

# Minutes / EAP Vaccination Working Group Brussels, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Chair: Hans Juergen Dornbusch (Austria)

## Welcome & introduction

The current agenda and the minutes of the last Vaccination Working Group session in Vilnius were approved.

The report focused on updates about influenza, VPD number & coverage, EAP activities (articles, educational activities and coalitions).

### 1. Vaccination update: influenza

- WHO recommended composition of flu vaccines for current season:  
an A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;  
an A/Kansas/14/2017 (H3N2)-like virus;  
an B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus (B/Victoria/2/87 lineage);  
and a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata/16/88 lineage)
- Importance of coverage among schoolchildren: modeling study shows that vaccinating schoolchildren against influenza also effectively reduces morbidity and mortality caused by influenza in the senior population (*Pediatrics* 2012;129:S63–7).
- New cell based vaccine (Flucelvax) approved for children from 9 years of age.
- Among persons 65 years of age or older, high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine induced significantly higher antibody responses and provided better protection against laboratory-confirmed influenza than did standard-dose inactivated influenza vaccine (*N Engl J Med* 2014; 371:635-645).
- Potential measures to increase low influenza vaccine coverage in Health Care Professionals (derived from ESWI FLU SUMMIT, Marseille, 20 November 2019 by EAP representative Andreas Trobisch):
  - Free access to vaccine
  - Education / Training of Health Care Professionals
  - Convenient time and place for immunization
  - Incentives / restrictions
  - Mandatory vaccination as possible long term measure

### 2. Update regarding VPD across Europe

- Further increase of measles cases (& low vaccine coverage) in Europe.
- Recent large meta-analysis shows no association of rotavirus vaccination with increased risk of intussusception for up to 2 years after vaccination of neonates or infants (*JAMA Netw Open.* 2019 Oct; 2(10))

### 3. Vaccine hesitancy

- Vaccine hesitancy among top 10 WHO global health threats in 2019
- News from social media: FB, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter etc. banned misinformation related to vaccination.

<https://www.statnews.com/2019/04/26/trump-vaccinations-measles/>

- Related / useful links:
  - ECDC Vaccine hesitancy (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/immunisation-vaccines/vaccine-hesitancy>) and
  - EAACI (<https://www.eaaci.org/resources-list/resources/4638-to-vaccinate-or-not-to-vaccinate.html>)
- **EAP activities:**
  - Survey on “Vaccine Confidence among Parents: Large Scale Study in Eighteen European Countries” accepted for publication by “Vaccine”. Main conclusion: **“Parents who consult pediatricians are more confident to vaccinate their children”**.
  - Mandatory vaccination: Joint Statement of the EAP Ethics and Vaccination working groups (Eur J Pediatr. 2019 Nov 26): EAP calls for action to make all scheduled **childhood vaccinations a matter of fact for all European children.**

#### 4. Update on Coalitions

- **EAP – Ukrainian Academy of Pediatrics specialties (UAPs) collaboration:** leads to appearance of first Ukrainian Summer School on Vaccinology (4 days course) for about 60 pediatricians and GPs.
- **EAP - EU Collaborations:**
  - **EU-JAV** (<https://eu-jav.com/the-eu-jav-team/>)
  - **HORIZON 2020**
  - **CHAFEA** (Consumers, health, agriculture, and food executive agency)
  - **European Commissioner**, Vytenis Andriukaitis - shift to prevention as most important trend

#### 5. Discussion & Questions:

- Luxemburg representative asks about current guidelines on second dose for Men C (13 months to > 15 years) and current updates on vaccine schedules among EU countries (see “ECDC Vaccine Scheduler <https://vaccine-schedule.ecdc.europa.eu/>)
- Young EAP rep. from Slovenia reports on hexavalent vaccine (x3) + free flu shot for vulnerable population added to NIP.
- Young EAP rep. from Ukraine provides update on national policy and importance of continuous vaccinology education (due to first Ukrainian Summer School on Vaccinology).
- EAP representative from the Netherlands raises the issue of “homeopathic vaccination” - to be investigated by health care inspectors?
- Czech representative argues, it’s time to make all recommended vaccines cost free.
- Point by Mark Turner on harmonization of vaccine schedules: one possible approach – switch from small market (each country on its own) to big market (reduced regulatory complexity for companies may lead to better supply). Necessary actions: lobbying in Ministries of Health, regulatory agencies and on EC level.
- Lisabeth Siderius: information for parents on EAP website ? (already provided by ECDC, CDC, WHO and National Societies).