



Influenza pandemic preparedness: current global strategy

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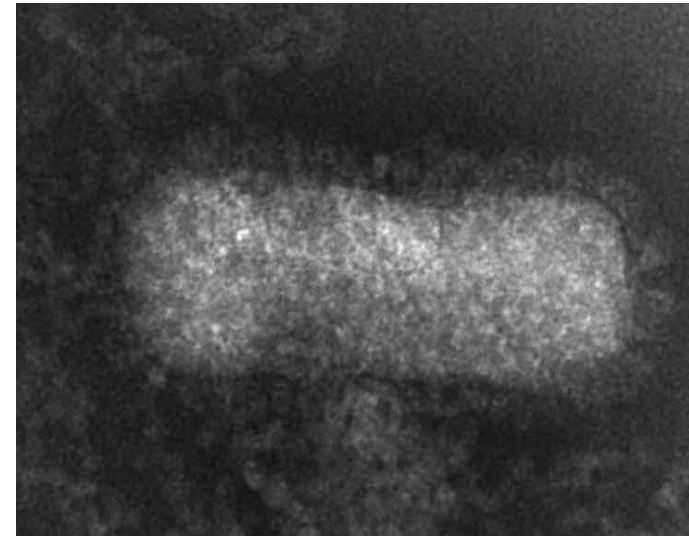
World Health Organization Collaborating Centre

NIH Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance



Influenza- a viral respiratory disease of global importance

- Influenza pandemic considered the greatest threat to global public health
- In 2018, the world observed the centenary start of the 1918 influenza pandemic
 - Resulted in > 50 million deaths (more than WWI)
 - Led to fundamental changes in public health and health care systems
- Impossible to predict when the next pandemic might occur, considered inevitable
- Increased economic globalization, mobility, urbanization, climate change
 - Next pandemic will spread further and faster





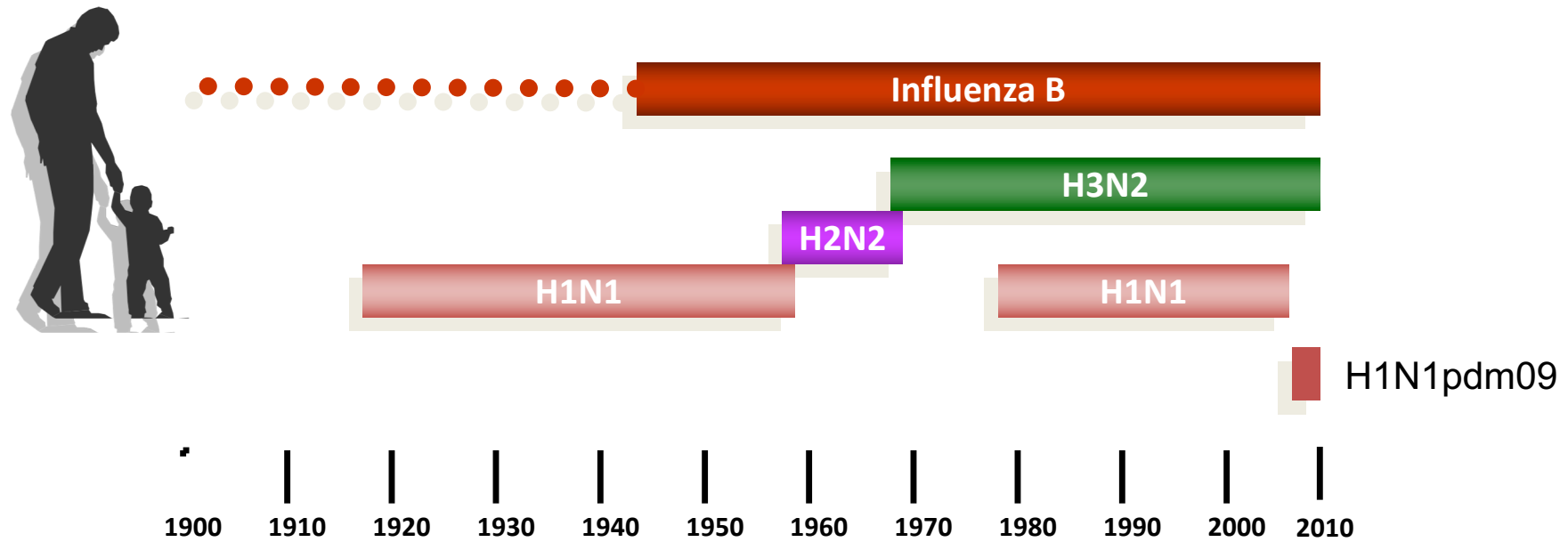
Influenza- a viral respiratory disease of global importance

WHO released in January 2019 a list of the top 10 major threats to global health- included another global influenza pandemic

“The world will face another influenza pandemic. The only thing we don’t know is when it will hit and how severe it will be. Global defenses are only as effective as the weakest link in any country’s health emergency preparedness and response system,” WHO said.



Influenza Pandemics





Influenza- a viral respiratory disease of global importance

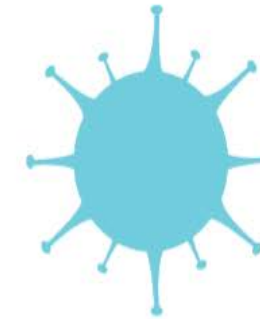
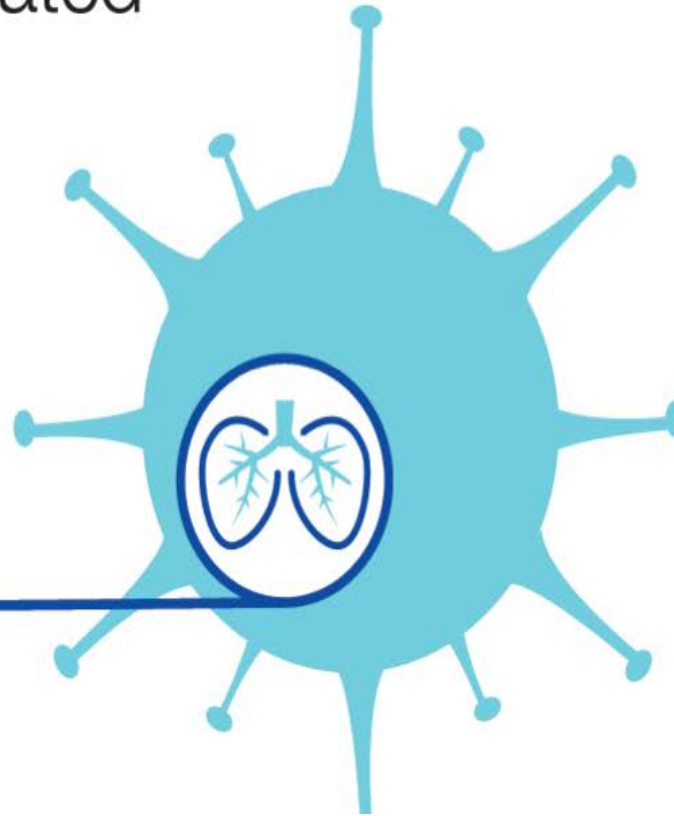
- Mortality and morbidity due to influenza is well-recognized during a pandemic, but is often underappreciated for ***seasonal influenza***
- ***Seasonal influenza*** viruses continuously evolve, annually cause severe disease, particularly among elderly, children, pregnant women, immunocompromised individuals
 - Estimated 1 billion cases of influenza worldwide each year
 - 3-5 million are severe cases



Seasonal Influenza Mortality Rates per Year

Annual seasonal influenza deaths likely higher than previously estimated

NEW ESTIMATE
290 000 – 650 000
(as of December 2017)
Influenza-related
RESPIRATORY DEATHS only



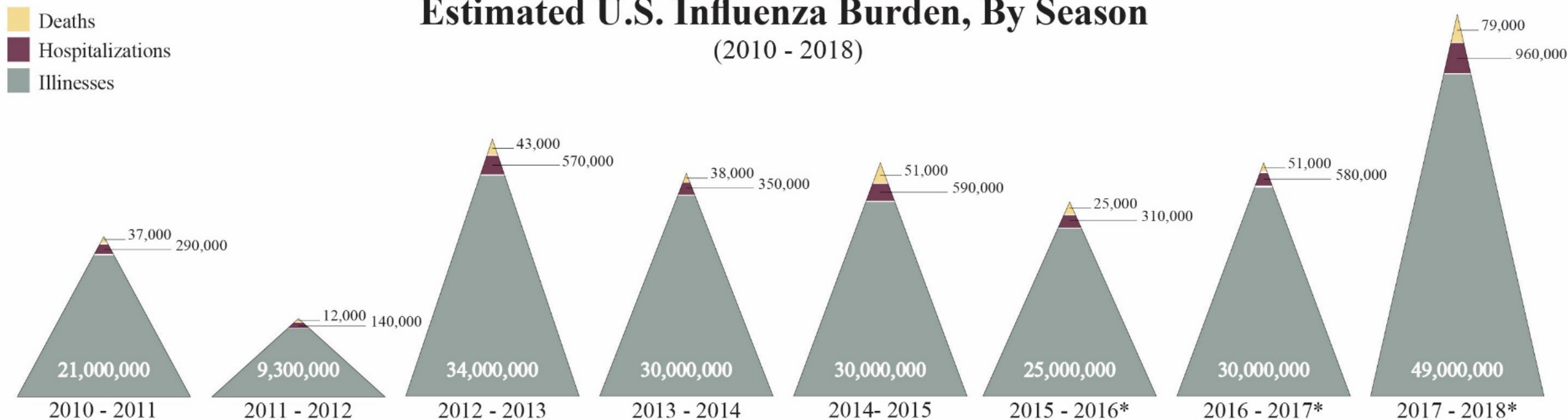
PREVIOUS ESTIMATE
250 000 - 500 000
(including respiratory and
other deaths e.g. cardiovascular)



Estimated Influenza Disease Burden, by Season

United States, 2010-11 through 2017-18 Influenza Seasons

Estimated U.S. Influenza Burden, By Season (2010 - 2018)





U.S. Influenza Season 2018-2019

CDC estimates that, from October 1, 2018, through April 13, 2019, there have been:

36 million – 41.3 million
flu **illnesses**



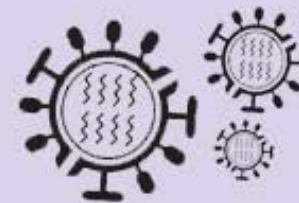
16.7 million – 19.4 million
flu **medical visits**



