World Health Organization

Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB)

SAGE
meeting

Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization
5–8 October 2026

Hybrid meeting, WHO Geneva, Switzerland

See page 2 for instructions about how to open and use this interactive pdf document

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All meeting material, including this document and list of participants can be found online at the following link:
https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2026/10/05/default-calendar/strategic-advisory-group-of-experts-on-immunization-october-2026

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

This document must be downloaded and opened with Acrobat Reader to function correctly. DO NOT OPEN IT in a web browser, as it will not allow access to embedded documents.

Navigation is done via the interactive table of contents page. Each session landing page contains links to the executive summary and all background documents (tagged as either essential or additional). All session documents are open as new tabs in 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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SESSIONS (with access to background materials)	
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Meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization

5–8 October 2026

Draft agenda

Hybrid Meeting-WHO HQ (Geneva)

Day 1: Monday, 5 October 2026 (time is Central European Summer Time (CEST))			
Time CEST	**Session**	**Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE**	**Duration**
9:00	**Closed SAGE meeting**	Preparation for the sessions of the day.	**1h 45 min.**
10:45	**Break**	**Break**	**15 min.**
11:00	**Opening** B. Aylward, Assistant Director-General, Division of Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Control, WHO. 5 min. **Welcome – introduction of participants** K. O'Brien. Director of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) Department, WHO. 5 min. A. Scott. SAGE Chair. 3 min. A. Wilder-Smith. SAGE Secretariat, IVB. WHO. 2 min.		**15 min.**
11:15	**Global reports– Session 1 (Part 1)** Report from the Director of IVB. K. O'Brien, WHO. 30 min. Update from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. A. Vermeersch, Gavi. 15 min. Discussion. 1h	**FOR INFORMATION**	**1h 45 min.**
13:00	**Lunch break**	**Break**	**1h**
14:00	**Regional reports – Session 1 (Part 2)** Presentations from AFRO, EMRO, EURO. 10 min. each. Discussion. 20 min. Presentations from PAHO, WPRO, SEARO. 10 min. each. Discussion. 20 min.	**FOR DISCUSSION** Each regional report will focus on one theme of particular importance to the region.	**2h**
15:40	**Break**	**Break**	**20 min.**
16:00	**Ebola vaccines – Session 2** Introduction. Helen Rees, Chair of SAGE WG on Ebola vaccines. 5 min. Epidemiological update on the BVD outbreak and implementation of vaccine-related guidance. TBC, WHO AFRO. 10 min. BVD-specific vaccine R&D: candidate status, phase 1 studies and anticipated timelines. M. Doherty, WHO. 10 min.	**FOR INFORMATION** SAGE will receive an update on the epidemiology of Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD) outbreak and the progress of BVD-specific vaccine candidates. SAGE will also be presented with the emerging evidence on the cross-protection of Ervebo® vaccine against BVD and the progress of related planned and ongoing research studies.	**1h 30 min.**

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	Emerging evidence on Ervebo® vaccine cross-reactivity and potential cross-protection against BVD. E. Stadler, UNSW. 10 min. Ring vaccination trial: design, operational readiness and anticipated initiation. TBC, DRC trial team, INRB. 15 min. Observational evidence and planned Ervebo® vaccine effectiveness studies against BVD. Reena Doshi, WHO AFRO. 15 min. Discussion. 25 min.		
17:30	**End of day 1**		

Day 2: Tuesday, 6 October 2026			
Time CEST	**Session**	**Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE**	**Duration**
9:00	**Closed SAGE meeting**	Finalization of recommendations from Day 1. Preparation for the sessions of the day. Discussion of other important items.	**1h 45 min.**
10:45	**Break**	**Break**	**15 min.**
11:00	**Yellow Fever vaccines – Session 3** Introduction. G. Gray, SAGE member and chair of the SAGE yellow fever vaccine Working Group. 5 min. Yellow fever epidemiology and current vaccination strategies. K. Salami. WHO. 15 min. Minimum vaccine potency requirements. M. Niedrig, German Accreditation Society. 10 min. Systematic review of the immunogenicity and safety of fractional-dose yellow fever vaccination. C. Iwu-Jaja. Stellenbosch University. 20 min. Yellow fever vaccine market study. G. Stathopoulos, WHO. 10 min. Discussion on draft recommendations. G. Gray, SAGE member and chair of the SAGE yellow fever vaccine Working Group. 60 min.	**FOR RECOMMENDATION** Present SAGE with updated evidence on fractional-dose yellow fever vaccination, including its potential role in the context of financial constraints affecting vaccination campaigns. SAGE will review and discuss whether the current recommendations on fractional-dose vaccination for outbreak response should be updated and, in particular, whether fractional-dose vaccination could be used in preventive vaccination campaigns to improve their affordability and facilitate implementation at scale.	**2h**
13:00	**Lunch break**	**Break**	**1h**

