

Meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization

9-12 March 2026

**Hybrid Meeting
WHO HQ (Geneva)**

Day 1: Monday, 9 March 2026 (time is Central European Time (CET))

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

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

17:15 End of day 1

Day 2: Tuesday, 10 March 2026			
Time CET	Session	Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE	Duration
9:00	Closed SAGE meeting	Development of recommendations of day 1. Preparation of the sessions of the day. Other important discussion items.	1h 45 min.
10:45	Break	Break	15 min.
11:00	Vaccine Portfolio Optimisation and Prioritisation (VPOP) – Session 3	FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION	2h
13:00	Lunch Break	Break	1h
14:00	Typhoid – Session 4	FOR RECOMMENDATION 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.	(3h 45 min. total) 1h 45 min.
15:45	Break	Break	15 min.
16:00	Typhoid – Session 4 continued	FOR RECOMMENDATION 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.	2h
18:00	End of day 2		

Day 3: Wednesday, 11 March 2026

Time CET	Session	Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE	Duration
9:00	Closed SAGE meeting	Development of recommendations of day 2. Preparation of the sessions of the day. Other important discussion items.	2h
11:00	Break	Break	15 min.
11:15	COVID-19– Session 5	FOR RECOMMENDATION	(4h 30 min. total)
	Opening remarks. S. Kochhar, Chair SAGE COVID-19 Working Group. 5 min.		1h 45 min.
	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.		
13:00	Lunch Break	Break	1h
14:00	COVID-19– Session 5 continued	FOR RECOMMENDATION	1h 45min.
	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"> • Older adults. 25 min. • People with comorbidities. 25 min. • Health and care workers. 30 min. • Healthy adults and children. 25 min. 		
15:45	Break	Break	15 min.
16:00	COVID-19– Session 5 continued	FOR RECOMMENDATION	60 min.
	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	Session	Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE	Duration
9:00	Closed SAGE meeting	Development of recommendations of day 3. Preparation of the sessions of the day. Other important discussion items.	1h 45 min.
10:45	Break	Break	15 min.
11:00	Polio - Session 6	FOR RECOMMENDATION Session overview by Z. Memish, SAGE member, 5 min. Update from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) including brief on GPEI governance. J. Ahmed, WHO, 15 min. Questions: 15 min. Update on bOPV Cessation Planning, O. MACH; 5 min. Reflections on duration of IPV use after bOPV withdrawal; R. Lopez, WHO, 10 min. 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.	2h
13:00	Closing		
13:10	End of the plenary meeting Day 4		
13:10	Break	Break	50 min.
14:00	Closed SAGE meeting	Development of recommendations of the day 4 morning session.	1h
15:00	Closed SAGE members only meeting	Closed meeting (RITAG Chairs, Regional advisors and SAGE secretariat)	1h
16:00	Closing (SAGE members and SAGE secretariat)		30 min.
16:30	End of the SAGE meeting		