

**Meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization**
**9-12 March 2026**
**Hybrid Meeting  
WHO HQ (Geneva)**

<b>Day 1: Monday, 9 March 2026 (time is Central European Time (CET))</b>			
<b>Time CET</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE</b>	<b>Duration</b>
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Closed SAGE meeting</b>	Preparation of the sessions of the day.	<b>1h 45 min.</b>
<b>10:45</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>15 min.</b>
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Opening</b> Dr Tedros. Director General. WHO (TBC) <b>Welcome – introduction of participants</b> K. O'Brien. Director IVB, WHO. 5 min. A. Scott. SAGE Chair. 5 min. A. Wilder-Smith. SAGE Secretariat. WHO. 5 min.		<b>15 min.</b>
<b>11:15</b>	<b>Global and regional reports – Session 1</b> Report from the Director of IVB, K. O'Brien. WHO. 20 min. Update from Gavi, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. 10 min. Discussion. 40 min.	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>	<b>1h 15 min.</b>
<b>12:30</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>1h</b>
<b>13:30</b>	<b>Global and regional reports – Session 1 continued: Regional reports</b> Presentations from AFRO, EMRO, EURO. 10 min. each. Discussion. 10 min. Presentations from PAHO, WPRO, SEARO. 10 min. each. Discussion. 30 min.	<b>FOR DISCUSSION</b> Each Regional report focuses on one theme of particular importance for the Region	<b>2h</b>
<b>15:30</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>15 min.</b>
<b>15:45</b>	<b>From midterm IA2030 review to Future of Immunization – Session 2</b> Introduction. B. Millinchip, WHO. 5 min. IA2030 reform – the role of SAGE. B. Millinchip, WHO. 10 min. Discussion. 20 min. Future of Immunization Policy Making – TBC. 15 min. Discussion. 35 min.	<b>FOR DISCUSSION</b>	<b>1h 30 min.</b>

Conclusions and next steps. B. Millinchip, WHO. 10 min.

**17:15 End of day 1**

**Day 2: Tuesday, 10 March 2026**

<b>Time CET</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE</b>	<b>Duration</b>
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Closed SAGE meeting</b>	Development of recommendations of day 1. Preparation of the sessions of the day. Other important discussion items.	<b>1h 45 min.</b>
<b>10:45</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>15 min.</b>
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Vaccine Portfolio Optimisation and Prioritisation (VPOP) – Session 3</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>2h</b>
<b>13:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>1h</b>
<b>14:00</b>	<b>Typhoid – Session 4</b>  Opening, framing, and key policy questions. S. Omer, SAGE WG Chair. 15 min.  Global epidemiology of typhoid fever. J. Crump, University of Otago. 25 min.  Discussion. 10 min.  TCV data - duration of protection and booster dose evidence. TBC. 35 min.  Discussion. 20 min.	<b>FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>(3h 45 min. total)</b>  <b>1h 45 min.</b>
<b>15:45</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>15 min.</b>
<b>16:00</b>	<b>Typhoid – Session 4 continued</b>  Multi-model comparison of long-term TCV impact and booster scenarios. V. Pitzer, Yale School of Public Health. 40 min.  Discussion. 20 min.  SAGE deliberation and policy discussion. S. Omer, SAGE WG Chair. 55 min.  Wrap-up, conclusions, and next steps. 5 min.	<b>FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>2h</b>
<b>18:00</b>	<b>End of day 2</b>		

