Annual Influenza Meeting

Radisson-Blu Centrum

Warsaw, Poland

30 May – 1 June 2012

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the WHO Regional Office for Europe (Regional Office) coordinate surveillance and other activities related to the prevention and mitigation of influenza in the European Region. On 30 May – 1 June, they will undertake a joint meeting in Warsaw for the countries in Western, Central and South Eastern Europe. Though based around a core of virological and public health surveillance, these meetings also cover other influenza topics. This year’s meeting will, at the request of last year’s attendees, especially focus on influenza immunisation. A number of the surveillance topics will follow on from work that was prioritised at last year’s meetings or will provide updates on work that has been undertaken in the last 12 months.

The main objectives of the meeting are to:

- Provide a situation update on the 2011/2012 influenza season, with respect to epidemiology, virology and vaccination;
- Review developments in the TESSy and Euroflu influenza surveillance platforms;

Hence the topics that are intended to be covered to varying depth this year are:

- Virological surveillance including molecular epidemiology
- Virus characterization
- Antiviral susceptibility monitoring
- Molecular diagnosis & sequencing
- Training & quality assurance
- The annual seasonal influenza risk assessment
- Primary care surveillance – implementation of the threshold
- Severe disease surveillance including SARI surveillance
- Progress in developing seroepidemiology
- Qualitative indicators for seasonal influenza
- Mortality monitoring and death surveillance
- Influenza immunisation
  - progress with coverage against the WHO Standard / Council Communication
  - effectiveness monitoring
- The influenza year in review (guest lecture)
**Programme Annual Influenza Meeting**

**Warsaw, Poland**

30 May – 1 June 2012

Meeting secretariat members (located in meeting room “Zima”): Brenna Deckert (ECDC), Anne-Marie Andersen (WHO), Cristina Manita (ECDC), and Michaela Stancova (ECDC)

### Wednesday, 30 May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<td>8:30 – 09:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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| 09:00 – 10:30 | **Plenary session** *(Room: POLONIA II+III)*  
**Introduction and European Surveillance 2011/2012** *(Chairmen: Prof. Mirosław J. Wysocki, MD, PhD, and Assoc. Prof. Rafał Gierczyński, PhD)*  
09:00 – 09:10 Welcome and opening *(Caroline Brown and Andrew Amato Gauci)*  
09:10 – 09:20 Introduction welcome *(Prof. Mirosław J. Wysocki, MD, PhD)*  
09:20 – 09:50 The annual Risk Assessment and overview of the season *(Angus Nicoll and Tamara Meerhoff)*  
09:50 – 10:10 Season 2011/12 overview of virological surveillance *(CNRL; John McCauley)*  
10:10 – 10:20 TESSy support *(Silvia Sarbu)*  
10:20 – 10:30 Discussion |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee break                                                                                      |
| 11:00 – 13:00 | **2a. Epidemiology** *(Chair Siri Hauge)* *(Room: POLONIA I)*  
11:00 – 11:15 Epidemic thresholds – first year of piloting, next steps *(Julien Beauté)*  
11:15 – 12:00 Qualitative indicators and report on the recent Copenhagen meeting *(Tomas Vega, Caroline Brown, Angus Nicoll)*  
12:00 – 12:25 Discussion  
12:25 – 12:40. Is any change in EU & WHO ILI Case Definitions Justified? *(a review of data from Spain two years on from Sofia)* *(Amparo Larrauri)*  
12:40 – 13:00 Discussion |
| 11:00 – 13:00 | **2b. Virology** *(Chair Sylvie van der Werf)* *(Room: POLONIA II +III)*  
11:00 – 11:20 Overview of the activities of the laboratory network and forward look *(WHO CC, CNRL, ECDC, WHO EURO)*  
11:20 – 11:30 2008 and 2010 EQA comparative analysis *(Catherine Thompson)*  
11:30 – 11:40 EQAP review *(Dmitriy Pereyaslov)*  
11:40 – 11:50 Lab cap database *(Flaviu Plata)*  
11:50 – 12:00 Division to 2 discussion groups and definition of objectives of the groups *(Sylvie van der Werf)*  
12:00 – 13:00 **Discussion Session 2b-1. Chair C.Brown** *(Room: POLONIA II)*  
Status of the laboratory network and forward look *(laboratory network, WHO CC, CNRL, ECDC, WHO EURO)*  
12:00 – 13:00 **Discussion Session 2b-2. Chair E.Broberg** *(Room: POLONIA III)*  
Status of the laboratory network and forward look *(laboratory network, WHO CC, CNRL, ECDC, WHO EURO)* |
### 13:00 – 14:00
- **Lunch**

