

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

22-25 September 2025

Joint meeting of SAGE and the Malaria Policy Advisory Group (MPAG)

24 September 2025

**Hybrid Meeting
WHO HQ (Geneva)**

Day 1: Monday, 22 September 2025 (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 and welcome – introduction of participants K. O'BRIEN. Director IVB, WHO. 5 min. H. NOHYNEK. SAGE Chair. 5 min. J. HOMBACH. 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, A. VERMEERSCH. Chief Vaccine Programmes and Markets Officer, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. 10 min. Discussion. 40 min.	FOR INFORMATION	1h 10 min.
12:25	Lunch Break	Break	1h
13:25	Global and regional reports – Session 1 Continue: Regional reports Presentations from AFRO, EMRO, EURO. 10 min. each. Discussion. 25 min. Presentations from PAHO, WPRO, SEARO. 10 min. each. Discussion. 25 min.	FOR DISCUSSION Each Regional report focuses on one theme of particular importance for the Region	1h 50 min. (3h 15 min. in total)
15:15	Break	Break	15 min.
15:30	Global and regional reports - Session 1 continued Update on changing landscape	FOR DISCUSSION	30 min.

	16:00 IA2030 Mid-term Review – Session 2 Opening. H. NOHYNEK. SAGE Chair. 10 min. IA2030 Mid-Term Review: Presentation of Findings and Recommendations. E. LEMANGO. UNICEF. 45 min. Discussion. 65 min. FOR DISCUSSION 2h SAGE to receive a briefing on the key findings of the IA2030 Mid-Term Review (MTR) report and to facilitate an in-depth discussion on the proposed recommendations and actions aimed at enhancing IA2030’s effectiveness during the second half of the strategy. This session is a critical step in preparing for the formal presentation of the MTR at the World Health Assembly (WHA) in 2026.
18:00 End of day 1	

Day 2: Tuesday, 23 September 2025			
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	Covid-19 – Session 3 Introduction. S. KOCHHAR, SAGE member. 5 min. Current burden of disease by risk group. A. ACMA, WHO. 15 min. Prequalified vaccines, vaccine uptake and access by WHO Region and risk group. E. PLUUT and G. STATHOPOULOS, WHO. 15 min. Vaccine effectiveness by risk group. D. FEIKIN, WHO. 20 min. Vaccine safety by risk group. E. KIM, WHO. 20 min. Way forward. A. WILDER-SMITH, WHO. 5 min. Discussion. 40 min.	FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION The purpose of this session is to update on the current epidemiology of COVID-19 by priority-use groups, vaccine effectiveness and vaccine safety, and discuss next steps towards the development of a position paper.	2h
13:00	Lunch Break	Break	1h
14:00	TB – Session 4 Introduction. S. KOCHHAR, SAGE member. 5 min Overview of the activities under the TB Vaccine Accelerator Council. B. GIERING, WHO. 10 min. Overview of the TB vaccine pipeline, timelines and key assumptions. W. HANEKOM, Africa Health Research Institute and special advisor to the TB Vaccine Accelerator. 10 min. Presentation from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the key learnings from the technical consultations with developers. G. CHURCHYARD, co-chair of the TAG on Evidence for Clinical and Policy Considerations for New TB Vaccines. 20 min. Roadmap for including asymptomatic TB as an efficacy endpoint. S. DEN BOON, WHO. 10 min. SAGE discussion. 65 min.	FOR DISCUSSION The purpose of the session is to update SAGE on the activities taking place under the TB Vaccine Accelerator Council, to provide an overview of the TB vaccine pipeline, to discuss the potential risk of product development strategies and feasibility of a global policy recommendation for the most advanced candidates for global access, and to seek for advice on the proposed steps to evaluate asymptomatic TB as a potential efficacy endpoint.	2h
16:00	Break	Break	15 min.
16:15	Combination Vaccines– Session 5 Introduction. M. HASSO-AGOPSOWICZ, WHO. 5 min The context and problem statement. W. HAUSDORFF, PATH. 10 min. Methodology, approach and early findings. A. HWANG, PATH. 15 min. Next phase. M. HASSO-AGOPSOWICZ, WHO. 10 min. Discussion. 50 min.	FOR DISCUSSION To obtain SAGE guidance on the analysis, prioritization and policy pathway for novel combination vaccines.	1h 30 min.
17:45	End of day 2		

