

Core Terms of Reference for WHO Collaborating Centres for Reference and Research on Influenza

The title, **WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza (CCRRI)**, designates centres of excellence on influenza which:

- Meet all of the core Terms of Reference (TOR) of WHO Collaborating Centres for Reference and Research on Influenza listed below. This includes the maintenance of Biosafety Level 2 and Biosafety Level 3 laboratory facilities;
- Work under the coordination of the WHO Global Influenza Programme (GIP)ⁱ in headquarters; and
- Receive adequate long-term governmental and/or other non-commercial financial support to fulfil the core TOR of WHO Collaborating Centres for Reference and Research on Influenza (WHO CCRRI).

The core TOR constitute minimum requirements; an individual WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza may have additional functions in its TOR in discussion with and agreed upon by WHO GIP.

Core Terms of Reference for WHO Collaborating Centres for Reference and Research on Influenza

a. Provide:

- Recommendations to WHO on suitable influenza vaccine viruses for use in seasonal, pre-pandemic and pandemic influenza vaccine development and production;
- Regular and timely surveillance data to WHO, particularly from local and neighbouring geographical regions;
- Advice to the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network (GISN)ⁱⁱ on laboratory methods for the diagnosis of influenza, the adoption of new diagnostic approaches, the improvement of laboratory practices and on other operational needs;
- Regular and timely reports of virus characterization to GISN members and other laboratories that contribute specimens and/or virus isolates;
- Expertise and laboratory support to WHO Member States to assist in influenza outbreak investigation and response, especially those with pandemic potential; and
- Expertise to assist WHO on the improvement of global surveillance of influenza viruses causing or with the potential to cause human infections, including the development and revision of relevant policies, recommendations and guidelines.

b. Conduct:

- The collection of influenza specimens and/or virus isolates from sources worldwide, making the viruses freely available to WHO laboratories, particularly those involved in WHO influenza vaccine virus selection and development activities;
- Isolation and analysis in both embryonated eggs and cell culture of influenza viruses causing or with the potential to cause human infections;
- Complete antigenic and genetic analysis of influenza viruses causing or with the potential to cause human infections, making the information available to WHO in a timely manner;
- Antiviral susceptibility testing and analysis of circulating influenza strains and provide a minimum of two reports each year to WHO on the findings;
- Active communication and collaboration with other laboratories, especially with the WHO recognized National Influenza Centresⁱⁱⁱ to ensure that high quality clinical specimens and/or virus isolates are received and information is exchanged;

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- Laboratory training for GISN members and staff from other national influenza laboratories; facilitate the participation of additional countries in the WHO GISN; and
 - Research on influenza and share findings of public health significance with WHO in a timely manner.
- c. Develop, produce and distribute:
- Antisera against representative influenza viruses causing or with the potential to cause human infections to WHO laboratories involved in influenza vaccine virus selection, development and other WHO activities; and
 - Laboratory diagnostic reagents for circulating influenza viruses to GISN members.
- d. Participate in:
- Bi-annual WHO influenza vaccine composition consultations; and
 - WHO process to select, develop and distribute candidate influenza vaccine viruses for influenza pandemic preparedness and response.

ⁱ WHO Global Influenza Programme <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/en/>

ⁱⁱ The WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/surveillance/en/index.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ Nation Influenza Centres <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/centres/en/index.html>