502,000 – 610,000
flu **hospitalizations**



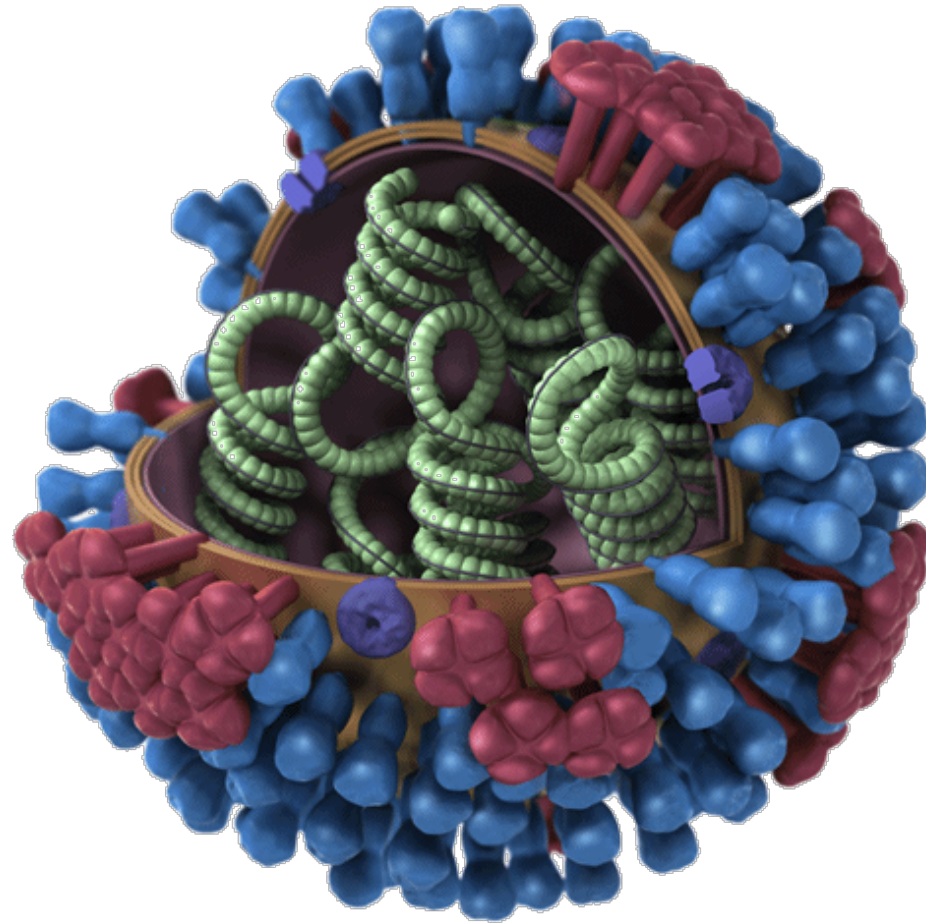
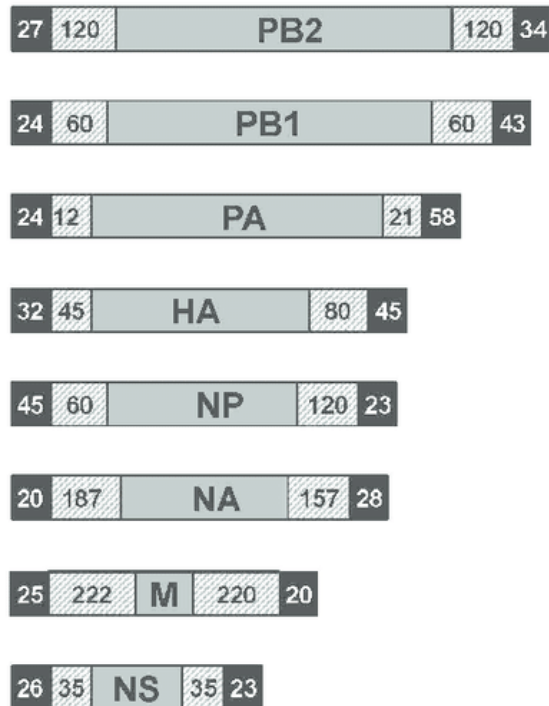
34,400 – 57,300
flu **deaths**



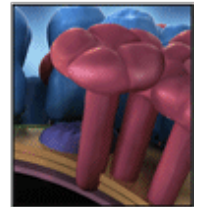


Influenza biology

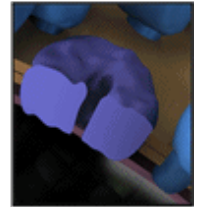
- Eight segmented negative-sense RNA genome
- Lacks proofreading mechanisms
- Allows continuous accumulation of mutations



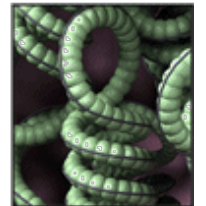
Hemagglutinin



Neuraminidase



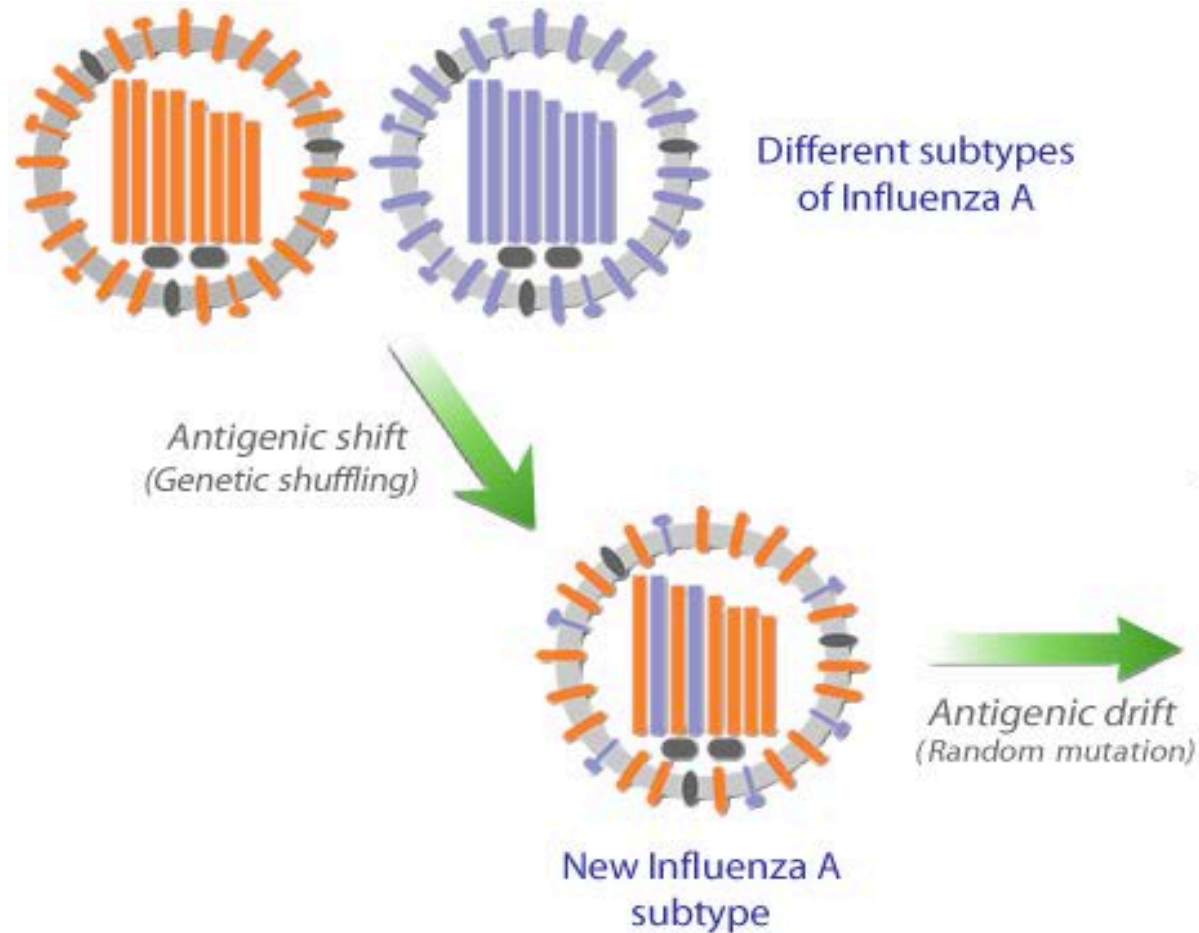
M2 Ion Channel



RNP



Continuing challenges in influenza



Antigenic Drift: variation in viral genome due to accumulation of mutations

Antigenic Shift: variation by re-assortment of genomes from two or more strains

Why New Zealand for an influenza study funded by NIAID?

- Excellent health infrastructure
- Mixed influenza vaccination histories (repeated and unvaccinated)
- High study retention rates

1) Dunedin Study (1972- current)

- 1972 birth cohort (n=1037)
- Interviews across years
 - At ages 3 -38 yrs
- **95% retention rate at age 38**

2) Growing Up in NZ (2009- current)

- 2009 birth cohort (n=6853)
- Interviews at 9 mos- 4.5 yrs
- **90% retention rate at 4.5 yrs**





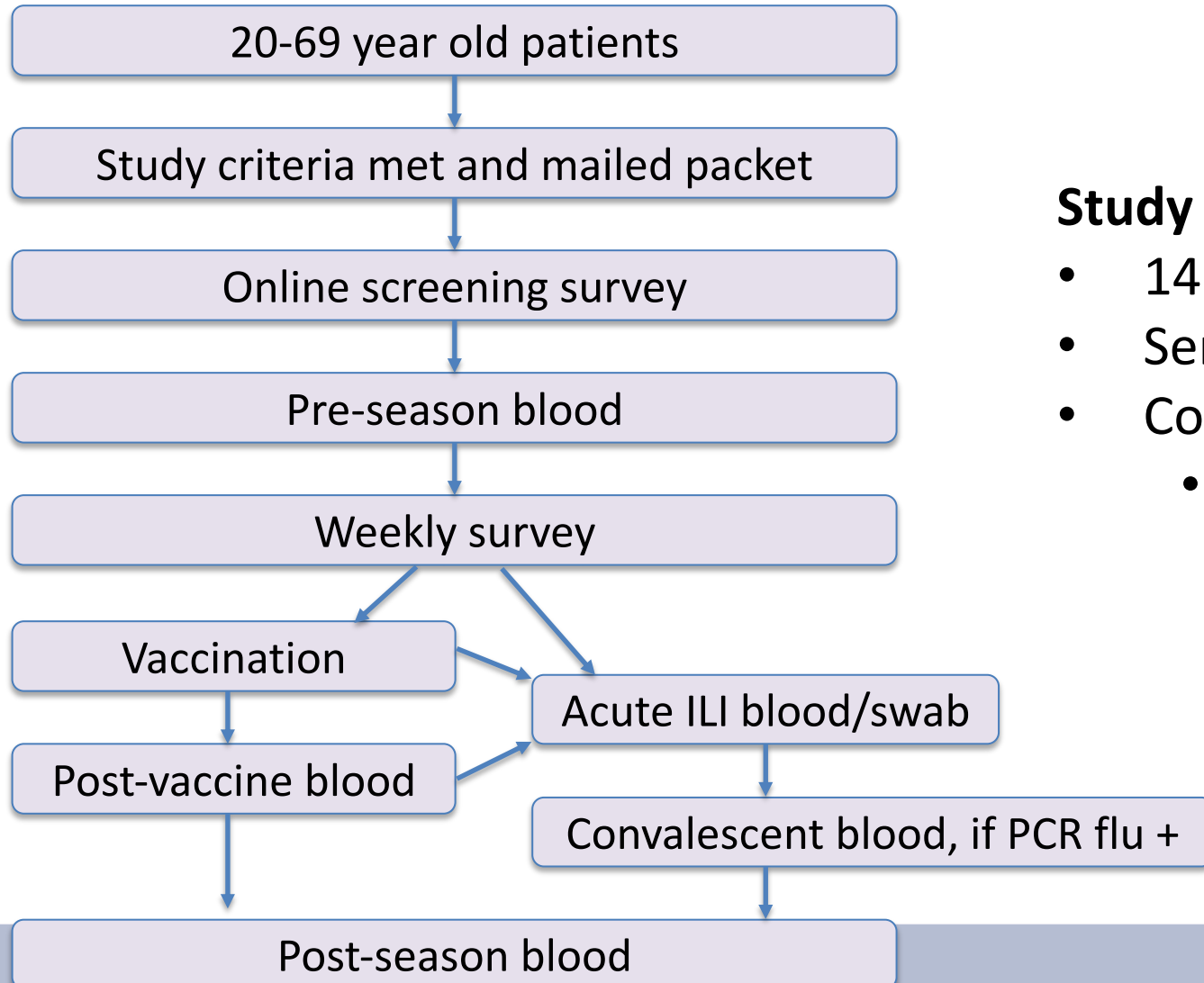
Full impact of influenza- SHIVERS I study design

SHIVERS

AIM: How many people were actually infected with influenza?

