

**Influenza Virus Vaccine  
Strain Selection  
2026-2027 Influenza Season in the U.S**

**Vaccines and Related Biological Products  
Advisory Committee (03/12/2026)**

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# Purpose of Today's VRBPAC Discussion

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- Discuss and make recommendations on the virus strain composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the United States during the 2026-2027 influenza season
  - The influenza virus hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA) glycoproteins undergo continuous antigenic drift
  - Vaccine effectiveness is greatly reduced when there is a poor match between vaccine antigens and the HA and NA of circulating viruses; the influenza vaccine antigen composition must be regularly updated to better match circulating virus strains
  - Strain composition recommendations take into consideration multiple types of data, including recent virus surveillance and epidemiology data, genetic and antigenic characteristics of recent virus isolates, serological responses and vaccine effectiveness estimates to current vaccines, and the availability of candidate vaccine viruses and reagents
  - National regulatory authorities have the responsibility to approve the composition and formulations of influenza vaccines for their country

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

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- 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 Recommendations for Southern Hemisphere Influenza Vaccines - 2026

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- FDA/VRBPAC recommendation – October 9, 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

# Agenda Outline

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- Introduction
- U.S. Influenza Virus Surveillance
- Global Influenza Virus Surveillance and Characterization
- DoD Influenza Virus Surveillance and Mid-Season Vaccine Effectiveness
- Candidate Vaccine Strains & Potency Reagents
- Comments from Manufacturers' Representative
- Committee Discussion and Voting

# Voting Questions for the Committee

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1. Does the committee recommend a 2026-2027 formulation for egg-based influenza virus vaccines in the U.S. that contain the following virus strains:
  - An A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
  - An A/Darwin/1454/2025 (H3N2)-like virus; and
  - A B/Tokyo/EIS13-175/2025 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus
  
2. Does the committee recommend a 2026-2027 formulation for cell- and recombinant-based influenza vaccines in the U.S. that contain the following virus strains:
  - An A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
  - An A/Darwin/1415/2025 (H3N2)-like virus; and
  - A B/Pennsylvania/14/2025 (B/Victoria lineage)



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