Preparing the health systems for the introduction of Covid-19 vaccine

October 15, 2020
The objective of this document is to provide guidance to the NIPs to develop national plans for COVID-19 vaccination

Includes actions to consider by component

Encourages countries to engage with their NITAG/CITAG when developing the national plan

Recommends to leverage lessons learned and experiences from H1N1 pandemic vaccination, annual seasonal vaccination and mass vaccination campaigns

Reinforces the importance to consider the recommendations issued by PAHO/WHO on COVID-19 protective measures for health workers and the general population
Components Included

Technical Components

- Vaccination objectives
- Target groups and goals
- Legal bases
- Technical recommendations
- COVID-19 vaccines
- National Regulatory Authorities
- Vaccine access and distribution

Operational Components

- Organization and coordination
- Supply and cold chain
- Vaccine safety
- Communication, information, and social mobilization
- Planning and micro-planning
- Information system
- Human resources
- Training
- Monitoring, supervision, and evaluation
- Operational research
- Waste management
- Closure of campaign
- Budget and timeline

Vaccination Objectives

• Protect the integrity of the health care system and infrastructure for the continuity of essential services: Vaccinate health workers at all levels of care and other essential services established by the country.

• Reduce severe morbidity and mortality associated to COVID-19 by protecting populations at greatest risk: Vaccinate groups at greatest risk according to epidemiological situation.

• Reduce transmission of infection in the community and generate herd immunity. Expanding vaccination to other groups will be done based on increases in vaccine availability in the country.

Countries should set COVID-19 vaccination targets, considering the epidemiological situation, highest risk populations, and vaccine access.

Limitations in vaccine availability will make it necessary to prioritize and vaccinate in phases following the following objectives:
Target Groups and Goals

• Technical recommendations from advisory groups (evidence, vaccine type, available doses)

• As a reference, WHO population estimates for risk groups are included:
  ✓ Health personnel
  ✓ Older adults and people with chronic diseases

  20%

• Estimation of vaccines and other supplies needs through the PAHO’s Revolving Fund

Estimating population to vaccinate: a) national censuses, b) national plans for seasonal influenza vaccination (that include different high-risk groups), lists of public and private sector health personnel, c) prevalence surveys, studies of disease burden of chronic diseases and comorbidities in COVID-19 patients.
WHO SAGE values framework for the allocation and prioritization of COVID-19 vaccination
14 September 2020
Regulatory

COVID-19 Vaccine Importation

Country requirements

Documentation
Organization and Coordination

• Establish a **collaborative platform** for COVID-19 vaccination with clear roles and responsibilities

• Use or strengthen the existing **inter-institutional** and **multi-sectorial coordination mechanisms**

• Define the **organizational structure**: national and sub-national, political, technical, and emergency committees

• Coordinate with **institutions or advisory bodies**: NITAGs, professional and scientific associations, and NGOs

• **Coordinate with the ministries** of finances, labor, education, tourism, airports, armed forces, civil organizations, churches, and community leader

• Coordinate with **local governments** (governors, mayors, secretaries of health)
Vaccine Cold Chain and Logistics

- Cold chain capacity
- Transport
- Warehouse
- Security
- Disposal
- Stock management
Safety Surveillance (ESAVI)

Communication with all stakeholders

ESAVI Committee

Train staff and committee members

Tools for effective pharmaco-vigilance
Monitoring

- Indicators
  - Coverage
  - ESAVI
  - Acceptability
  - Disease surveillance
- Monitoring tools
Service Delivery

Infection control

Delivery strategies

Security
PAHO/WHO

Communication, Information, and Social Mobilization

- Design a communication campaign and strategies to generate vaccine confidence and demand
- Promote social mobilization and community engagement
- Define a crisis management plan
- Identify spokespersons
- Define key messages, articulation with the media, social networks,
- Coordinate with partners to ensure consistency of messages.
- Develop materials for different audiences, advocacy packages for local authorities, governors, strategic allies, community leaders, media, among others, considering interculturality
- Validate communication materials and messages
Demand Generation and Communication

Vaccine Confidence
Vaccine Trust
Vaccine Demand

Advocacy
Communications
Social mobilization
Community Engagement
Training

PAHO Pan American Health Organization World Health Organization
• Most acknowledge that vaccines in general are effective and important for adults and children.
  • respondents are extremely sceptical when it comes to safety, while those in other markets are cautious, but
generally agree that vaccines are safe.
• There is a significant fall-off in positive feelings about an eventual COVID-19 vaccine compared to feelings about
vaccines generally. Detractors tend to be lesser-educated and supporters of right-leaning political parties.
• A plurality indicate interest in getting a COVID-19 vaccine, though there is a strong correlation between perceptions of
vaccine safety generally and willingness to get an eventual vaccine.
  • The most enthusiastic about an eventual COVID-19 vaccine are those age 55+.
• We continue to see strong support for equitable vaccine distribution among health workers and higher risk
individuals, as well as geographically in places worst affected.
Information System

- Accurate
- Public and Private
- Inter-sectoral
- Accessible
- Several Cohorts
- Paper or Electronic
Next Steps and Considerations

• Finalize the National Plan for 2020-21 COVID-19 vaccine introduction in LAC

• Assess needs and identify and address gaps at all levels of preparedness and implementation in a timely manner: (cold chain capacities, AEFI surveillance, communication, and information systems)

• Establish Working Groups

• Bilateral Technical Support
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Thank you