Study Design:

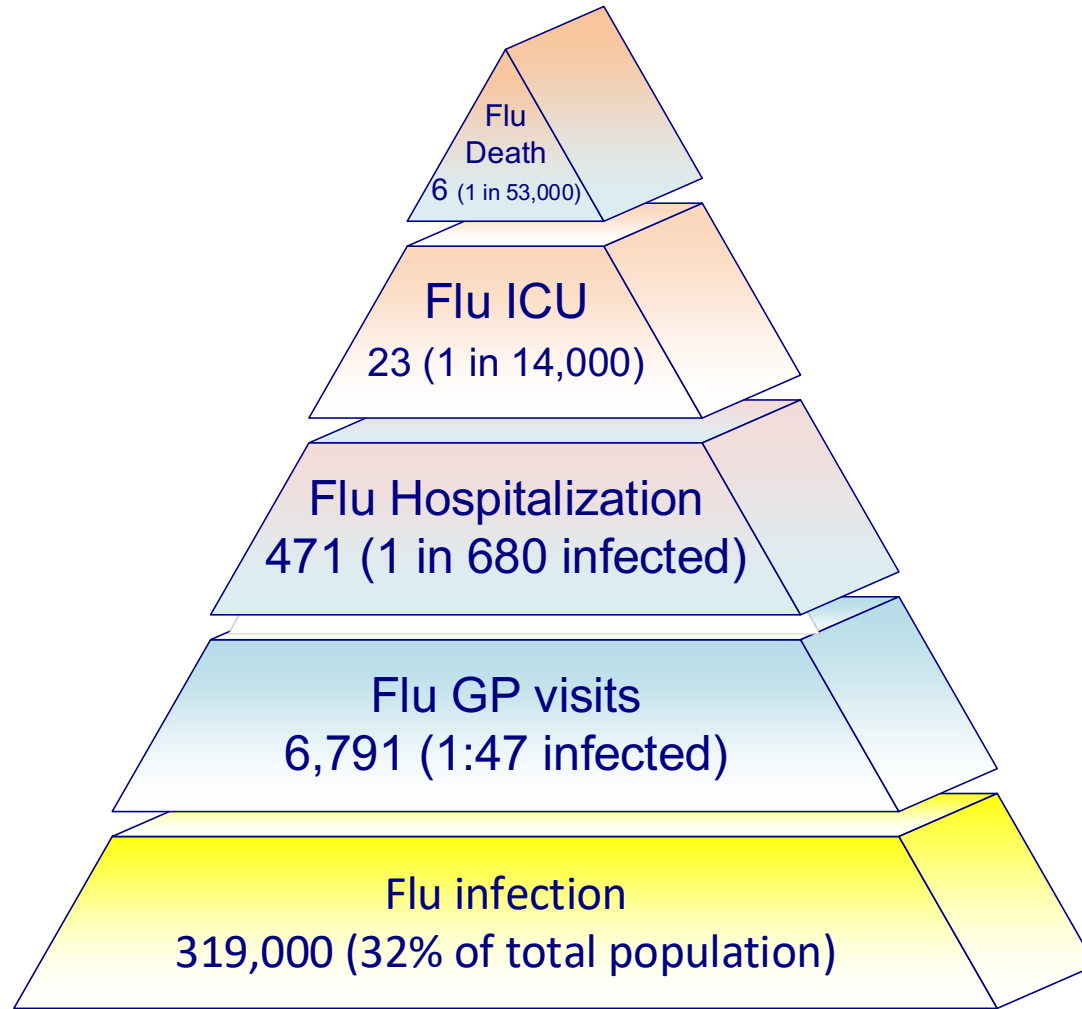
- 14 GPs in Auckland
- Serum, PBMC, and respiratory swab
- Compensation
 - \$30 mailed gift card after each collection





Full impact of influenza- SHIVERS I study findings

SHIVERS



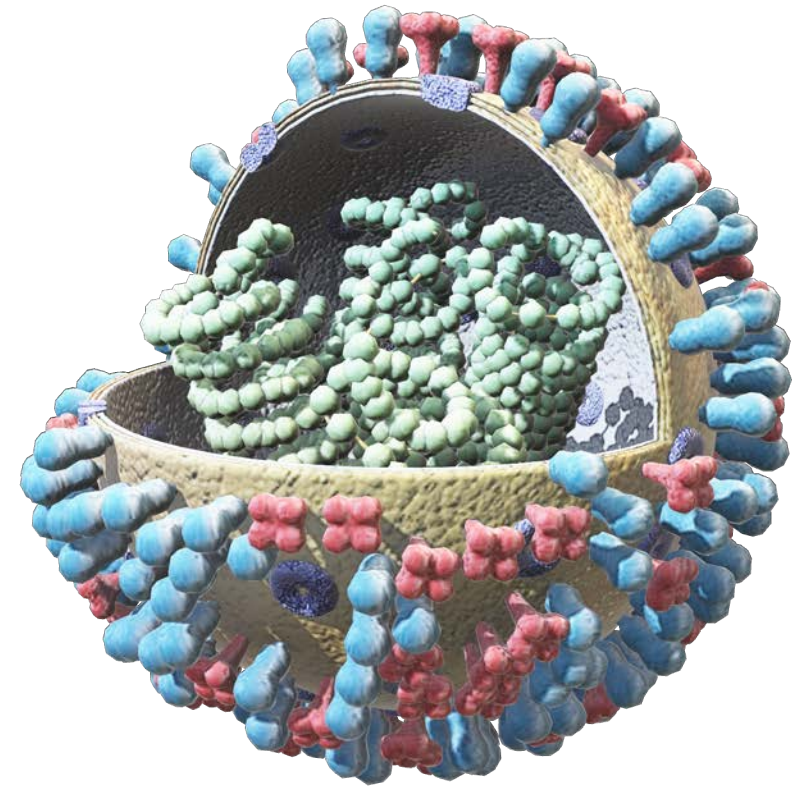
1,000,000 people over one season

- 32% of population flu infected
- Of infected:
 - 24% developed influenza-like illness
 - 76% did not develop ILI



Question: who are most at-risk for developing ILI symptoms?

- 1) Elderly (≥ 65 yrs and older)
- 2) Children (≤ 5 yrs and younger)
- 3) Immunocompromised persons
- 4) Chronic health conditions
 - 1) Obesity
- 5) Native Americans/ Native Alaskans
- 6) Pregnant women





Children (under 18 years)



Burden of Influenza in children US estimates

CDC published data over a **six-season range** (2010- 2016)

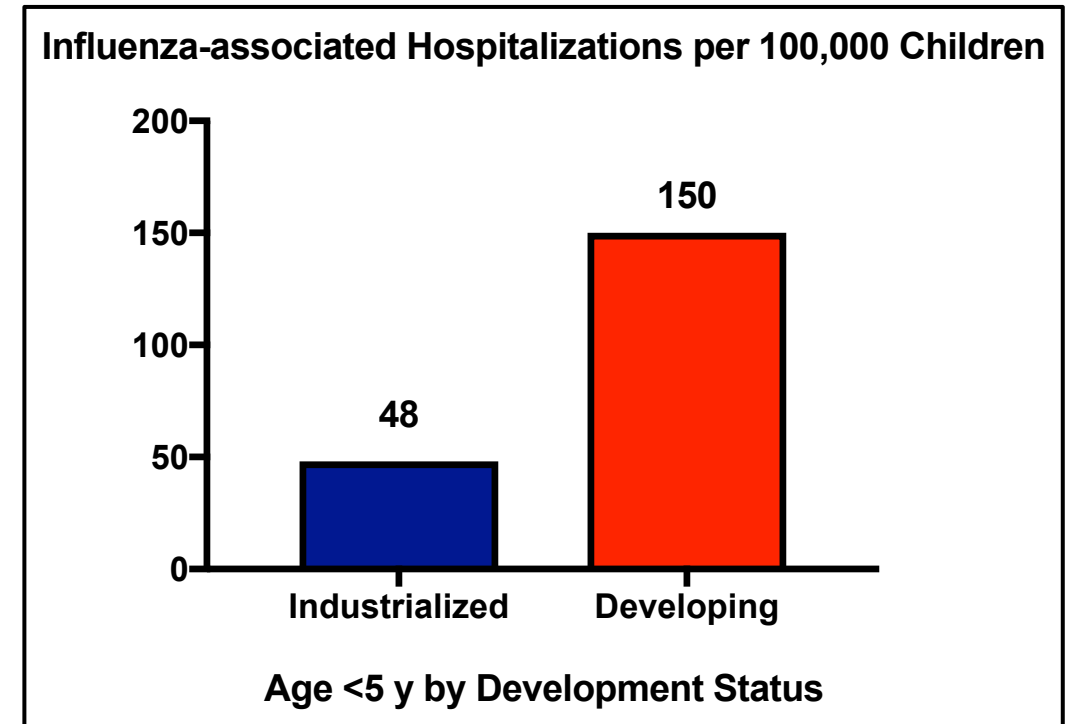
Age group	Symptomatic community illness	Outpatient medical visits	Hospitalizations	Excess deaths	
				Pneumonia & influenza ^a	Respiratory & circulatory ^b
Overall	9 200 000–35 600 000	4 200 000–16 700 000	139 000–708 000	4000–20 000	12 000–56 000
<5 y	900 000–3 800 000	600 000–2 500 000	6000–26 000	60–300	100–700
5–17 y	1 900 000–6 900 000	1 000 000–3 600 000	5000–19 000	50–300	100–600

^a Pneumonia and influenza deaths are only a subset of the total deaths associated with influenza that occur each year, which may be 2 to 4 times higher when other complications are also considered.



