



November 2020

Virtual Ad Hoc Meeting of PAHO's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Vaccine-preventable Diseases Held to Discuss COVID-19 in the Region of the Americas

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Location	Virtual
Dates	16 November 2020
Participants	PAHO's TAG Members (Peter Figueroa, Jon Andrus, Pablo Bonvehi, Roger Glass, Arlene King, Nancy Messonier, Jose Ignacio Santos, and Cristiana Toscano), as well as staff from PAHO's Comprehensive Family Immunization (IM) Unit; Family, Health Promotion, and Life Course (FPL) Department; Incident Management System (IMST); Public Health Emergencies (PHE) Department; Revolving Fund for Access to Vaccines (RFV) program; and Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health (NMH) Department
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an epidemiological COVID-19 update and an analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on national immunization programs (NIPs) in the Americas ▪ Review SAGE recommendations regarding the value framework and the roadmap for prioritizing uses of COVID-19 vaccines in the context of limited supply ▪ Update on the progress made by planning components for the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines and discuss key priority activities to support countries in the Region

Presentations at the meeting covered the following topics:

- COVID-19 in the Region of the Americas (situation update)
- Risk of severe COVID-19 due to underlying health conditions in the Americas
- Addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on national immunization programs
- Development status of COVID-19 candidate vaccines
- SAGE recommendations: value framework and prioritization roadmap
- Planning and micro-planning considerations for COVID-19 vaccination
- Key considerations and priorities by planning component:
 - Cold chain
 - Information systems
 - Vaccine safety

Communication and demand generation

- Monitoring and reporting country readiness for the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines
- Progress made in COVID-19 vaccine access for Latin American and Caribbean countries

These presentations incited lively discussion from the TAG Members, the recommendations from which will be published in the meeting's final report. This final report is being finalized and will be published at

<https://www.paho.org/en/tag/technical-advisory-group-tag-vaccine-preventable-diseases>