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14:00	**HPV vaccines – Session 4** Introduction and key questions. C. Vizzotti, SAGE member and SAGE HPV vaccines WG chair. 10 min. WHO update on HPV programming landscape and vaccine introduction progress. P. Bloem, WHO. 15 min. Key new evidence on single-dose HPV vaccine schedules to inform decision-making on reduced schedules. A. Pollard, University of Oxford. 15 min. Systematic reviews of evidence on HPV vaccine. N. Henschke, Cochrane Response. 15 min. Modelling. M. Brisson, Laval University. 10 min. Discussion. 25 min.	**FOR RECOMMENDATION** Present SAGE with updated evidence on a single-dose HPV vaccination schedule to consider strengthening the permissive recommendation on a single-dose schedule and extending its use to a wider age range.	**1h 30 min.**
15:30	**Break**	**Break**	**15 min.**
15:45	**HPV vaccines – Session 4** Conclusions and proposed recommendations. C. Vizzotti. 15 min. Discussion. 75 min.	**FOR RECOMMENDATION**	**1h 30 min.**
17:15	**End of day 2**		

Day 3: Wednesday, 7 October 2026			
Time CEST	**Session**	**Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE**	**Duration**
9:00	**Closed SAGE meeting**	Finalization of recommendations from Day 2. Preparation for the sessions of the day. Discussion of other important items.	**1h 45 min.**
10:45	**Break**	**Break**	**15 min.**
11:00	**Mpox vaccines – Session 5** Introduction. R. Grais, SAGE member and Chair of the SAGE Working Group on Mpox Vaccines. 10 min. Mpox epidemiology. R. Lewis, WHO. 20 min. Updated systematic review on mpox vaccine effectiveness and safety. L. Pischel, Yale University. 20 min. Discussion on draft recommendations. 70 min.	**FOR RECOMMENDATION** Present SAGE with updated epidemiological information and evidence on mpox and discuss potential updates to the current recommendations for mpox vaccination in outbreak settings, as well as the potential expansion of preventive vaccination recommendations to additional populations at increased risk.	**2h**
13:00	**Lunch break**	**Break**	**1h**
14:00	**Diphtheria-containing vaccines for outbreak response – Session 6** Problem statement. S. Kochhar, SAGE member and chair of ad hoc SAGE expert group. A. Vilajeliu, WHO. 15 min. Regional updates on diphtheria epidemiology and outbreak response experience. WHO Regional Representatives. 5 min each. Discussion. 15 min.	**FOR RECOMMENDATION** In the context of diphtheria outbreaks reported globally, SAGE will be asked to provide guidance on optimising the use of diphtheria-containing vaccines for outbreak response, particularly for mass vaccination campaigns. This guidance will complement the existing WHO Position Paper on diphtheria vaccines.	**1h**
15:00	**Break**	**Break**	**15 min.**

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15:15	**Diphtheria-containing vaccines for outbreak response – Session 6** Modelling of the use of diphtheria-containing vaccines to optimise outbreak response. S. Truelove, Johns Hopkins University and L. Keegan, Utah University. 30 min, followed by 30 min for questions. Proposed recommendations and discussion. S. Kochhar, SAGE member and chair of ad hoc SAGE expert group. 60 min.	**FOR RECOMMENDATION**	**2h**
17:15	**End of the plenary meeting, Day 3**		

