



**World Health
Organization**

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

SAGE

meeting

**Strategic Advisory Group of Experts
on Immunization
22-25 March 2021**

**Virtual meeting, WHO
Geneva, Switzerland**

New

Updated YB version (11 Mar 2021)

This document can be found online after the meeting at the following link:

https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2021/03/22/default-calendar/sage_meeting_march_2021

This interactive pdf contains all background documents for the corresponding meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization.

To function correctly, this document should be opened with [Acrobat Reader](#) (please download if necessary).

Navigation is done via the interactive table of content page. Each session landing page contains links to the executive summary and all background documents (tagged as either essential or additional). All session documents open as new tabs in the Adobe reader (pdf attachments).

Tip: Avoid opening more than 6-8 tabs at a time to preserve navigability.

Notes:

(1) This document functions only in a limited mode on hand-held devices. See “How to Guide”.

(2) Presentations from the meeting will be made available once the meeting has concluded at the above link and through an additional interactive PDF.

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 A starburst-shaped badge with the word "New" in white text on an orange background, positioned to the left of the "Ebola vaccines" row in the sessions table.



World Health Organization

**Meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization
22-25 March 2021
Virtual Meeting
Draft agenda**

Monday, 22 March 2021

Time	Session	Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE	Duration
10:00	Closed SAGE meeting	Preparation of the sessions of the day. Other important discussion items.	1h
11:00	Break	Break	15 min.
11:15	Opening and welcome – introduction of participants Opening: Director-General WHO. 5 min. Welcome: A. CRAVIOTO. Chair of SAGE. 10 min.	Opening of the Plenary Meeting	15 min.
11:30	<u>Global and Regional Reports – Session 1</u> Report from the Director of IVB. K. O'BRIEN. WHO. 20 min. Reports from the Regions – including impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and COVID-19 vaccination on immunization services. 60 min. Update from Gavi. S. BERKLEY. GAVI. 10 min. Discussion. 30 min.	FOR INFORMATION	2h
13:30	Break	Break	30 min.
14:00	<u>Ebola vaccines – Session 2</u> Introduction of the session. H. REES. Ebola WG co-chair. 10 min. Evidence on immunogenicity and duration of protection or rVSVΔG-ZEBOV-GP and of Ad26/MVA – C. OCKENHOUSE, Ebola WG member. 15 min. Evidence on safety of rVSVΔG-ZEBOV-GP and of Ad26/MVA in children, pregnant women and breastfeeding women. N. BUSTAMANTE / R. DOSHI, CDC. 15 min. Efficacy of rVSVΔG-ZEBOV-GP: emerging evidence from compassionate use/expanded access in DRC, R. PETO. Oxford University. 15 min. Potential target populations: rationale and estimated doses required. A.M. HENAO-RESTREPO, WHO. 15 min.	FOR RECOMMENDATION SAGE requested the Ebola vaccines Working Group to address the following questions: Question 1: <i>Potential recommendation for off- label use of rVSV ZEBOV GP.</i> What does current evidence show on the immunogenicity and efficacy of rVSV-ZEBOV-GP for children 6 months to 17 years of age, pregnant women and breastfeeding women? And what are the limitations of the available evidence? Question 2: <i>Potential recommendation on the preventive use of Ebola vaccines.</i> Is the current evidence on the duration of protection of rVSV-ZEBOV-GP sufficient to inform policy recommendations on the preventive use of this vaccine? And what are the limitations of the available evidence? Recommendations on the use of Ebola Ad26/MVA vaccine.	2h

Working Group recommendations to SAGE. E. MOSHNI, SAGE member and co-chair of the Ebola WG. 15 min.

Discussion. 40 min.

Question 3: *Potential recommendations on the strategies to ensure equitable and fair access to Ebola vaccines.*

What are the potential demand scenarios and supply scenarios for various Ebola vaccines (short and mid-term outlook)? In light of the above conclusions/inputs, how should this Ebola vaccine allocation be prioritized with respect to impact and equity?