Estimated Global Burden of Influenza in Children

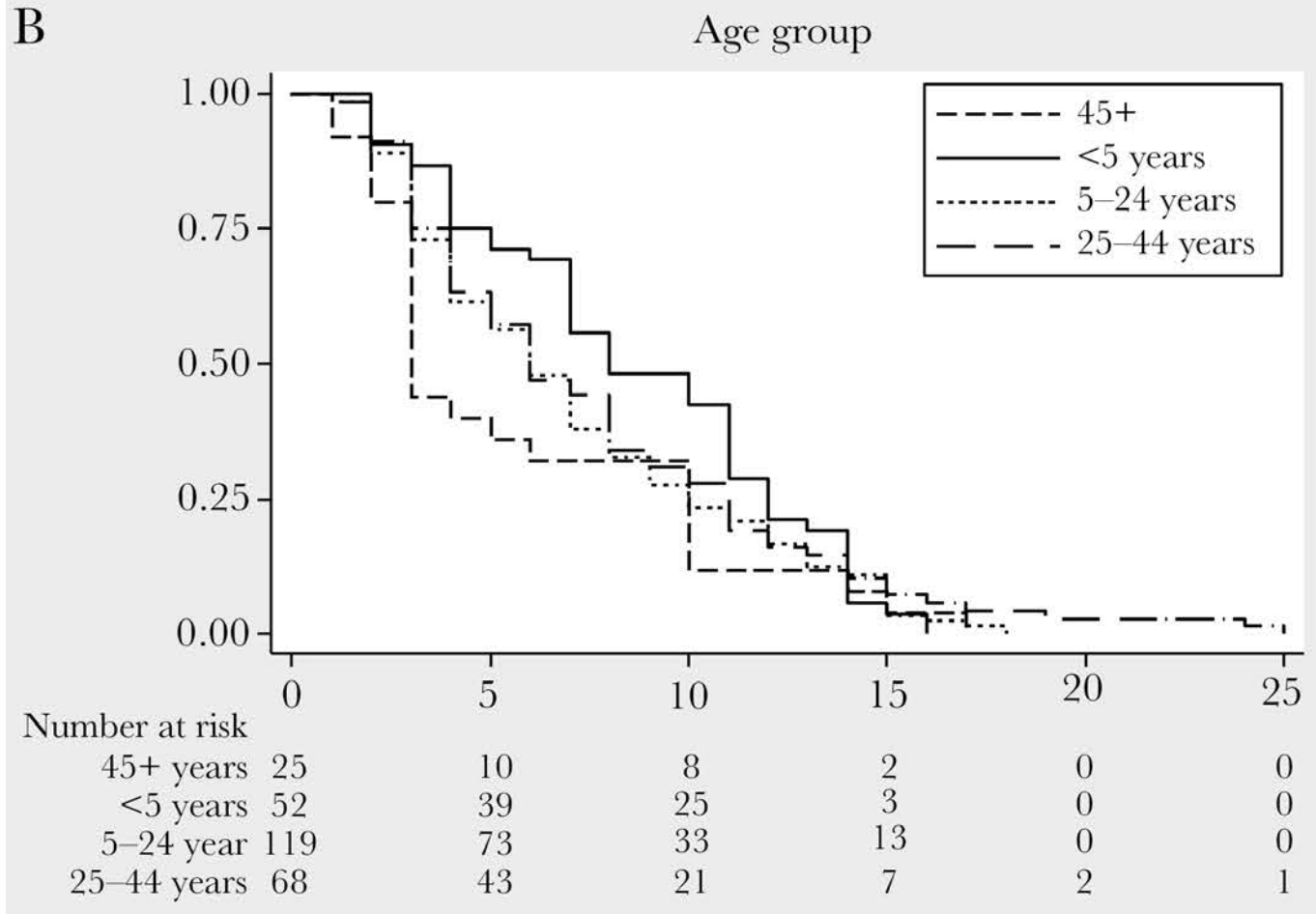
- Global Influenza-associated hospitalizations:
 - ~10% of children <18 yr
 - ~374,000 of children <1 yrs
 - ~870,000 of children <5 yrs
- 9,000-100,000 influenza-related deaths in children <5 yrs
- Highest burden of severity in low-middle income countries
 - Influenza-associated outcomes in developing countries:
 - Hospitalizations 3-fold higher
 - Mortality 17-fold higher





Children Shed Influenza Virus longer than Adults

Influenza shedding in prospective cohort of children and adults in South Africa, 2012-2014



Kaplan-Meier plots showing the probability of RT-PCR-positive Influenza virus result by day after shedding onset by age group



Vaccination of Children Provide Community Immunity

49 Hutterite (Canada)
colonies randomized

25 colonies randomized to
receive influenza vaccine (1773
retained)

24 colonies randomized to
receive hepatitis A vaccine
(1500 retained)

Vaccine delivered to 36 month to 15 year
old's only

Followed adults for influenza infection
during season



Vaccination of Children Provide Community Immunity

Table 2. Protective Effectiveness on Nonrecipients of Immunizing Children and Adolescents With Influenza Vaccine

Study Group	Nonrecipients in Vaccine Colony		Protective Effectiveness of Influenza Vaccine (95% CI), %	P Value
	Influenza (n = 1271)	Hepatitis (n = 1055)		
Influenza detected by PCR, No. (%)	39 (3.1)	80 (7.6)		
Person-day of follow-up, No. (%)	182 866	151 902		
No. of cases/10 000 person-days	2.13	5.27	Simple, 61 (8-83) ^a	.03
			Adjusted, 61 (8-83) ^b	.03

Summary: vaccinating just children resulted in 61% protective effectiveness



Immunocompromised Population



Respiratory infections in children with cancer

- Healthy children
 - infection typically limited to upper respiratory tract (URTIs)
- *Immunocompromised hosts*
 - are vulnerable to severe infections, including lower respiratory tract infections (LRTIs)
 - URTI → LRTIs 30-50% of patients
- Adverse outcomes more likely in immunocompromised persons due to defects in innate adaptive immunity:
 - Progression to pneumonia
 - Respiratory failure
 - Increased mortality rates



Community respiratory viruses (CRVs)

Community respiratory viruses- main cause of hospitalization (unlike opportunistic infections, atypical or uncommon organisms)

- Difficult to determine which virus causes most infection
 - Dependent on seasonal outbreaks (RSV and influenza)
 - Geographic location
 - LMI versus HMI countries
- On average, most common viruses: **RSV, influenza, parainfluenza**
- Most common co-infections with two or more viruses include **RSV and influenza**



Challenge of viral respiratory infections in children with cancer

- Clinical presentation in immunocompromised versus healthy children
 - Higher incidence of co-infections
 - Atypical symptoms such as rash, diarrhea
 - Asymptomatic viral shedding
 - Prolonged viral shedding
 - Sudden severe respiratory distress
- Atypical clinical manifestations can result in *delayed* or *lack* of diagnosis
- Current focus is to determine specific risk factors for URTI to LRTI; goal to identify patients who would benefit from interventions
- Clinical scores have been developed in adults but has not been validated in children

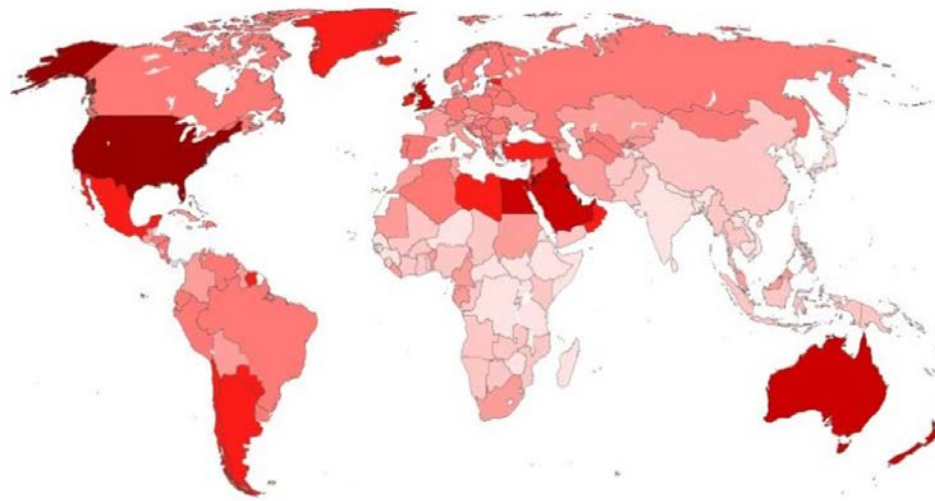
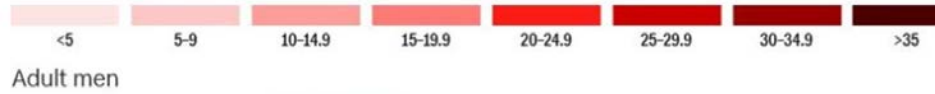


Obese Population

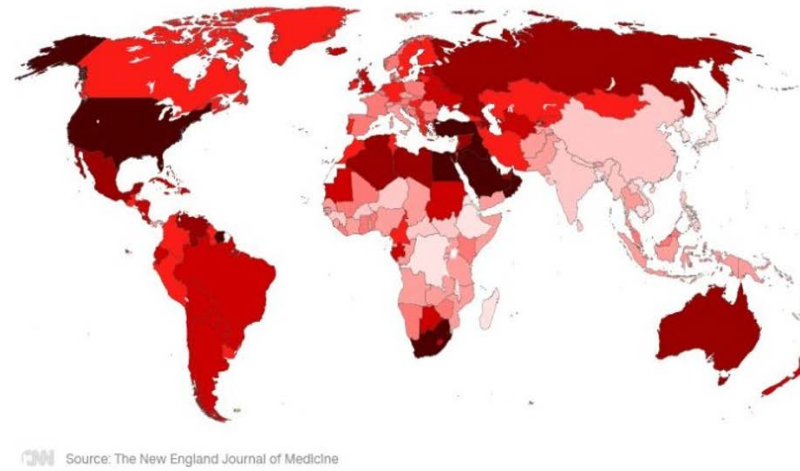


Obesity and Influenza

Global obesity
Percentage of population



Adult women



Source: The New England Journal of Medicine



**OBESITY =
Chronic, low-level inflammation**

IMMUNOCOMPROMISED STATE

CHILDHOOD OBESITY



Finding cures. Saving children.



Obesity and Influenza- what do we know?

- 1) Increased morbidity
- 2) Decreased survival
- 3) Increased susceptibility to influenza infection (MLD₅₀)
- 4) Increased lung injury
- 5) Decreased wound repair (Ki67) and *increased basement membrane exposure*
- 6) Increased morbidity secondary bacterial infections independent of time or strain
- 7) Virus – higher titers, shed longer, changes faster
- 8) Poor vaccine efficacy



Obesity and Influenza

- ↑ hospitalizations
- ↑ ICU duration
- ↑ mortality

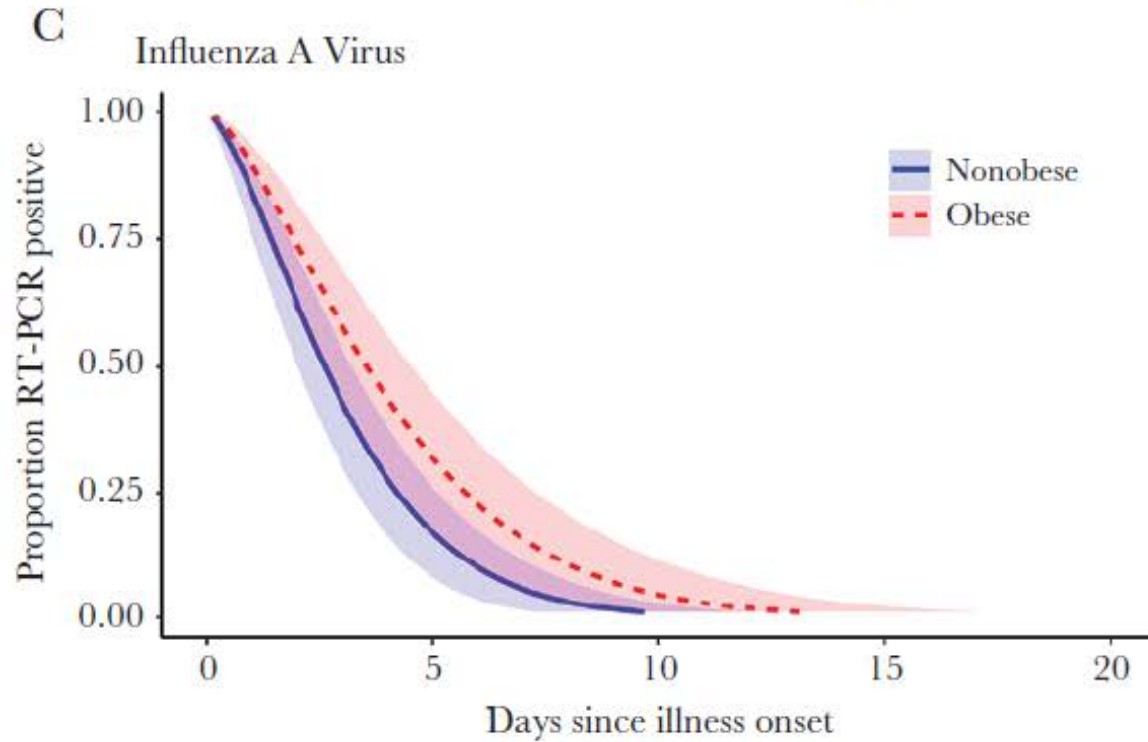


Karlsson et al mBio 2016; mBio 2017
Sheridan et al Int J Obesity 2011
Neidich et al Int J Obesity 2017

