

WHO Meeting to Review Progress in Phase-2 of the RSV Surveillance based on the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System

28 – 30 April 2020

Amman, Jordan

1. Background

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a leading cause of hospitalization due to acute lower respiratory infections in infants and young children. RSV surveillance will provide the evidence-base to guide the development of vaccine and monoclonal antibodies and inform immunization policy and practice when they are available. A three-year pilot project (2016-18) successfully tested the feasibility of implementing RSV surveillance based on the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) in 14 countries across all six WHO regions. Based on the learnings, the RSV surveillance strategy was revised and launched in April 2019 in an additional eleven low and middle-income countries. The RSV surveillance is in alignment with and contributes to WHO's General Program of Work (GPW-13) towards prevention strategies for priority pandemic / epidemic-prone diseases (output 2.2.2).

The proposed meeting will bring together all participating countries, international experts and other stakeholders to review the progress of implementation, early experiences and findings in the second phase (2019-21) of the RSV surveillance.

2. Scope and Objectives

The overall aim of this meeting is to review the interim progress, early outcomes and develop actions for the smooth implementation of the second phase of the global RSV surveillance, with specific objectives to:

- review the operational plans for RSV surveillance in all participating countries and the progress and challenges in implementation;
- review the epidemiological and laboratory standards for RSV surveillance;
- review the performance of participating laboratories in WHO's external quality assurance program for RSV;
- discuss the strategy for RSV sequencing and related issues;
- review and discuss reporting from participating countries and outputs of analysis;
- review the approach for estimating hospitalization burden of RSV from surveillance data; and
- review the workplan and roadmap for phase-2 of RSV surveillance.

3. Expected outcome

- Amended standards for epidemiological and virologic surveillance for RSV
- Performance review of the EQAP for RSV detection and sub-typing and corresponding problem-shooting actions identified

- Strategy for sequencing under the RSV surveillance project
- Review of approaches to estimate RSV-associated hospitalization burden
- 2020-21 Workplan for of RSV surveillance

4. Outline of the agenda

- Updates of recent development on RSV epidemiology, virology, and other development relevant to RSV surveillance
- Review and discussion of the progress in implementation, early experiences and findings from phase-2
- Review and discussion of the external quality assurance program for detection and subtyping of RSV
- Discussion of the strategy for genome sequencing of RSV
- Review and discussion of early experiences with estimation of RSV-associated hospitalization
- Discussion of workplan for 2020-21

5. Participants

- Laboratory and epidemiological surveillance focal points from countries participating in the RSV surveillance
- RSV Reference Laboratory representatives
- International RSV experts
- Global, regional partners and other interested entities