



**World Health
Organization**

**Department of Immunization,
Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB)**

SAGE

meeting

SLIDE DECKS

**Strategic Advisory Group of Experts
on Immunization
22-25 September 2025**

**Hybrid meeting, WHO
Geneva, Switzerland**

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**World Health
Organization**

Meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization





22-25 September 2025


**Hybrid Meeting
WHO HQ (Geneva)**

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| Day 1: Monday, 22 September 2025 (time is Central European Time (CET)) | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Time CET | Session | Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE | Duration |
| 9:00 | Closed SAGE meeting | Preparation of the sessions of the day. | 1h 45 min. |
| 10:45 | Break | Break | 15 min. |
| 11:00 | Opening and welcome – introduction of participants K. O'BRIEN. Director IVB, WHO. 5 min. H. NOHYNEK. SAGE Chair. 5 min. J. HOMBACH. SAGE Secretariat. WHO. 5 min. | | 15 min. |
| 11:15 | Global and regional reports – Session 1  Report from the Director of IVB, K. O'BRIEN. WHO. 20 min.  Update from Gavi, A. VERMEERSCH. Chief Vaccine Programmes and Markets Officer, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. 10 min. Discussion. 40 min. | FOR INFORMATION | 1h 10 min. |
| 12:25 | Lunch Break | Break | 1h |
| 13:25 | Global and regional reports – Session 1 Continue: Regional reports  Presentations from AFRO, EMRO, EURO. 10 min. each. Discussion. 25 min. Presentations from PAHO, WPRO, SEARO. 10 min. each. Discussion. 25 min. | FOR DISCUSSION Each Regional report focuses on one theme of particular importance for the Region | 1h 50 min. (3h 15 min. in total) |
| 15:15 | Break | Break | 15 min. |
| 15:30 | Global and regional reports - Session 1 continued Update on changing landscape | FOR DISCUSSION | 30 min. |
| 16:00 |  IA2030 Mid-term Review – Session 2 Opening. H. NOHYNEK. SAGE Chair. 10 min. | FOR DISCUSSION SAGE to receive a briefing on the key findings of the IA2030 Mid-Term Review (MTR) report and to facilitate an in-depth discussion on the proposed recommendations and actions aimed at enhancing | 2h |



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|  | <p>IA2030 Mid-Term Review: Presentation of Findings and Recommendations. E. LEMANGO, UNICEF. 45 min.</p> <p>Discussion. 65 min.</p> | <p>IA2030's effectiveness during the second half of the strategy. This session is a critical step in preparing for the formal presentation of the MTR at the World Health Assembly (WHA) in 2026.</p> |
| 18:00 | End of day 1 | |


Day 2: Tuesday, 23 September 2025

| Time CET | Session | Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE | Duration |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| 9:00 | Closed SAGE meeting | Development of recommendations of day 1. Preparation of the sessions of the day. Other important discussion items. | 1h 45 min. |
| 10:45 | Break | Break | 15 min. |
| 11:00 | Covid-19 – Session 3 | FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION | 2h |
|  | <p>Introduction. S. KOCHHAR, SAGE member. 5 min.</p> <p>Current burden of disease by risk group. A. ACMA, WHO. 15 min.</p> <p>Prequalified vaccines, vaccine uptake and access by WHO Region and risk group. E. PLUUT and G. STATHOPOULOS, WHO. 15 min.</p> <p>Vaccine effectiveness by risk group. D. FEIKIN, WHO. 20 min.</p> <p>Vaccine safety by risk group. E. KIM, WHO. 20 min.</p> <p>Way forward. A. WILDER-SMITH, WHO. 5 min.</p> <p>Discussion. 40 min.</p> | The purpose of this session is to update on the current epidemiology of COVID-19 by priority-use groups, vaccine effectiveness and vaccine safety, and discuss next steps towards the development of a position paper. | |
| 13:00 | Lunch Break | Break | 1h |
| 14:00 | TB – Session 4 | FOR DISCUSSION | 2h |
|  | <p>Introduction. S. KOCHHAR, SAGE member. 5 min</p> <p>Overview of the activities under the TB Vaccine Accelerator Council. B. GIERSSING, WHO. 10 min.</p> <p>Overview of the TB vaccine pipeline, timelines and key assumptions. W. HANEKOM, Africa Health Research Institute and special advisor to the TB Vaccine Accelerator. 10 min.</p> <p>Presentation from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the key learnings from the technical consultations with developers. G. CHURCHYARD, co-chair of the TAG on Evidence for Clinical and Policy Considerations for New TB Vaccines. 20 min.</p> <p>Roadmap for including asymptomatic TB as an efficacy endpoint. S. DEN BOON, WHO. 10 min.</p> <p>SAGE discussion. 65 min.</p> | The purpose of the session is to update SAGE on the activities taking place under the TB Vaccine Accelerator Council, to provide an overview of the TB vaccine pipeline, to discuss the potential risk of product development strategies and feasibility of a global policy recommendation for the most advanced candidates for global access, and to seek for advice on the proposed steps to evaluate asymptomatic TB as a potential efficacy endpoint. | |
| 16:00 | Break | Break | 15 min. |
| 16:15 | Combination Vaccines– Session 5 | FOR DISCUSSION | 1h 30 min. |
|  | <p>Introduction. M. HASSO-AGOPSOWICZ, WHO. 5 min</p> <p>The context and problem statement. W. HAUSDORFF, PATH. 10 min.</p> | To obtain SAGE guidance on the analysis, prioritization and policy pathway for novel combination vaccines. | |


