



Representation of the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) at Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework Meetings

In 2016 the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework underwent its first comprehensive review which examined, among other matters, how the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) was represented at PIP Framework meetings¹. On this specific issue, in its final report, the 2016 PIP Framework Review Group (“Review Group”) recommended that *“the Director-General should address the issue of the lack of a formalized representation for the GISRS network, and encourage the WHO Global Influenza Programme and GISRS to establish such representation as soon as possible”*².

In May 2017, the report of the Review Group was considered by the Seventieth World Health Assembly, which decided *“to commend the useful recommendations of the 2016 PIP Framework Review Group”* and requested the Director-General *“to take forward expeditiously the recommendations of the PIP Framework Review Group’s report”*³, including the recommendation to establish a formalized representation of GISRS at PIP Framework meetings.

The following arrangements have been developed, in consultation with GISRS Members attending the WHO Meeting of National Influenza Centres that was held on 17-19 July 2017 in Geneva, and with WHO Collaborating Centres and Essential Regulatory Laboratories of GISRS attending the WHO Meeting on the Composition of Influenza Virus Vaccines for the Southern Hemisphere 2018 that was held on 25-29 September 2017 in Melbourne. The following arrangements also take into account comments received from GISRS Members during its electronic consultation from 4 – 18 September 2017.

1. Description of GISRS

- a. GISRS is the international network of influenza institutions, coordinated by the World Health Organization (“WHO”), that conducts year-round surveillance of influenza, assessing the risk of pandemic influenza and assisting in preparedness measures.

2. Membership of GISRS

- a. GISRS comprises institutions designated by Member States and recognised by WHO as National Influenza Centres, together with WHO Collaborating Centres on

¹ This review was required by Section 7.4.2 of the Framework. The review was conducted by a group of independent experts, appointed by the Director-General.

² Recommendation 31 contained in the Annex to document A70/17.

³ Decision WHA70(10), operative paragraphs 7 and 8(a).

Influenza, WHO H5 Reference Laboratories and Essential Regulatory Laboratories (“Members”).

- b. Institutions participate as GISRS Members in accordance with the applicable WHO Terms of Reference⁴.
- c. Continued membership in GISRS is contingent upon adherence to the Terms of Reference referred to in Section 2(b), as determined by WHO.

3. Representation of GISRS at PIP Framework meetings

- a. In the event that GISRS is invited to PIP Framework meetings, including meetings of the PIP Framework Advisory Group, GISRS will be represented as follows:
 - a) For each meeting, the WHO Global Influenza Programme, in consultation with the WHO Regional Offices, the WHO Collaborating Centres for Influenza and the WHO Essential Regulatory Laboratories, will select:
 - i. one WHO Collaborating Centre on Influenza; and
 - ii. one National Influenza Centre. However, a WHO H5 Reference Laboratory or an Essential Regulatory Laboratory or a second WHO Collaborating Centre on Influenza may be selected in the place of a National Influenza Centre when the meeting so warrants.
 - b) The WHO Global Influenza Programme, in consultation with the WHO Regional Offices, the WHO Collaborating Centres for Influenza and the WHO Essential Regulatory Laboratories, may select one or more additional GISRS Member(s) when the meeting so warrants.
- b. For the purpose of section 3(a), WHO will take into account the principles of scientific expertise, geographical rotation and the specific needs of the meeting or event.
- c. WHO will inform all GISRS Members of the GISRS Members selected in accordance with section 3(a). All GISRS Members will have the opportunity to provide input, if any, in advance of the meeting through an electronic communication platform hosted by WHO. At meetings at which they represent GISRS, GISRS Members will duly take into account such input.

⁴ Terms of Reference for WHO Collaborating Centres for Influenza (available at: http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/collaborating_centres/en/); Terms of Reference for National Influenza Centres (available at: http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/national_influenza_centres/en/); Terms of Reference for WHO H5 Reference Laboratories (available at: http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/h5_reflabs/en/); and the Terms of Reference related to work with pandemic influenza preparedness biological materials, contained in Annex 5 to the PIP Framework (available at: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/44796/1/9789241503082_eng.pdf). (All links last accessed 10 October 2017).

- d. GISRS Members representing GISRS will report in writing on their attendance at the meeting, insofar as such reporting is consistent with the rules and procedures applicable to such meetings, including any confidentiality requirements. Reports will be shared through the electronic communication platform referred to in section 3(c) as soon as possible after closure of each meeting .
- e. GISRS Members representing GISRS agree to comply with sections 3(c) and 3(d) of these arrangements.

4. Modifications and review

- a. WHO, in consultation with GISRS Members, will make modifications to the above arrangements as deemed necessary.
- b. These arrangements will be applied on a provisional basis for an initial period of 12 months from their date of effectiveness. Before this period has lapsed, WHO in consultation with GISRS Members will review these arrangements with a view to identifying possible areas for refinement and deciding on their continued application.

5. Date of effectiveness

- a. These arrangements will become applicable to GISRS Members upon their issuance by WHO on 10 October 2017.