

# Influenza Virus Vaccine Strain Selection – 2026 Southern Hemisphere Formula

Vaccines and Related Biological Products

Advisory Committee

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*Jerry P Weir, PhD, Director  
Division of Viral Products/OVRR/CBER/FDA*

# 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 2026 Southern Hemisphere (SH) formula of influenza vaccines 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 produced in eggs
  - Strain recommendation and supplement approval for SH formulations follow the Northern Hemisphere process using multiple types and sources of data, including recent influenza surveillance and epidemiology data, genetic and antigenic characteristics of recent virus isolates, serological responses to current vaccines, and the availability of candidate vaccine strains and reagents

# Most Recent Recommendations for Northern Hemisphere Influenza Vaccines - 2025-2026



- March 13, 2025 – FDA recommended only trivalent formulations for 2025-2026 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/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (H3N2)-like virus (Egg-based Vaccines)
    - An A/District of Columbia/27/2023 (H3N2)-like virus (Cell- or Recombinant-based Vaccines)
  - Influenza B
    - A B/Austria/1359417/2021-like virus (B/Victoria lineage)

# Most Recent Global Recommendations for Southern Hemisphere Influenza Vaccines - 2026



- WHO recommendation – 9/26/2025
- Recommended that trivalent egg-based vaccines for use in the southern hemisphere influenza season contain:
  - An A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
  - An A/Singapore/GP20238/2024 (H3N2)-like virus; and
  - A B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus

# Voting Question for the Committee

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1. For the composition of egg-based trivalent 2026 SH formulations of influenza vaccines, does the committee recommend:
  - An A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
  - An A/Singapore/GP20238/2024 (H3N2)-like virus; and
  - A B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus



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