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|  | Methodology, approach and early findings. A. HWANG, PATH. 15 min. |
| | Next phase. M. HASSO-AGOPSOWICZ, WHO. 10 min. |
| | Discussion. 50 min. |
| 17:45 | End of day 2 |

Day 3: Wednesday, 24 September 2025

| Time CET | Session | Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE | Duration |
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| 9:00 | Closed SAGE meeting | Development of recommendations of day 2. Preparation of the sessions of the day. Other important discussion items. | 1h 45 min. |
| 10:45 | Break | Break | 15 min. |
| 11:00 | Polio— Session 6 | FOR RECOMMENDATION | 2h |
|  | <p>Session overview by S. MADHI, SAGE member. 5 min.</p> <p>Update from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. J. AHMED, WHO. 15 min.</p> <p>Questions. 15 min.</p> <p>Update on bOPV Cessation Planning, O. MACH, WHO. 5 min.</p> <p>(I) Fractional Sabin IPV – new data and programmatic importance; (II) guidance for countries introducing wP-Hexa in routine immunization programmes regarding bOPV. O. MACH, WHO. 10 min.</p> <p>Options for nOPV2 use outside of strict outbreak response. A. BANDYOPADHYAY, Gates Foundation. 15 min.</p> <p>Questions. 15 min.</p> <p>Report from the SAGE Polio Working Group including update on nOPV development and proposed recommendations. S. MADHI, SAGE Member. 10 min.</p> <p>Discussion. 30 min.</p> | <p>SAGE will be informed on the current status of the polio eradication program and on the development of the new polio action plan.</p> <p>SAGE will be informed about current status of bOPV Cessation planning; and about development of novel OPV1 and 3</p> <p>SAGE will be presented with a consolidated table of IPV related recommendations</p> <p>SAGE will be asked to review and consider for recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation on use of fractional Sabin IPV (fIPV) • Guidance for countries introducing wP-Hexa in RIs regarding bOPV • Recommendation on use of nOPV2 outside of strict outbreak response campaigns | |
| 13:00 | Lunch Break | Break | 1h |
| 14:00 | Malaria-Session 7 (joint session of SAGE and MPAG) | FOR RECOMMENDATION | 1h 40 min. |
|  | <p>Opening of joint session and overview. H. NOHYNEK. SAGE chair, and D. WIRTH. MPAG chair. 5 min.</p> <p>Introduction and rationale. M. HAMEL. WHO. 10 min.</p> <p>RTS,S/AS01 MVIP case-control study: vaccine effectiveness of 3 and 4 doses against severe malaria; and safety-related outcomes. A. FOGELSON, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. 20 min.</p> <p>Discussion. 15 min.</p> <p>Modelled public health impact and cost-effectiveness of a 3-dose versus 4-dose RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine schedule. L. OKELL, Imperial College London, and A. SHATTOCK, The Kids Research Institute Australia. 15 min.</p> <p>Discussion. 15 min.</p> | <p>The purpose of this joint session is to present SAGE and MPAG with the latest evidence on effectiveness, safety, impact and programmatic considerations of a 3-dose compared to the currently recommended 4-dose malaria vaccination schedule in perennial (year-round) malaria transmission settings. The SAGE and MPAG are asked to review the Working Group recommendations and address the following questions:</p> <p>1. Is a 3-dose schedule of malaria vaccine safe and effective?</p> | (2h 40 min in total) |

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| Programmatic considerations of a 3-dose versus 4-dose malaria vaccine schedule. R. JALANG'O, Kenya Ministry of Health. 10 min. Discussion. 10 min. | | 2. Should a 3-dose malaria vaccine schedule be considered as an alternative option to a 4-dose schedule in some context? | |
| 15:40 | Break | Break | 15 min. |
| 15:55 | Malaria-Session 7 continued | FOR RECOMMENDATION | 1h 5 min. |
|  | SAGE/MPAG Working Group on Malaria Vaccines conclusions and proposed recommendations. P. SMITH and E. MACETE. Chair and Co-Chair of SAGE/MPAG Working Group on Malaria Vaccines. 15 min. | | |
| | Discussion and finalization of recommendations. 45 min. | | |
| | Closing remarks. D. WIRTH. Chair of MPAG, and H. NOHYNEK, Chair of SAGE. 5 min. | | |
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| 17:00 | End of the plenary meeting Day 3 | | |
| 17:00 | Break | Break | 15 min. |
| 17:15 | Closed SAGE/MPAG meeting | | 45 min. |
| 18:00 | End of day 3 | | |

Day 4: Thursday, 25 September 2025

| Time CET | Session | Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE | Duration |
|---|---|--|-------------------|
| 9:00 | Closed SAGE meeting | Development of recommendations of day 3. Preparation of the sessions of the day. Other important discussion items. | 1h 45 min. |
| 10:45 | Break | Break | 15 min. |
| 11:00 | Influenza H5- Session 8 | FOR RECOMMENDATION | 2h |
|  | Epidemiological update, risk assessment, and characteristics of A(H5) human cases, M. VAN KERKHOVE, WHO. 15 min. | | |
| | Overview of landscape of human A(H5) vaccines. Licensed A(H5) vaccines S. GOLDIN, WHO. 10 min. | | |
| | Overview of landscape of human A(H5) vaccines, pipeline, new technologies and mRNA candidates. P. GSELL, WHO. 10 min. | | |
| | Summary of policy recommendations and use to date of A(H5) vaccines. A. VILAJELIU, WHO. 15 min. | | |
| | Conclusions and discussion. KOCHHAR. S. SAGE member. 70 min. | | |
| 13:00 | Closing | | |
| 13:10 | End of the plenary meeting | | |