O'Brien et al JID 2012
Karlsson et al mBio 2017; Sci Reports 2017
Schultz-Cherry JID 2018
Meliopoulos et al J Virol 2019
Honce and Schultz-Cherry Front Immunol 2019; J Travel Med 2019



Obese Adults Shed more IAV for Longer

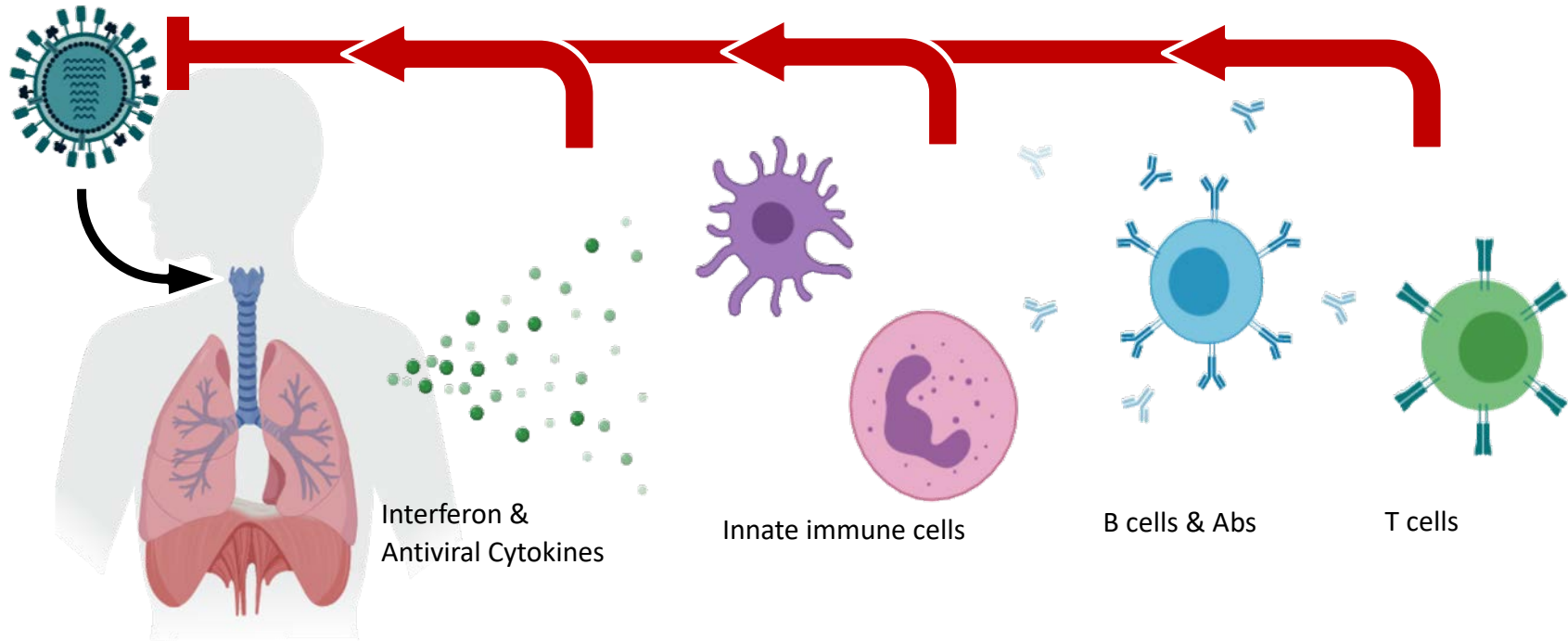


Symptomatic obese adults: **shed 42% longer**
Asymptomatic obese adults: **shed 104% longer**

Why?



Poor epithelial responses = impact on all downstream immune responses



NOT specific to influenza infection or vaccines



Flu is BAD!
What are we doing to combat
influenza?

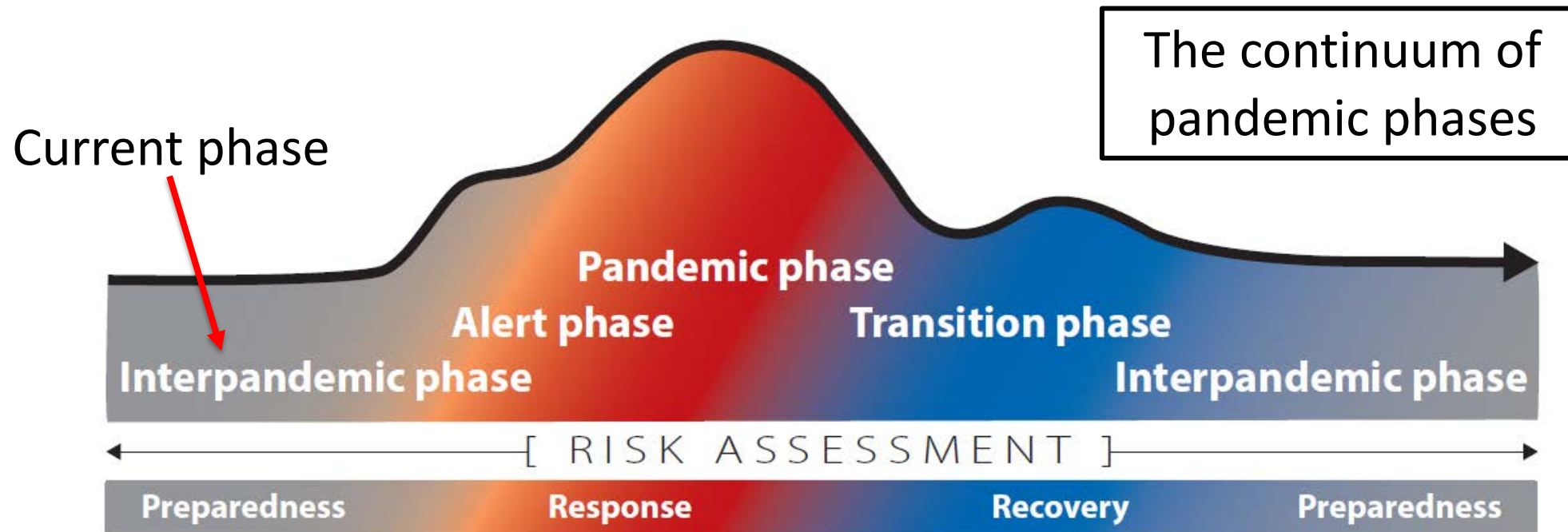
Global Influenza Strategy



- After 2009 H1N1 pandemic, the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (IHR) concluded,
 - *“the world is ill-prepared to respond to a severe influenza pandemic or to any similarly global, sustained, and threatening public health emergency”*
- Resulted in a movement to strengthen pandemic preparedness and health security



Adoption of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework



ALERT PHASE: New subtype has been identified in humans; increased vigilance and risk assessment at local, national, global levels

PANDEMIC PHASE: New subtype has spread globally; based on virological, epidemiological, clinical data; WHO-Director General declaration; decision to move from seasonal vaccine production to pandemic vaccine production

TRANSITION PHASE: De-escalation of global actions; response activities moved to national level



WHO Global Influenza Strategy 2019-2030

Areas of focus for 2030:

1) **Better global tools:** a focused, consensus-driven plan:

- greater research
- innovation
- availability of new and improved tools for the prevention, detection, control and treatment of influenza

2) **Stronger country capacities:** evidence-based influenza programs in every country that is:

- optimized to fit the country's needs
- contributes to national and global preparedness

Global Influenza Strategy 2019–2030



Publication details

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ISBN: 978-92-4-151532-0

Downloads

– [Global Influenza Strategy 2019-2030](#)



WHO Global Influenza Strategy 2019-2030

Four Strategic Objectives:

1) Promote research and innovation to address unmet public health needs

- a) Improved and novel diagnostics, vaccine, and treatments against influenza
- b) Implementation of influenza prevention and control programs
- c) Better understanding of virus characteristics and host factors that drive the impact of influenza



Four Strategic Objectives:

- 2) **Strengthen global influenza surveillance, monitoring and data utilization**
 - a) Enhance, integrate and expand virological and disease surveillance
 - b) Build a strong evidence base for understanding the impact and burden of influenza
 - c) Develop effective influenza communication strategies across multiple sectors and between stakeholders



Four Strategic Objectives:

- 3) Expand seasonal influenza prevention and control policies and programs to protect the vulnerable**
 - a) Integrate nonpharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) into prevention and control programs
 - b) Reduce transmission and disease severity through evidence-based immunization policies and programs
 - c) Design and implement evidence-based treatment policies and programs to reduce morbidity and mortality

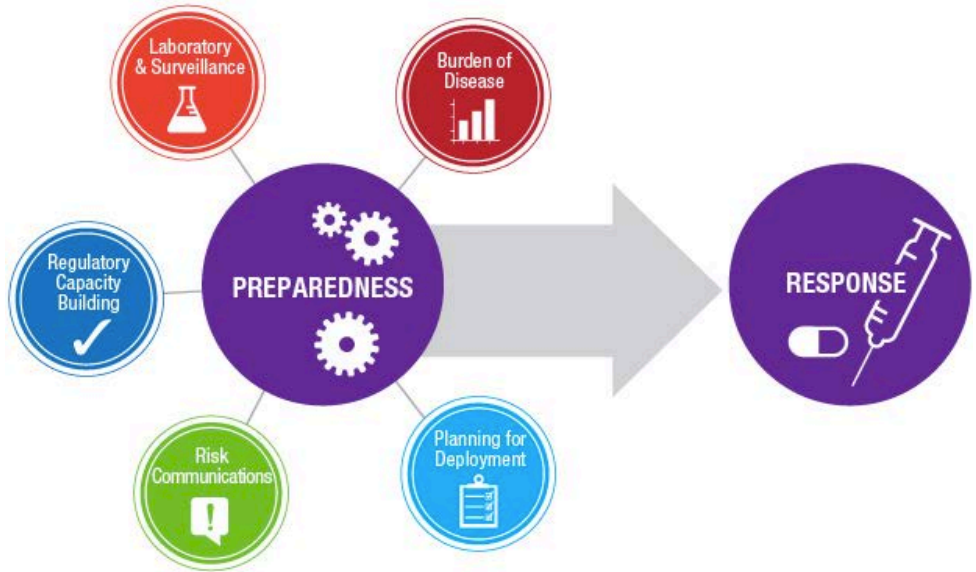


Four Strategic Objectives:

- 4) **Strengthen pandemic preparedness and response for influenza to make the world safer**
 - a) Strengthen national, regional and global planning to enable timely and effective pandemic readiness



WHO Global Influenza Strategy 2019-2030



Pandemic readiness tools and areas of focus:

- 1) Global Action Plan for Influenza Vaccines (GAP)
- 2) Tool for Influenza Pandemic Risk Assessment (TIPRA)
- 3) Pandemic Influenza Severity Assessment (PISA)
- 4) Non-pharmaceutical public health measures (NPIs)
- 5) Expansion of the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)



WHO Tool for Influenza Pandemic Risk Assessment (TIPRA)

- In 2016, WHO released TIPRA:
 - provides a standardized and transparent approach to support the risk assessment of influenza viruses with pandemic potential
 - Modelled after CDC Influenza Risk Assessment Tool (IRAT)
- Technical experts (surveillance network, academics, public health officials) score virus attributes known as risk elements

Properties of the Virus	Attributes in the Human Population	Virus Ecology and Epidemiology in non-human hosts
1) Receptor binding properties	5) Human infection	8) Geographic distribution in animals
2) Genomic characteristics	6) Disease severity	9) Infection in animals
3) Transmission in animal models	7) Population immunity	
4) Susceptibility to antiviral treatment		



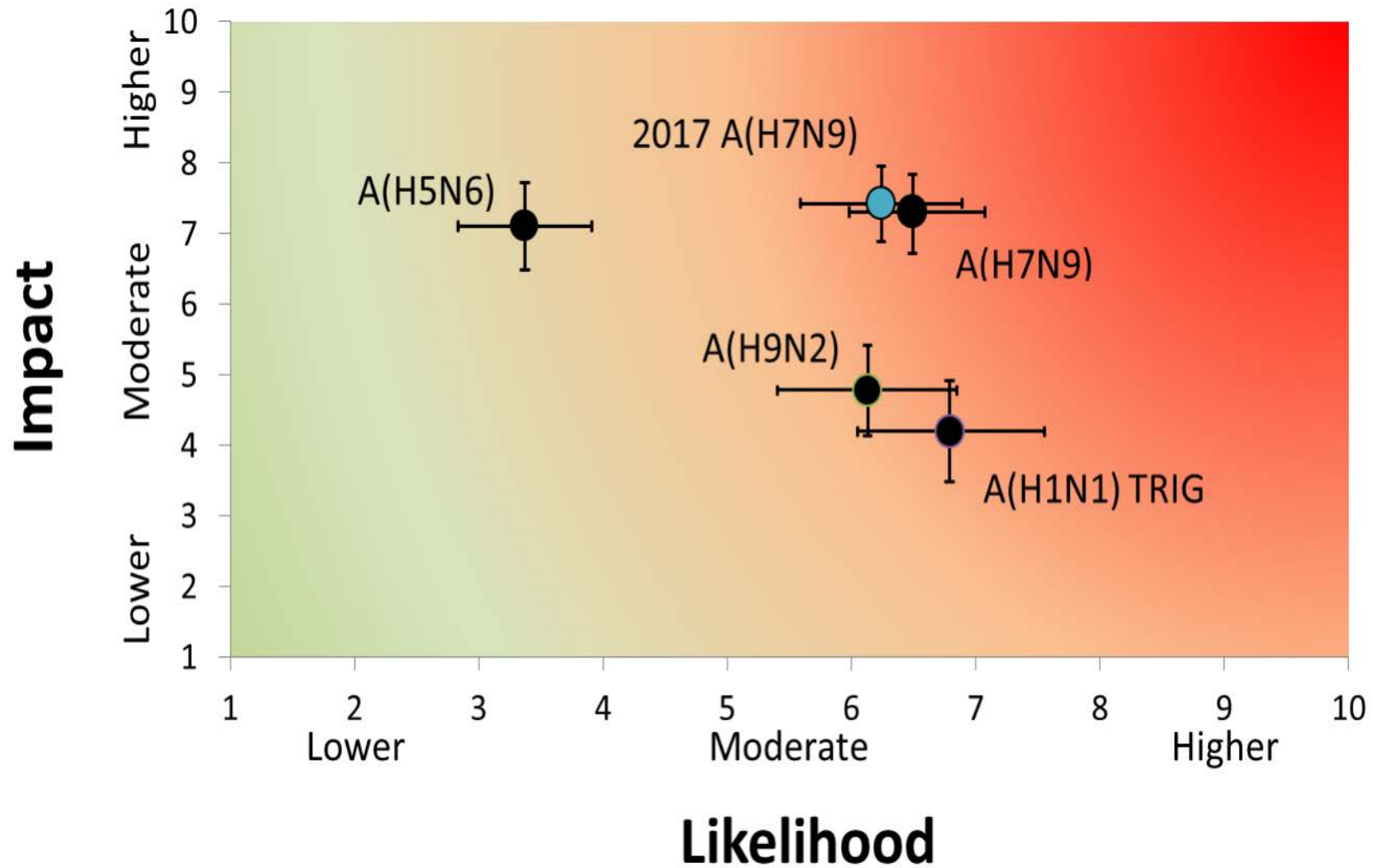
TIPRA Triggers for Use

- Human infection with a non-season or animal influenza virus
- Increased detection of a virus with reduced antiviral susceptibility
- Cluster of human cases:
 - potential human-to-human transmission of virus
 - infections beyond blood-related family members
- Changes in epidemiological trends associated with the virus:
 - number of cases detected
 - disease severity
 - mortality ratio
 - geographic dispersion





TIPRA Outcomes





Determining Pandemic Influenza Severity in Real-time

- Historically, assessment of influenza pandemic effects characterized by using estimate of the overall case-fatality ratio (CFR)
- Multiple challenges using CFR alone:
 - Deaths may occur weeks after illness begins
 - Subject to reporting bias
 - Single overall CFR does not account for potential varying effects on high-risk population subgroups
 - Does not address societal effects (e.g. absenteeism, demand on health care services)



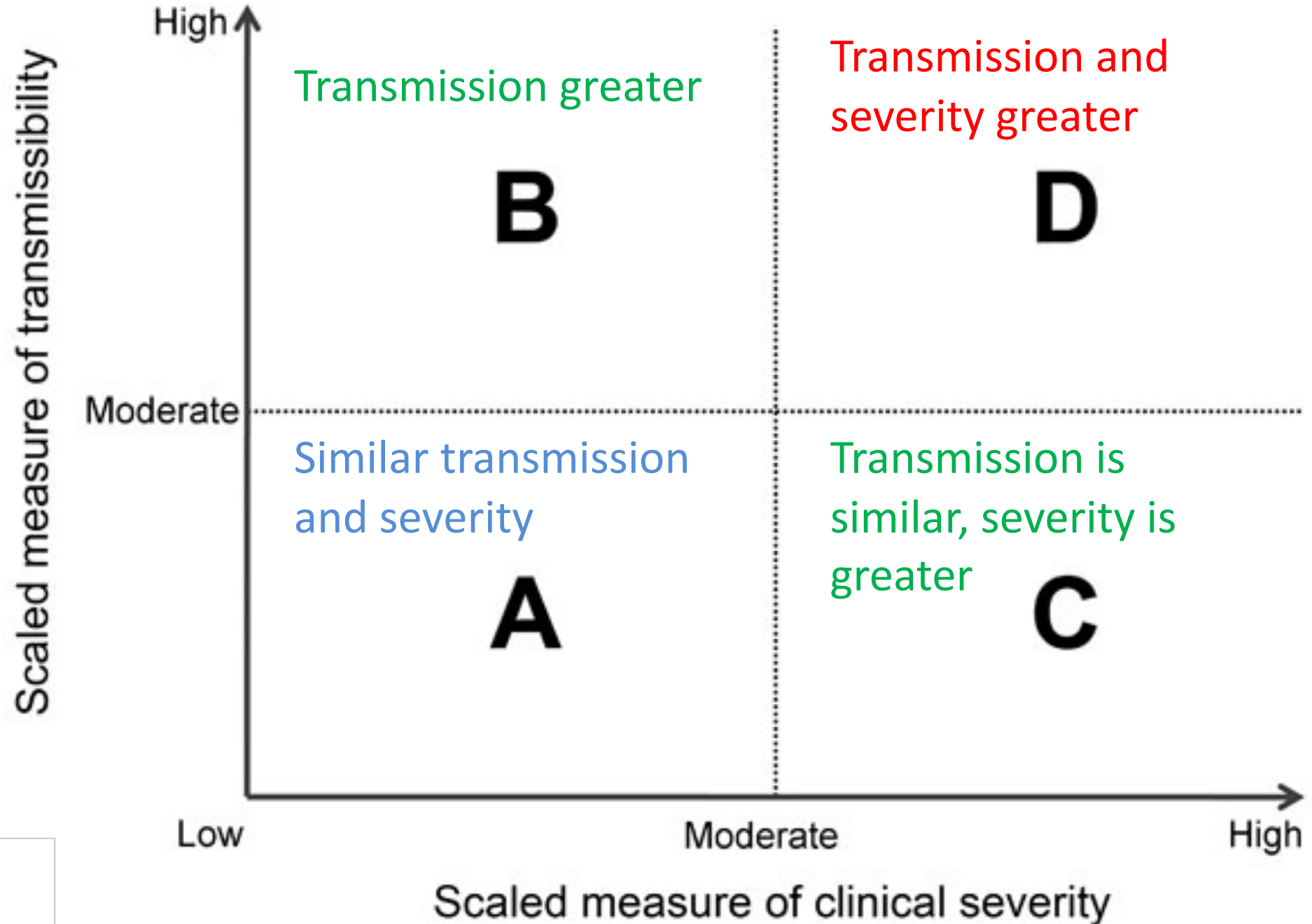
Systematic Framework for Assessing Potential Pandemics

- In 2017, WHO published Pandemic Influenza Severity Assessment (PISA)
- Initial assessment (when data is sparse) of potential influenza pandemic severity:

Transmissibility of the virus	Seriousness of Disease	Population Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virologic characterization• Animal transmission studies• Underlying population immunity• Secondary attack rate in closed settings (e.g. households, schools)• Early estimates of R_0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virologic characterization• Animal morbidity studies• Underlying population immunity• Inferences about risk of mortality and hospitalization from early case reports and outbreaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None