16:00 End of the day

Tuesday, 23 March 2021

10:00	Closed SAGE meeting	Preparation of the sessions of the day. Recap of day 1. Other important discussion items.	1h
11:00	Break	Break	15 min.
11:15	COVID-19 Vaccines – Session 3 (part 1)	FOR RECOMMENDATION	2h min.
	Considerations for COVID-19 vaccine efficacy endpoints. S. OMER, SAGE COVID-19 WG member. 15 min.		
	Manufacturer presentation on vaccine safety and efficacy.		
	Evidence assessment SAGE COVID-19 WG.		
	Draft recommendations.		
13:15	Break	Break	30 min.
13:45	COVID-19 Vaccines – Session 3 (part 2)	FOR RECOMMENDATION	1h
14:45	COVID-19 Post introduction considerations – Session 4		
14:45	COVID-19 variants – Session 4a	FOR DISCUSSION	30 min.
	Epidemiology of variants. Speaker TBC. 10 min.		
	Evidence summary on laboratory neutralization titres and efficacy of vaccines. Speaker TBC. 10 min.		
	Discussion: 10 min.		
15:15	COVID-19 Vaccination - Early learnings – Session 4b	FOR DISCUSSION	1h
	Framing of the session. F Olayinka, SAGE member. 3 min.		
	Global status of COVID-19 vaccine introductions and readiness of countries, A Lindstrand, WHO. 5 min.		
	Experience from COVID-19 vaccine roll out in Bahrain, J. Jawad, SAGE member and H. Amahmeed, Prime Minister's office, Bahrain. 15 min.		

	<p>Experience from COVID-19 vaccine roll out in India, P. HALDAR, MoH India. 15 min.</p> <p>Discussion 20 min</p> <p>Wrap-up Jaleela Jawad, SAGE member. 2 min.</p>		
16:15	<u>COVID-19 Vaccine Safety – Session 4c</u>	FOR DISCUSSION	30 min.
	<p>Overview of WHO and GACVS role in Covid-19 vaccine safety monitoring and update on key safety reviews to date. R. HELFAND, GACVS Chair (TBC). 15 min.</p> <p>Discussion. 15 min.</p>		
16:45	End of the day		

Wednesday, 24 March 2021

10:00	Closed SAGE meeting	Preparation of the sessions of the day. Recap of day 2. Other important discussion items.	1h
11:00	Break	Break	15 min.
11:15	<u>Polio – Session 5</u>	FOR RECOMMENDATION	1h 30 min.
	<p>Update from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. A.O'LEARY, WHO. 10 min.</p> <p>Questions: 5 min.</p> <p>sIPV: update on PQ product. C. SEIN, WHO. 10 min.</p> <p>Questions: 5 min.</p> <p>Update on nOPV2 first use, safety oversight, transition plan from initial to wider nOPV2 use including results from modelling of delay in response to cVDPV2 outbreak. S. ZIPURSKI, G. MACKLIN, O.MACH, WHO. 20 min.</p> <p>Questions: 5 min.</p> <p>Report from SAGE Polio Working Group including considerations for sIPV use I. JANI, SAGE Member. 15 min.</p> <p>Discussion: 20 min.</p>	<p>SAGE will be informed on the current status of the polio eradication programme in the context of COVID 19; and nOPV2 first use experience.</p> <p>SAGE will be asked to review and consider for endorsement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation on sIPV use in polio programme • Recommendation on transition from initial to wider nOPV2 use • Statement on benefit of immediate response with mOPV2 versus delayed response with nOPV 	
12:45	Break	Break	30 min.
13:15	<u>Vaccine acceptance and uptake – Session 6</u>	FOR DISCUSSION	1h
	<p>Introduction and framing – SAGE member. 5 min.</p> <p>Updates on the latest trends and evidence – J. LEASK. 15 min.</p> <p>WHO key activities for 2021-2022 and proposed plan of work – L. MENNING, WHO. 10 min.</p>	<p>The objectives of the session are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To update SAGE on the latest evidence and developments for acceptance and uptake in the behavioural sciences field, including: key interventions supported by the evidence, concepts and terminology, WHO's role and key activities 	

	Discussion. 30 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To present a plan of work to develop an evidence-based approach to measuring and addressing behavioural and social drivers of uptake, including corresponding interventions for action. To invite SAGE feedback on the approach to gathering and using behavioural sciences data. <p>Questions posed to SAGE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does SAGE agree with the proposed plan of work? - Are there any considerations or resources or methods which should be incorporated? 	
14:15	Measles and Rubella – Session 7	FOR DISCUSSION	1h
	Update on Measles and Rubella, innovations and new tools needed. N. CROWCROFT, WHO. 25 min.	Questions for SAGE	
	Synthesis and reflection. K. MULHOLLAND, SAGE member. 10 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are any new policies needed for measles and rubella? What new strategic linkages (programmatic and/or advocacy) are advised? Are new tools required for measles elimination? 	
	Discussion. 25 min.		
15:15	End of the day		

