

# **Influenza Virus Vaccine Strain Selection – 2025 Southern Hemisphere**

**Vaccines and Related Biological Products  
Advisory Committee (10/10/2024)**

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# Purpose of Today's VRBPAC Committee Discussion

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- Make recommendations for the strains of influenza A (H1N1 and H3N2) and B viruses to be included in the 2025 Southern Hemisphere formulation of influenza vaccine licensed in the United States
  - Since 2016, two U.S. vaccine manufacturers have been approved to produce Southern Hemisphere formulations of their influenza vaccine (Sanofi Fluzone and Seqirus Afluria)
  - Both vaccines are quadrivalent and produced in eggs
  - Strain recommendation and supplement approval for SH formulations follow the Northern Hemisphere process using the most recent WHO recommendations as a guide

# Most Recent Recommendations for Northern Hemisphere Influenza Vaccines - 2024-2025



- February 23, 2024 – WHO recommendations
- March 5, 2024 – VRBPAC recommended only trivalent formulations for 2024-2025 influenza virus vaccines in the U.S. with the following strain compositions:
  - Influenza A (H1N1)
    - an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus (Egg-based Vaccines)
    - an A/Wisconsin/67/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus (Cell- or Recombinant-based Vaccines)
  - Influenza A (H3N2)
    - an A/Thailand/8/2022 (H3N2)-like virus (Egg-based Vaccines)
    - an A/Massachusetts/18/2022 (H3N2)-like virus (Cell- or Recombinant-based Vaccines)
  - Influenza B
    - a B/Austria/1359417/2021-like virus (B/Victoria lineage)
- Because QIV is still distributed in other parts of the world, VRBPAC recommended inclusion of a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus as the 2<sup>nd</sup> influenza B strain in the vaccine for U.S. licensed quadrivalent influenza vaccines intended for ex-U.S. distribution

# WHO Recommendations for Southern Hemisphere Influenza Vaccines - 2025

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- WHO recommendation – 9/27/2024
- Recommended that trivalent egg-based vaccines for use in the southern hemisphere influenza season contain:
  - An A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
  - An A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (H3N2)-like virus; and
  - A B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus
- “The recommendation for the B/Yamagata lineage component of quadrivalent influenza vaccines remains unchanged from previous recommendations:”
  - A B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus

# Voting Question for the Committee

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1. For the composition of egg-based trivalent 2025 SH formulations of influenza vaccines, does the committee recommend:
  - Inclusion of an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
  - Inclusion of an A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (H3N2)-like virus; and
  - Inclusion of a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus
  
2. For quadrivalent 2025 SH formulations of influenza vaccines, does the committee recommend:
  - Inclusion of a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus as the 2<sup>nd</sup> influenza B strain in the vaccine



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