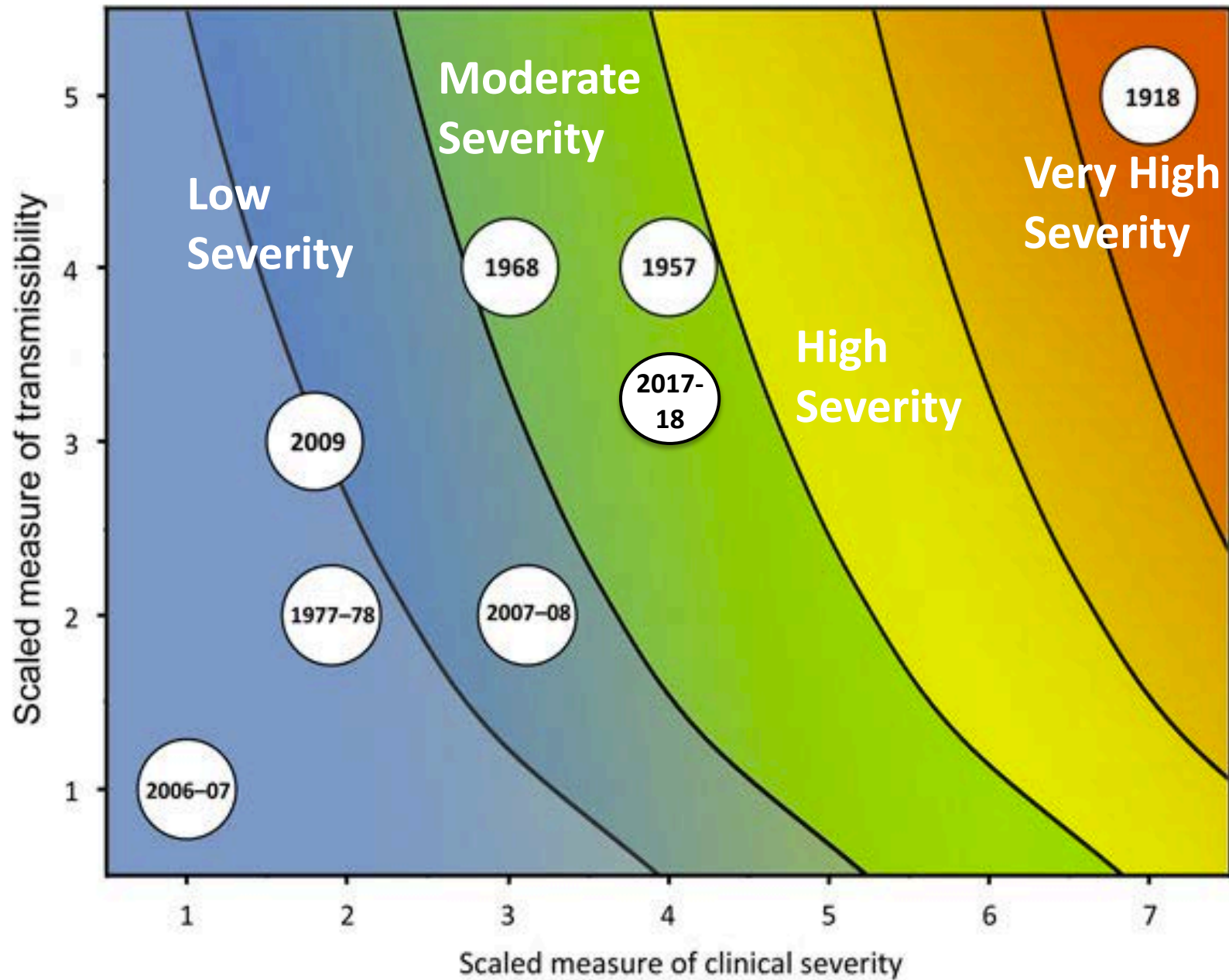
**Compared to
seasonal
epidemics:**





CDC Systematic Framework for *Refined* Assessment

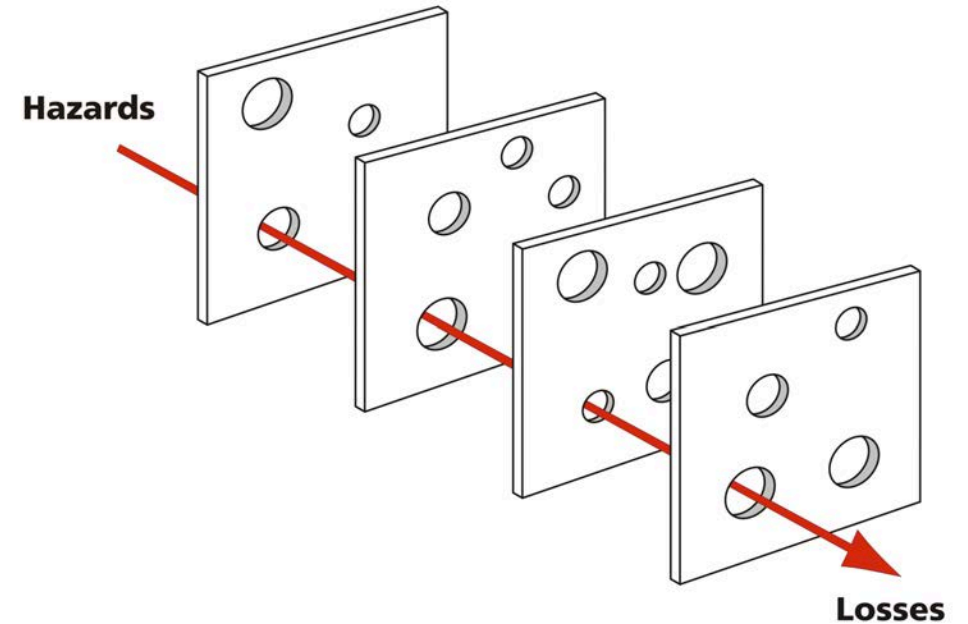
Parameter no. and Description	Scale						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Transmissibility							
1 Symptomatic attack rate, community, %	≤10	11-15	16-20	21-24	≥25		
2 Symptomatic attack rate, school, %	≤20	21-25	26-30	31-35	≥36		
3 Symptomatic attack rate, workplace, %	≤10	11-15	16-20	21-24	≥25		
4 Household secondary attack rate, symptomatic, %	≤5	6-10	11-15	16-20	≥21		
5 R0; basic reproductive no.	≤1.1	1.2-1.3	1.4-1.5	1.6-1.7	≥1.8		
6 Peak % outpatient visits for ILI	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	≥13		
Clinical Severity							
1 Case-fatality ratio, %	<0.02	0.02-0.05	0.05-0.1	0.1-0.25	0.25-0.5	0.5-1	>1
2 Case-hospitalization ratio, %	<0.5	0.5-0.8	0.8-1.5	1.5-3	3-5	5-7	>7
3 Ratio, deaths: hospitalization, %	≤3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-18	>18





Mitigating the next Influenza Pandemic

- Vaccine but not available immediately
- Antivirals but mainly available in resource-rich countries
- Pandemic mitigation in the early months will mostly rely on *non-pharmaceutical public health measures (NPIs)*:
 - Personal measures, including face masks and hand washing
 - Workplace and school closures
 - Isolation of sick, quarantine of exposed persons
 - Travel restrictions

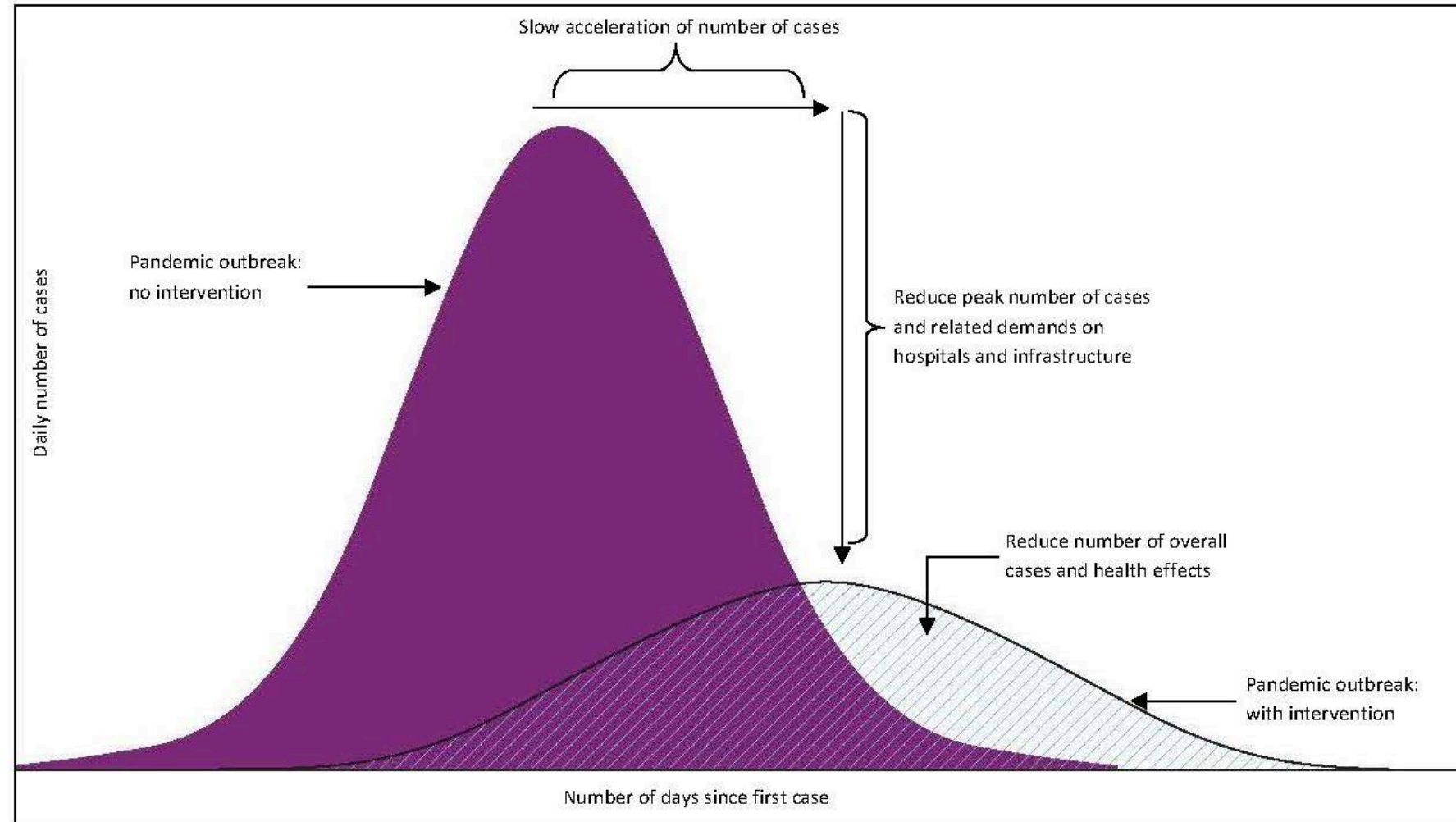




Potential Impact of NPIs on an Influenza Pandemic

Community mitigation measures may:

- 1) Slow spread of infections
- 2) Delay peak of infections
- 3) Reduce size of peak
- 4) Reduce spreading infections over time





