

Influenza B Victoria lineage cell culture-derived¹ candidate vaccine viruses for development and production of vaccines for use in the 2020-2021 northern hemisphere influenza season

Human influenza virus isolation using a certified cell line (eg 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) as indicated. Unless otherwise noted these ccCVVs have passed two-way haemagglutination inhibition (HI) tests against the cell culture propagated prototype viruses matching the WHO recommendation². **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 country³. Manufacturers should consult appropriate national or regional control authorities regarding the suitability of 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

28 February 2020

Cell culture-based candidate vaccine viruses (ccCVVs), antigenically like B/Washington/02/2019 (MDCK) virus)

ccCVV	Certified cell line used for isolation and propagation	Developing institute	Passage level available	Available from
B/Darwin/7/2019	MDCK 33016PF	VIDRL, Australia	P2	VIDRL, Australia

Institutes contact details for candidate vaccine viruses orders/information:

VIDRL: whoflu@influenzacentre.org

The list of all WHO Collaborating Centres (CCs) and WHO Essential Regulatory Laboratories (ERLs) for influenza can be found on the WHO web site at

http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/collaborating_centres/

ERLs contact details for reagents orders/information:

NIBSC: standards@nibsc.org or enquiries@nibsc.org

NIID: flu-vaccine@nih.go.jp

TGA: influenza.reagents@health.gov.au

For other candidate vaccine viruses and potency testing reagents, please go to

http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/candidates_reagents/home/en/

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

¹ For egg-derived candidate vaccine viruses and reference reagents please see

https://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/candidates_reagents/home/en/

² https://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2020-21_north/en/

³ http://www.who.int/immunization_standards/national_regulatory_authorities/offices/en/