Influenza A(H3N2) cell culture-derived candidate vaccine viruses[1] or recombinant vaccine antigen(s) for development and production of vaccines for use in the 2026-2027 northern hemisphere influenza season

Human influenza virus isolation using a certified cell line (e.g. MDCK 33016 PF[a], NIID-MDCK[b]) has been performed by WHO Collaborating Centres (CCs) of the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS). The WHO CCs also perform antigenic and genetic analysis on the cell cultured Candidate Vaccine Viruses (ccCVVs). Unless otherwise specified, these ccCVVs have passed two-way haemagglutination inhibition (HI) or virus neutralization (VN) tests against the cell culture propagated prototype viruses matching the WHO recommendation[2]. **No other testing (including adventitious agents) has been performed** on these ccCVVs by the WHO CCs. National or regional control authorities generally approve the manufacture, composition and formulation of influenza vaccines used in each country[3]. Manufacturers should consult relevant national or regional control authorities regarding the suitability of using these ccCVVs for influenza vaccine production.

[a] Derived from MDCK cell line approved for use for human vaccine manufacture in compliance with Ph. Eur. general chapter 5.2.3 by Novartis/Seqirus

[b] Derived from MDCK cell line developed by the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID), Japan

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Cell culture-based candidate vaccine viruses (ccCVVs) antigenically like A/Darwin/1415/2025 (MDCK SIAT cell-derived) - Accession number (GISAID): EPI_ISL_20237761

ccCVV	Candidate Vaccine Virus	Type of virus or reassortant	Certified cell line used for isolation and propagation	Developing institute	Passage level available	Available from
A/Tasmania/787/2025	Wild type virus			VIDRL	P2	VIDRL, Australia
	CVR-388	Classical	QMC	Seqirus	P8	
A/Darwin/1415/2025	Wild type virus			VIDRL	P2	VIDRL, Australia
	CVR- 400	Classical	QMC	Seqirus	P8	

For recombinant protein- or nucleic acid-based vaccines, it is recommended that the protein sequence(s) closely matches the sequence of A/Darwin/1415/2025 (MDCK SIAT cell-derived).

Institutes contact details for candidate vaccine viruses orders/information:

VIDRL: enquiries@influenzacentre.org

[1] For egg-derived candidate vaccine viruses and reference reagents please see https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/vaccines/who-recommendations/candidate-vaccine-viruses/

[2] https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/vaccines/who-recommendations

[3] https://www.who.int/initiatives/who-listed-authority-reg-authorities

Reference antigens (freeze-dried) – to be updated

Parent virus	Starting materials		Ref Ag Lot number	Unitage (µg HA/ml)	Available from
	Candidate vaccine virus	egg or cell			

Sheep Antisera – to be updated

Purified HA from		Order Lot number	Available from
Parent virus	Egg or cell		

WHO Essential Regulatory Laboratories (ERLs) contact details for reagent orders and other information:

MHRA: standards@mhra.gov.uk or enquiries@mhra.gov.uk
NIID: flu-vaccine@nih.go.jp
TGA: influenza.reagents@tga.gov.au

For reagents available from **CBER**, email CBERShippingRequests@fda.hhs.gov.

For information of other type and subtype candidate vaccine viruses and potency testing reagents, please go to: (https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/vaccines/who-recommendations/candidate-vaccine-viruses).

For general enquiries, please contact gisrs-whohq@who.int