Thursday, 25 March 2021

11:00	COVID-19 Vaccines – Session 3 (part 3)	FOR RECOMMENDATION	3h
	Manufacturer presentation on vaccine safety and efficacy.		
	Evidence assessment SAGE COVID-19 WG.		
	Draft recommendations.		
14:00	Wrap-up of plenary meeting		10 min.
14:10	End of the plenary meeting		
14:10	Break	Break	20 min.
14:30	Closed SAGE meeting		1h 30 min.
16:00	End of the meeting		

SESSION 1: GLOBAL AND REGIONAL REPORTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
1.0	Executive summary: Global and regional reports

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS	
1.1	Meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization, October 2020 – conclusions and recommendations
1.2	AFRO RITAG meeting report, 18-19 November 2020
1.3	Main outcomes of the meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization held from 9 to 10 December 2020
1.4	Report of the Meeting of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS), 1–3 December 2020

SESSION 2: EBOLA VACCINES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
2.0	Executive Summary: Ebola vaccines

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
2.1a	Ebola session background document

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
2.1	WHO Disease outbreak news Ebola virus disease Guinea 17 Feb. 2021
2.2	WHO Disease outbreak news Ebola virus disease DRC 10 Feb. 2021
2.3	Ebola Vaccine rVSVΔG-ZEBOV-GP Safety Profile Overview of Safety Profile 2016-2019
2.4	Duration of protection after single dose injection of rVSV-ZEBOV
2.5	Summary of Data Related to Exposure to rVSVΔG-ZEBOV-GP during Pregnancy
2.6	rVSV-ZEBOV related publication list
2.7	Summary of safety in children and pregnant women for AD26.ZEBOV, MVA-BN-FILO (Zabdeno [®] , Mvabea [®])
2.8	Summary document on immune response and durability of the immune response Ad26.ZEBOV, MVA-BN-Filo
2.9	Estimates for Potential Target Populations for Ebola vaccines
2.10	Equateur-DRC-Adverse Events Tables
2.11	Ebola Vaccine rVSVΔG-ZEBOV-GP Safety Profile : Pregnancy



SESSION 3: COVID-19 VACCINES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
-	None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
-	None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
3.1	A Comparison of Vaccine Efficacy Elements in Advanced Stage Clinical Trial Protocols. CEPI COVID-19 Clinical Working Group. Nov. 2020.

Please note that due to the rapidly evolving situation, the vaccine specific background material will be shared separately at short notice.

SESSION 4A: COVID-19 VARIANTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
4A.0	Executive Summary: COVID-19 Variants

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
4A.1	WHO COVID-19 Weekly epidemiological update - 2 March 2021 Special Focus: on SARS-Cov-2 variants of concern
4A.2	WHO COVID-19 Weekly epidemiological update – 25 February 2021: Special edition: Proposed working definitions of SARS-CoV- 2 Variants of Interest and Variants of Concern

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
4A.3	WHO COVAX Statement on New Variants of SARS-Cov-2, 8 February 2021

SESSION 4B: COVID-19 VACCINATION - EARLY LEARNINGS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
4B.0	Executive Summary: COVID-19 Vaccination - Early Learnings

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
-	None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
4B.1	Wouters OJ, Shadlen KC, Salcher-Konrad M, et al. Challenges in ensuring global access to COVID-19 vaccines: production, affordability, allocation, and deployment. Lancet. 2021 Feb 12:S0140-6736(21)00306-8
Web link	WHO. COVID-19 vaccine country readiness and delivery. Toolbox. https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax/covid-19-vaccine-country-readiness-and-delivery

SESSION 4C: COVID-19 VACCINE SAFETY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
4C.0	Executive Summary: COVID-19 vaccine safety

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
4C.1	GACVS statement on deaths in frail, elderly persons.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
4C.2	WHO Covid-19 Vaccines Safety Surveillance Manual; 2020.

SESSION 5: POLIO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
5.0	Executive Summary: Polio

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
5.1	Report from polio SAGE WG meeting
5.2	Two papers on safety and immunogenicity of Sabin based IPV vaccine

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
-	None

SESSION 6: VACCINE ACCEPTANCE AND UPTAKE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
6.0	Executive Summary: Vaccine Acceptance And Uptake

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
6.1	Pre-reading: Vaccination acceptance and uptake

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
-	None

SESSION 7: MEASLES AND RUBELLA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
7.0	Executive Summary: Measles and rubella

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
7.1	Measles and rubella session background document

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
-	None