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### 14:00 – 15:00
- **Plenary Session – Serology** *(Chair Thedi Ziegler)*
  (Room: POLONIA II+III)
  - 14:00 – 14:30 Serology and seroepidemiology, report from December and May *(John Wood and Maria Van Kerkhove)*
  - 14:30 – 14:40 Serology in Poland *(Lidia Brydak)*
  - 14:40 – 15:00 Discussion

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### 15:00 - 15:30
- **Coffee break**

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### 15:30 – 18:30
- **Plenary Session – Immunisation** *(Chair Angus Nicoll)*
  (Room: POLONIA II+III)
  - 15:30 – 15:50 Vaccine coverage/policies in the participating countries *(Darina O’Flanagan)*
  - 15:50 – 16:00 Discussion
  - 16:00 – 16:30 SAGE recommendations *(Caroline Brown)*
  - 16:30 – 17:00 Effectiveness monitoring 2011-2012, report from I-Move meeting and further work to be done *(I-MOVE Esther Kissling)*
  - 17:00 – 17:20 Discussion
  - 17:20 – 17:30 Introduction to the WGs

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### 19:00 Dinner

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### Thursday, 31 May

#### 5. 09:00 – 10:45
- **Working groups**

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#### 5a.
- **Severe disease surveillance** *(Chair Joan O’Donnell)*
  (Room: POLONIA II+III)
  - A proposal for severe disease surveillance *(Julien Beauté)*
  - Country experiences with severe disease surveillance and future plans *(Amparo Larrauri, N.Bodington and Odette Nicolae)*

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#### 5b.
- **Virus characterisation** *(Chair Brunhilde Schweiger)*
  (Room: POLONIA I)
  - A. Performance of virus isolation during 2011-2012
    - (1) Susceptibility of red blood cells *(Martina Havlickova)*
    - (2) Virus isolation efficacy *(Thedi Ziegler)*
  - B. Antigenic characterisation matters during 2011-2012
    - (1) The national reference centre perspective *(Brunhilde Schweiger)*
    - (2) The WHO-CC perspective *(John McCauley)*
  - C. Influenza virus serology
    - (1) Comparison of microneutralization protocols – detection of antibodies against A(H1N1)pdm09 *(Sylvie van der Werf)*
    - (2) Anti-A(H3N2)-antibodies analysed by HI and MN during 2011-2012 *(Martina Havlickova)*
| 5c. | **Molecular diagnosis & sequencing** *(Chair Olav Hungnes)*  
(Room: Kossak)  
A. Tools & strategies for discovering unusual influenza viruses, e.g. H3N2v.  
B. Prospects for multiplexing  
C. Molecular standards & controls - status, objectives, actions  
D. Status of European influenza sequence sharing  
E. Reference sequence sharing outside GISAID - needs, actions? |

| 5d. | **Antiviral susceptibility** *(Chair Adam Meijer)*  
(Room: Lato)  
A. Antiviral reporting 2011-2012; data quality, completeness, overview season *(Adam Meijer)*  
B. Antiviral susceptibility testing guidance; dissemination plan *(Francisco Pozo Sánchez)*  
C. Changes to AV metadataset; Addition of interpretation variables *(Adam Meijer)*  
D. AVR analysis tools in TESSy; Progress, use, and further development *(Daniel Faensen)*  
E. Use of reference virus panel; Availability, composition, back reporting *(Angie Lackenby)*  
F. Antiviral EQA requirements; next panel composition (with 5e) *(Thanos Kossyvakis)* |

| 5e. | **Quality & training** *(Chair Catherine Thompson)*  
(Room: Wiosna I+II)  
A. Introduction, aims and format of session (CT) (5 mins)  
B. EQA certificate of participation (CT) (5 mins presentation plus 10 mins discussion)  
C. European national EQA providers (CT) (5 mins presentation plus 10 mins discussion)  
D. Open discussion to develop long-term EQA and training plan & coordinated capacity building needs *(WHO EURO, ECDC, CNRL)* (CT/EB – group discussions)  
   a. EQA problem solving (30 mins group discussion)  
   b. Feedback on EQA problem solving and key questions of EQA and training (ALL) (20 mins)  
E. Antiviral EQA requirements (with TG3) (20 mins) |