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Day 4: Thursday, 8 October 2026				
Time CEST	**Session**		**Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE**	**Duration**
9:00	**Closed SAGE meeting**		Finalization of recommendations from Day 3. Preparation for the sessions of the day. Discussion of other important items.	**1h 45 min.**
10:45	**Break**		**Break**	**15 min.**
11:00	**Polio vaccines – Session 7** Session overview. Z. Memish, SAGE member. 5 min. Update from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Z. Wadood, WHO. 15 min. Questions. 15 min. Update on bOPV cessation planning, O. Mach, WHO. 5 min. Proposed recommendation on IPV use in routine and outbreak immunization for countries with persistent poliovirus transmission (WPV or VDPV). O. Mach & A. Bandyopadhyay, Gates Foundation. 15 min. Questions. 20 min. Report from the SAGE Polio Working Group, including an update on nOPV development and proposed recommendations. Z. Memish, SAGE Member. 15 min.. Discussion. 30 min.		**FOR RECOMMENDATION** SAGE will be informed on the current status of the polio eradication programme and on the implementation of the new polio action plan. SAGE will be informed about current status of bOPV cessation planning and the development of novel OPV types 1 and 3 SAGE will be asked to review and consider for recommendation: A recommendation on IPV use in routine and outbreak immunization for countries with persistent poliovirus transmission (WPV or VDPV)	**2h**
13:00	**Closing of the plenary meeting**			**10 min.**
13:10	**Break**		**Break**	**80 min.**
14:30	**Closed SAGE meeting and next steps**		Finalization of recommendations from the Day 4 morning session.	**1h**
15:30	**Closed SAGE meeting**	**Meeting with RITAG Chairs**	Parallel meetings	**1h**
16:30	**Closing session with SAGE members and the WHO SAGE Secretariat**			**45 min.**
17:15	**End of the SAGE meeting**			

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SESSION 1: GLOBAL REPORT, INCLUDING IA2030 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT & FUTURE OF IMMUNIZATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
1.0	Executive summary: Global Report

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
-	None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
1.1	34th Meeting Of The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in The Western Pacific Region-24−26 June 2025
1.2	Twenty-fifth Meeting of the European Technical Advisory Group of Experts on immunization (ETAGE)- 17–18 November 2025
1.3	Main outcomes of the meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization held from 20 to 24 April 2026
1.4	Joint meeting of ACSoMP and GACVS June 2026

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SESSION 2: EBOLA VACCINES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
2.0	Executive Summary: Ebola vaccines

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
2.1	WHO emergency guidance on the use of licensed Ebola vaccine during Bundibugyo virus disease outbreaks, 31 August 2026
2.2	Third meeting of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Candidate Vaccine Prioritization (TAG-CVP) for Bundibugyo virus disease outbreak response, 31 July 2026

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
-	None

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SESSION 3: YELLOW FEVER VACCINES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
3.0	Executive Summary: Yellow fever vaccines

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
3.1	Fractional dose yellow fever vaccine

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
3.2	Evidence to recommendations framework-Outbreak response
3.3	Evidence to recommendations framework-preventive campaign
3.4	Evidence-to-recommendations framework- routine immunisation
3.5	Yellow Fever grade table-adults
3.6	Yellow Fever grade table-children
3.7	Yellow Fever grade table-infants
3.8	Yellow Fever grade table-adults with HIV eligible
3.9	Yellow Fever grade table- in individuals eligible for yellow fever vaccination

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SESSION 4: HPV VACCINES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
4.0	Executive Summary: HPV vaccines

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
4.1	SAGE Working Group on use of HPV vaccines and immunization towards cervical cancer elimination: including Evidence to recommendation tables

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
4.2	Immunogenicity, efficacy, and effectiveness of a single dose of HPV vaccine compared with no vaccination, two doses, or three doses Version
4.3	Systematic review on the efficacy of HPV vaccine for recurrent respiratory papillomatosis
4.4	Systematic review on the effectiveness of HPV vaccine in women undergoing treatment for pre-cancerous cervical lesions

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SESSION 5: MPOX VACCINES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
5.0	Executive Summary: Mpox Vaccines

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
5.1	Background document for the SAGE meeting on mpox vaccines and immunization

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
5.2	Evidence-to-decision tables- children
5.3	Evidence-to-decision tables- adult
5.4	Mpox GRADE tables
5.5	Systematic review report on vaccine effectiveness
5.6	Systematic review report on vaccine safety and immunogenicity
5.7	2022-24 Mpox (Monkeypox) Outbreak: Global Trends

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SESSION 6: DIPHTHERIA-CONTAINING VACCINES FOR OUTBREAK RESPONSE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
6.0	Executive Summary: Diphtheria-containing vaccines for outbreak response

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
6.1	SAGE background document on SAGE background document on use of diphtheria-containing vaccines for outbreak response

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
-	None

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SESSION 7: POLIO VACCINES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
7.0	Executive Summary: Polio vaccines

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
7.1	Report from Polio SAGE WG Meeting- 26-27 August
7.2	Summary of past IPV-related SAGE recommendations as of July 2026

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
-	None