Day 3: Wednesday, 24 September 2025

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.	1h 45 min.
10:45	Break	Break	15 min.
11:00	Polio– Session 6	FOR RECOMMENDATION	2h
	Session overview by S. MADHI, SAGE member. 5 min.	SAGE will be informed on the current status of the polio eradication program and on the development of the new polio action plan.	
	Update from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. 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 presented with a consolidated table of IPV related recommendations	
	Update on bOPV Cessation Planning, O. MACH, WHO. 5 min.	SAGE will be asked to review and consider for recommendation:	
	(I) Fractional Sabin IPV – new data and programmatic importance; (II) guidance for countries introducing wP-Hexa in routine immunization programmes regarding bOPV. O. MACH, WHO. 10 min.	• Recommendation on use of fractional Sabin IPV (fIPV) • Guidance for countries introducing wP-Hexa in RIs regarding bOPV • Recommendation on use of nOPV2 outside of strict outbreak response campaigns	
	Options for nOPV2 use outside of strict outbreak response. A. BANDYOPADHYAY, Gates Foundation. 15 min.		
	Questions. 15 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.		
13:00	Lunch Break	Break	1h
14:00	Malaria-Session 7 (joint session of SAGE and MPAG)	FOR RECOMMENDATION	1h 40 min.
	Opening of joint session and overview. H. NOHYNEK. SAGE chair, and D. WIRTH. MPAG chair. 5 min.	The purpose of this joint session is to present SAGE and MPAG with the latest evidence on effectiveness, safety, impact and programmatic considerations of a 3-dose compared to the currently recommended 4-dose malaria vaccination schedule in perennial (year-round) malaria transmission settings. The SAGE and MPAG are asked to review the Working Group recommendations and address the following questions:	(2h 40 min in total)
	Introduction and rationale. M. HAMEL. WHO. 10 min.		
	RTS,S/AS01 MVIP case-control study: vaccine effectiveness of 3 and 4 doses against severe malaria; and safety-related outcomes. A. FOGELSON, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. 20 min.		
	Discussion. 15 min.		
	Modelled public health impact and cost-effectiveness of a 3-dose versus 4-dose RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine schedule. L. OKELL, Imperial College London, and A. SHATTOCK, The Kids Research Institute Australia. 15 min.	1. Is a 3-dose schedule of malaria vaccine safe and effective?	
	Discussion. 15 min.	2. Should a 3-dose malaria vaccine schedule be considered as an alternative option to a 4-dose schedule in some context?	
	Programmatic considerations of a 3-dose versus 4-dose malaria vaccine schedule. R. JALANG'O, Kenya Ministry of Health. 10 min.		
	Discussion. 10 min.		
15:40	Break	Break	15 min.
15:55	Malaria-Session 7 continued	FOR RECOMMENDATION	1h 5 min.

SAGE/MPAG Working Group on Malaria Vaccines conclusions and proposed recommendations. P. SMITH and E. MACETE. Chair and Co-Chair of SAGE/MPAG Working Group on Malaria Vaccines. 15 min. Discussion and finalization of recommendations. 45 min. Closing remarks. D. WIRTH. Chair of MPAG, and H. NOHYNEK, Chair of SAGE. 5 min.			
17:00	End of the plenary meeting Day 3		
17:00	Break	Break	15 min.
17:15	Closed SAGE/MPAG meeting		45 min.
18:00	End of day 3		

Day 4: Thursday, 25 September 2025			
Time CET	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	Influenza H5- Session 8 Epidemiological update, risk assessment, and characteristics of A(H5) human cases, M. VAN KERKHOVE, WHO. 15 min. Overview of landscape of human A(H5) vaccines. Licensed A(H5) vaccines S. GOLDIN, WHO. 10 min. Overview of landscape of human A(H5) vaccines, pipeline, new technologies and mRNA candidates. P. GSELL, WHO. 10 min. Summary of policy recommendations and use to date of A(H5) vaccines. A. VILAJELIU, WHO. 15 min. Conclusions and discussion. KOCHHAR. S. SAGE member. 70 min.	FOR RECOMMENDATION SAGE will be asked to advise on the use of human influenza A(H5) vaccines during the interpandemic and emergence periods. The session will include an epidemiological update, including key characteristics of reported human cases; an overview of the current landscape of human A(H5) vaccines; and a summary of existing national policy recommendations and lessons from use to date.	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)	<i>Both meetings are in parallel</i>	1h.
16:00	Closing (SAGE members and SAGE secretariat)		30 min.
16:30	End of the SAGE meeting		