10:45 – 11:15 **Coffee break**

| 6a. | **Mortality estimation** *(Chair Richard Pebody)*  
(Room: POLONIA II+III)  
11:15-11:25 Influenza-associated mortality estimation in Croatia *(Jens Nielsen)*  
11:35-11:45 The Global Pandemic Mortality Burden project *(GLaMOR)* *(John Paget)*  
11:45-12:05 Estimating and reporting influenza mortality in Europe: Proposal from a post-Slovenia paper *(Richard Pebody)*  
12:05-13:00 Discussion |

| 6b. | **Finalisation of 2012-2013 metadata changes; virology plenary** *(Chair Maria Zambon)*  
(Room: POLONIA I)  
11:15-11:35 Characterisation reporting by week of specimen collection starting next season and proposal for analysis plan and reports; agreement on metadata and analysis plan by network *(Olav Hungnes)*  
11:35 – 11:55 Discussion  
11:55 – 12:05 Antiviral reporting changes, agreement on metadata *(Adam Meijer)*  
12:05 – 12:15 Discussion  
12:15 – 12:30 Analysis plan for bulletins and required changes for online reports for 2012-2013 *(Katarina Prosenc)*  
12:30 – 13:00 Discussion |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | **Lunch** |
| 14:00 – 15:45 | **7a. Risk assessment, early season paper**  
(Room: POLONIA II+III)  
*(Chair Angus Nicoll)*  
Risk assessment season 2011-2012 |
| 15:45 – 16:15 | **Coffee break** |
| 16:15 – 17:05 | **Plenary Session ** *(Chairs Bruno Lina and Isabelle Bonmarin)*  
(Room: POLONIA II+III)  
16:15-16:25 Analysis of regional antiviral and clinical data *(Caroline Brown)*  
16:25 – 16:45 Summary of session 7b: Characterisation reporting, link with the clinical data; discussion with epidemiologists *(Eeva Broberg)*  
16:45 – 17:05 discussion |
| 17:05 – 18:00 | **Plenary Session –Clinical Aspects** *(Chair Piotr Kramarz)*  
(Room: POLONIA II+III)  
Keynote lecture: What Data and Analyses do Clinician’s Need? *(George Dimopoulos, European Respiratory Society)* |
| **Friday, 1 June** |
| 10. | **Preparation of WG slides**  
Max 5 slides, max 10 min talks; summarising the action points of WGs  
Copy slides to plenary computer latest by 08:55. |
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<td>The influenza year in review <em>(Sylvie Briand – WHO Geneva)</em>;</td>
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<td><strong>Plenary Session – Reporting from the WG</strong> <em>(Chair Gé Donker)</em></td>
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<td>Epidemic thresholds and case definition WG <em>(Silke Buda)</em></td>
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<td>Qualitative indicators <em>(Tomas Vega)</em></td>
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<td>Severe disease surveillance WG <em>(Angus Nicoll)</em></td>
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<td>Mortality estimation WG <em>(Rita Born)</em></td>
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<td>Risk assessment <em>(Richard Pepody)</em></td>
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<td>Discussion (15 minutes)</td>
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<td><strong>Report from the TG</strong> <em>(Chair Rod Daniels)</em></td>
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<td>11:45 – 11:55</td>
<td>Summary of session 2b, 2b-1, 2b-2 <em>(J.Ellis, N.Goddard &amp; D.Peryaslov)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Closing remarks and forward look</strong> <em>(Angus Nicoll and Caroline Brown)</em></td>
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**Sandwich lunch (To Go)**