



## How to Become a National Influenza Centre

and Member of the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network

### WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network

The WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network comprises 4 WHO Collaborating Centres for Reference and Research on Influenza in Atlanta, London, Melbourne and Tokyo (<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/collabcentres/en/>), more than 110 National Influenza Centres (<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/centres/en/>), and one WHO Collaborating Centre for Studies on the Ecology of Influenza in Animals in Memphis.

The WHO network is a long-standing surveillance system that has provided essential information on strains of influenza viruses since its inception in 1947. Its objectives are to:

- Monitor the circulating influenza viruses and make annual recommendations of the influenza vaccine composition for northern and southern hemisphere;
- Detect, as early as possible, unusual influenza strains in human populations, which are of influenza pandemic potential;
- Provide, in collaboration with key national reference laboratories, prototype influenza vaccine strains and standardizing reagents for influenza vaccine production and testing.

The WHO Influenza Surveillance Network serves also as a global alert mechanism for the emergence of influenza viruses with pandemic potential.

### National Influenza Centres

National Influenza Centres are institutions which are formally recognized as such by WHO. Such an acknowledgement requires prior designation by national Ministries of Health. Generally, one country has one National Influenza Centre.

A National Influenza Centre recognized by WHO will maintain direct working relations with the WHO Global Influenza Programme and the WHO Collaborating Centres for Reference and Research on Influenza, and will comply with Terms of Reference for National Influenza Centres (<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/en/TORNICs.pdf>).

### Process for becoming a National Influenza Centre

- A national institution intending to become a National Influenza Centre should express its interest through national authorities to WHO; either directly to the WHO Global Influenza Programme or through WHO Country Office and WHO Regional Office.
- An assessment of the capacity of this national institution will be conducted by the WHO Global Influenza Programme, who will, in collaboration with other WHO Offices, decide whether the national institution is qualified and could meet the Terms of Reference for National Influenza Centres.

# WHO Global Influenza Programme



- Based on the assessment, if the national institution is not considered qualified to become a National Influenza Centre, the WHO Global Influenza Programme will inform, through the national authorities, the institution of the assessment result and stop the procedure. Otherwise:
- The WHO Global Influenza Programme will prepare a letter to the Ministry of Health with clearance through the WHO Regional Office asking the Ministry formally to designate the institution as a National Influenza Centre.
- If the Ministry of Health agrees to designate the institution, a letter of recognition to the institution will be prepared by the WHO Global Influenza programme for the WHO Regional Director's signature, informing the head of the institution and the government that WHO recognizes it as a National Influenza Centre.

Recognition as a National Influenza Centre continues until WHO or the national authorities proposes the termination of the institution's collaboration.

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