.
  2. Country PPP should be reviewed according to current situation and include clear objectives for their pandemic vaccination strategy (3 main objectives identified by SAGE):
    - Protect the integrity of the health care system and the country’s critical infrastructure
    - Reduce morbidity and mortality
    - Reduce transmission of the pandemic virus within communities.
  3. According to the country selected objective (s), nationals should check their current vaccine deployment infrastructure capacity to deliver the required quantities of the pandemic vaccine to the targeted population in less than 7 days. And identify main gaps and constraints.
  4. Countries should consider all governmental and not governmental capacities to overcome identified constraints and develop in a collaborative way with all above-mentioned partners a flexible and dynamic vaccine deployment plans, using WHO guidelines and checklists.
  5. Vaccine deployment plans should be simple, attractive to read, and include a monitoring and evaluation component in each of its chapters. They should be endorsed by all the involved partners.
  6. All countries should have their pandemic vaccine deployment plans developed, finalized and shared with EMRO by 15 August 2009.
  7. WHO EMRO to provide the technical expertise to all member countries that will require it.