



PAHO's TAG on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Holds Ad-hoc Virtual Meeting

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Location	Washington, DC
Dates	10 March 2017
Participants	PAHO TAG Members and PAHO Immunization Unit Secretariat
Purpose	1) Revise and discuss IPV supply constraint and recommendations for countries 2) Review yellow fever outbreak update in Brasil 3) Prepare for regional TAG scheduled for 12-14 July in Panama City, City

PAHO convened its regional Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) on 10 March. The ad-hoc virtual meeting was attended by the full TAG membership and members of the PAHO immunization secretariat. TAG members, under the leadership of Dr. Peter Figueroa (TAG chair), set out to review and discuss the implications and response to the global IPV supply constraint. The secretariat shared updates on the current supply available, different scenarios that the Region will face should the supply constraint continue and discussed the scientific basis for administration of fractional doses of IPV. As a secondary objective of the emergency ad-hoc meeting, the TAG reviewed the situation of yellow fever in Brasil and the regional and country response.

TAG emitted recommendations on the use of IPV and considerations around the ongoing outbreak of yellow fever in Brasil to guide Member States in the PAHO Region in their strategies at country-level. The full report will be available online shortly.



PAHO Immunization GIN Articles



(GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWSLETTER)

Vaccination Week in the Americas Celebrates 15 years

Alba Maria Ropero; Elizabeth Thrush, PAHO-Washington, DC

This year the countries and territories of the Americas and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) will celebrate the 15th Vaccination Week in the Americas from 22 to 29 April.

The slogan for 2017's campaign is “#GetVax to celebrate a healthy tomorrow,” encouraging people and their families to get vaccinated today and enjoy good health tomorrow, given that vaccines offer protection against highly contagious, debilitating and potentially deadly diseases. The characters of Sesame Street illustrate the 2017 campaign [poster](#).

Countries and territories in the Region aim to vaccinate more than 60 million people against a range of diseases. Brazil alone will be targeting 50 million in its yearly massive influenza campaign. Other vaccination campaigns will target against rubella, measles, diphtheria, mumps, whooping cough, neonatal tetanus, yellow fever, rotavirus, bacterial pneumonia and the human papilloma virus (HPV).



Poster for Vaccination Week in the Americas 2017.

“During these past 15 years, we have demonstrated that vaccination is one of the most powerful strategies to prevent diseases and save lives,” PAHO’s Director Carissa F. Etienne stated. “PAHO is committed to continue working closely with the countries to vaccinate the entire population and facilitate the introduction of new vaccines at affordable prices,” she added.

In 2015, rubella and congenital rubella syndrome were eliminated in the Region and in 2016, country efforts helped achieve measles elimination. Vaccination against these diseases continues to help minimize the risk of importing these diseases into a country in the Region. Furthermore, millions of people have been vaccinated to keep the western hemisphere free of polio for 25 years.



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Since 2000, new vaccines against rotavirus, pneumococcus, and HPV have been introduced in countries and territories of the Region. Currently, 34 countries and territories vaccinate against pneumococcus, 20 against rotavirus, and 24 against HPV.

These achievements have been possible thanks to the dedication of thousands of health workers, who played a key role to reach everyone in their communities and take vaccines to the most vulnerable populations and hard-to-reach zones.

LINKS:

Vaccination Week in the Americas 2017

www.paho.org/vwa

Video – Message from PAHO’s Director

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkGHba2ETQI>

Video – Celebrities support VWA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwIBf9GdFLE>

Poster Sesame Street and others

http://www.paho.org/vwa/?page_id=2020