<b>Day 3: Wednesday, 11 March 2026</b>			
<b>Time CET</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE</b>	<b>Duration</b>
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Closed SAGE meeting</b>	Development of recommendations of day 2. Preparation of the sessions of the day. Other important discussion items.	<b>2h</b>
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>15 min.</b>
<b>11:15</b>	<b>COVID-19– Session 5</b>	<b>FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>(4h 30 min. total)</b>
	Opening remarks. S. Kochhar, Chair SAGE COVID-19 Working Group. 5 min.		<b>1h 45 min.</b>
	Global COVID-19 epidemiological update. A. Acma, WHO. 15 min.		
	Overview of COVID-19 vaccine safety and GRADEing. J. Scott, Stanford University School of Medicine. XX, MMGH. 15 min.		
	COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness and GRADEing. M. Higdon/M. Deloria Knoll, IVAC, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. M. Marti, WHO. C. Payne, Robert Koch Institute. 20 min.		
	Cost-effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination. A. Tuite, Public Health Agency of Canada. 10 min.		
	Discussion. 40 min.		
<b>13:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>1h</b>
<b>14:00</b>	<b>COVID-19– Session 5 continued</b>	<b>FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>1h 45min.</b>
	Discussion of proposed recommendations based on Evidence to Recommendation (EtR) tables by population group. S. Kochhar, Chair SAGE COVID-19 Working Group; A. Vilajeliu, WHO.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Older adults. 25 min.</li> <li>People with comorbidities. 25 min.</li> <li>Health and care workers. 30 min.</li> <li>Healthy adults and children. 25 min.</li> </ul>		
<b>15:45</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>15 min.</b>
<b>16:00</b>	<b>COVID-19– Session 5 continued</b>	<b>FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>60 min.</b>
	Pregnancy and infant burden in the Omicron era. E. R. Smith/Jamie Minchin Reedy, Milken Institute School of Public Health, The George Washington University. 15 min.		
	COVID-19 vaccine safety in pregnancy and infants. M. Berrueta/A. Ciapponi, IECS and GRADEing. 15 min.		
	COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness and GRADEing. M. Higdon/M. Deloria Knoll, IVAC, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.		
	Discussion of proposed recommendations for pregnant women based on EtR table. S. Kochhar, Chair SAGE COVID-19 Working Group; A. Vilajeliu, WHO. 20 min.		

**17:00 End of the plenary meeting Day 3**
**Day 4: Thursday, 12 March 2026**

Time CET	Session	Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE	Duration
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Closed SAGE meeting</b>	Development of recommendations of day 3. Preparation of the sessions of the day. Other important discussion items.	<b>1h 45 min.</b>
<b>10:45</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>15 min.</b>
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Polio - Session 6</b>	<b>FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>2h</b>
	Session overview by Z. Memish, SAGE member, 5 min.	SAGE will be informed on the current status of the polio eradication program and on the implementation of the new polio action plan.	
	Update from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) including brief on GPEI governance. J. Ahmed, WHO, 15 min.	SAGE will be informed about current status of bOPV Cessation planning; and about development of novel OPV1 and 3	
	Questions: 15 min.	SAGE will be asked to review and consider for endorsement:	
	Update on bOPV Cessation Planning, O. MACH; 5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision of recommendation on duration of IPV use in routine immunization after withdrawal of OPV</li> <li>Recommendation on number of bOPV doses in routine immunization when <math>\geq 3</math> IPV doses are included</li> </ul>	
	Reflections on duration of IPV use after bOPV withdrawal; R. Lopez, WHO, 10 min.	Update on use of nOPV2 outside of strict outbreak response	
	Presentation of data on number of bOPV doses needed in routine immunization; O. Mach, WHO & A. Bandyopadhyay, 10 min.		
	Update on use of nOPV2 outside strict outbreak response A. Bandyopadhyay, Gates Foundation. 10 min.		
	Questions: 10 min.		
	Report from the SAGE Polio Working Group including update on nOPV development and proposed recommendations. S. Madhi, SAGE Member; 10 min.		
	Discussion: 30 min.		
<b>13:00</b>	<b>Closing</b>		
<b>13:10</b>	<b>End of the plenary meeting Day 4</b>		
<b>13:10</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>50 min.</b>
<b>14:00</b>	<b>Closed SAGE meeting</b>	Development of recommendations of the day 4 morning session.	<b>1h</b>
<b>15:00</b>	<b>Closed SAGE members only meeting</b>	<b>Both meetings are in parallel</b>	<b>1h</b>
	<b>Closed meeting (RITAG Chairs, Regional advisors and SAGE secretariat)</b>		
<b>16:00</b>	<b>Closing (SAGE members and SAGE secretariat)</b>		<b>30 min.</b>
<b>16:30</b>	<b>End of the SAGE meeting</b>		