GISRS

Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)- est. 1952 by WHO

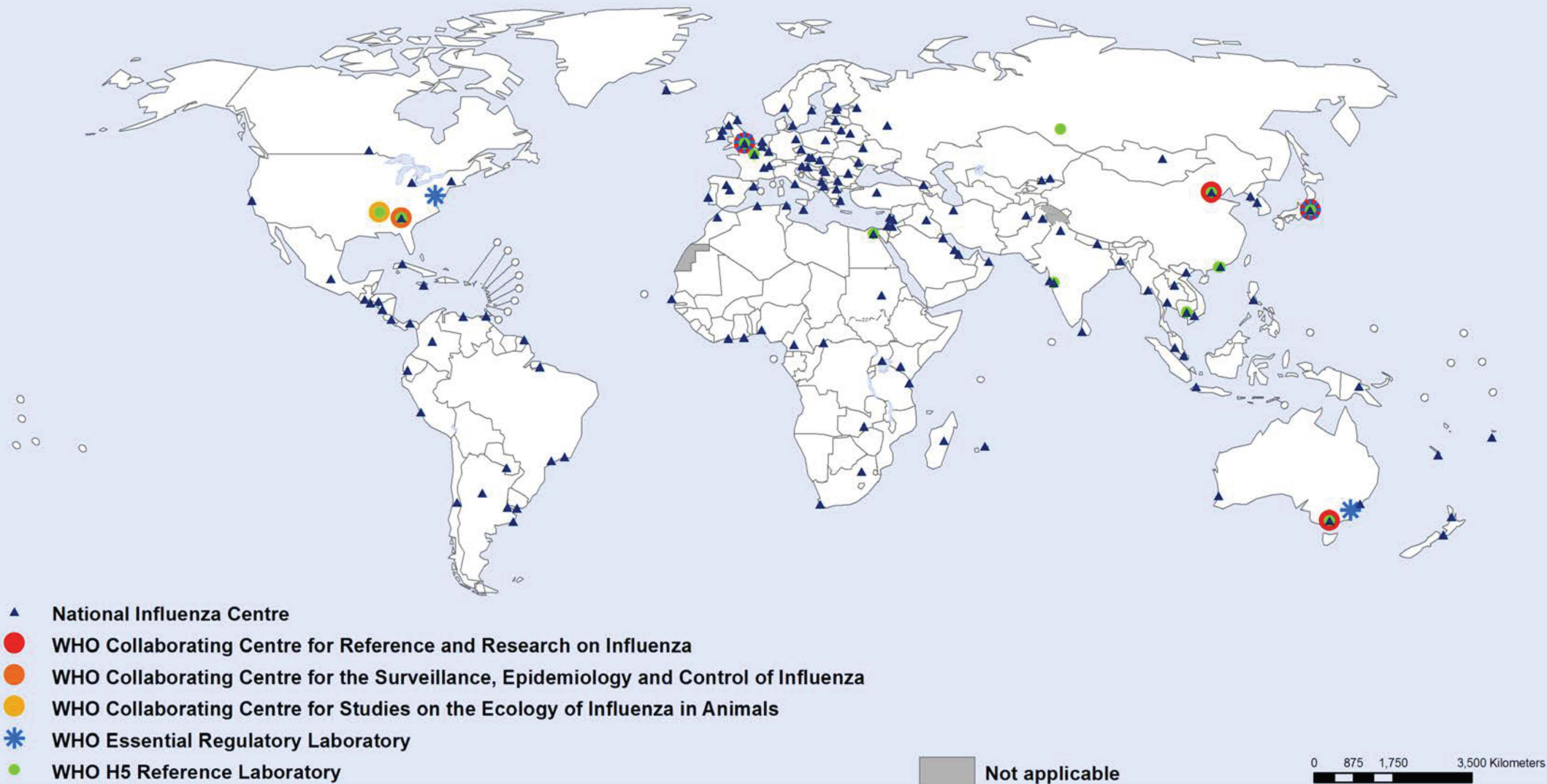
- 1) Global mechanism of surveillance, preparedness and response for seasonal, pandemic, and zoonotic influenza
 - 2) Global platform for monitoring influenza epidemiology and disease
 - 3) Global alert for novel influenza viruses and respiratory pathogens
- 115 WHO Member States
 - Conducts:
 - antigenic and sequence analysis
 - population susceptibility based on antibody levels in human sera





WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System

20 December 2017



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS), WHO
Map Production: Global Influenza Programme
World Health Organization



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St. Jude as a WHO Collaborating Center

- Robert Webster, PhD joined St. Jude in 1968
 - Identified that human influenza viruses originate in avian species
- One of six WHO Collaborating Centers-
 - 1) Atlanta, US (CDC)
 - 2) St. Jude Children's Hospital, Memphis TN (est. 1976)
 - 3) Beijing, China
 - 4) London, UK
 - 5) Tokyo, Japan
 - 6) Melbourne, Australia

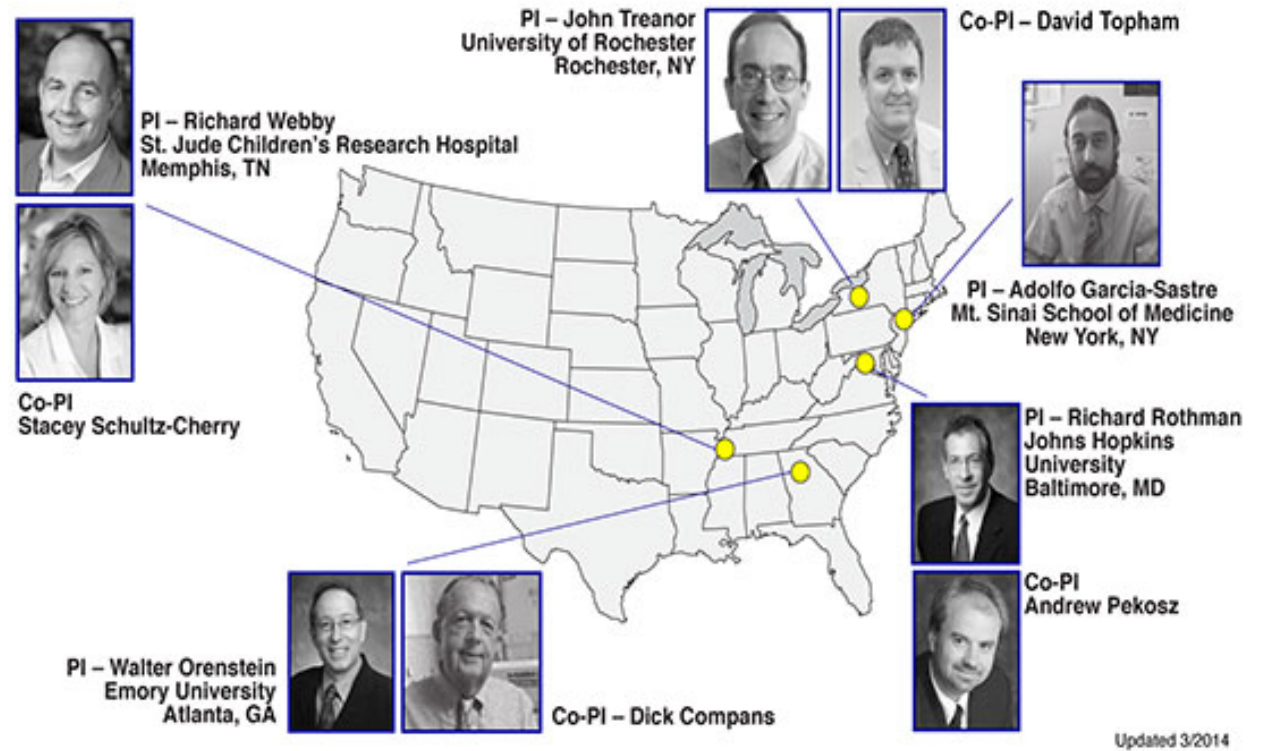




NIAID CEIRS Centers

In 2007, St. Jude is designated one of five CEIRS Centers funded by the NIH

NIAID Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance (CEIRS)



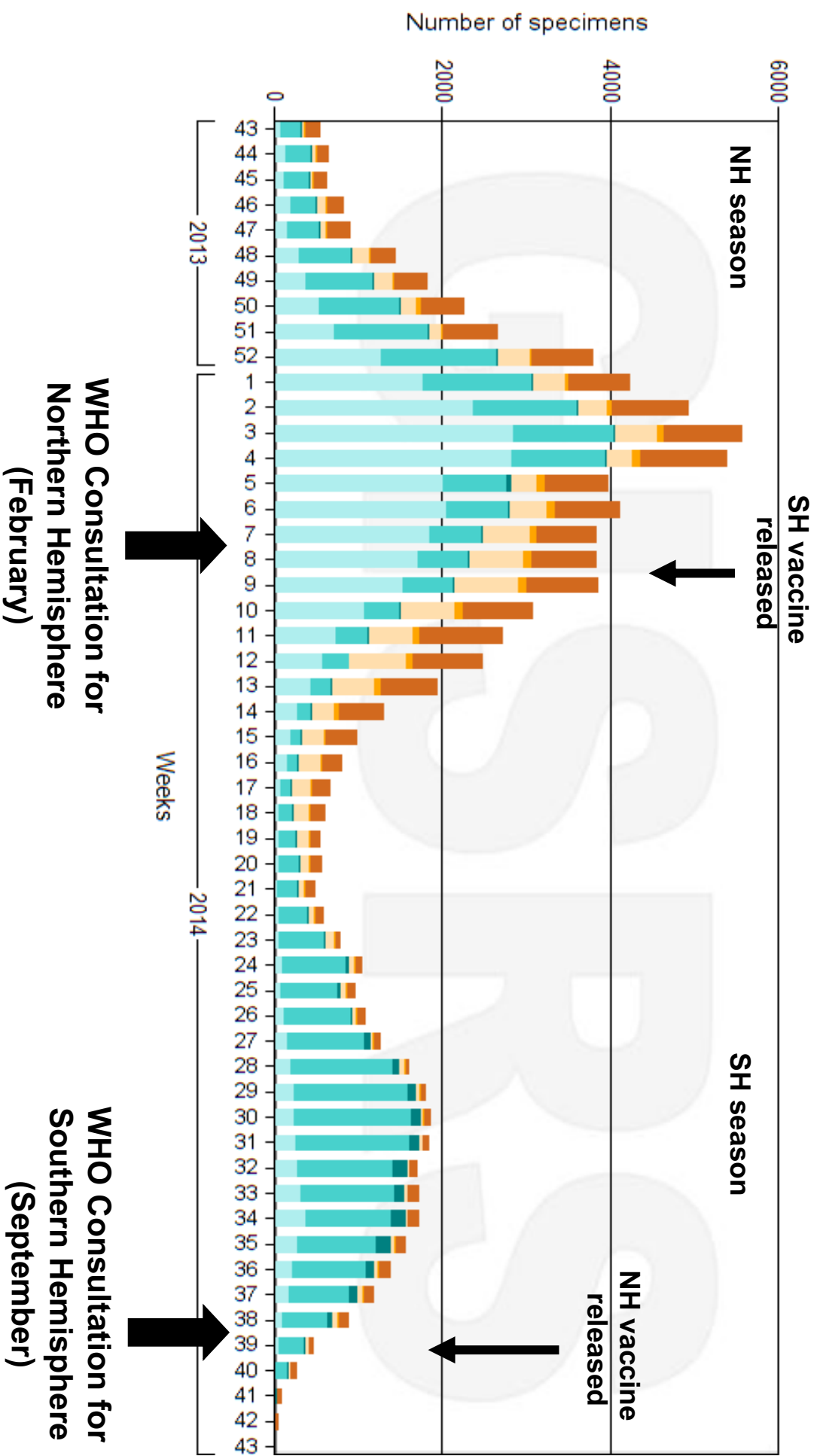


Nine advisors to WHO





Process driven by manufacturing limitations





Question: are the latest field viruses similar to current vaccine strains or not?

Multiple data types used:

- Sequence data, much more available now
- Antigenic data -hemagglutination inhibition or microneutralization
- Human serology
- Predictive modeling (in its infancy)
- Vaccine effectiveness data

A(H1N1)pdm09 HA, All Available Since September 1, 2018

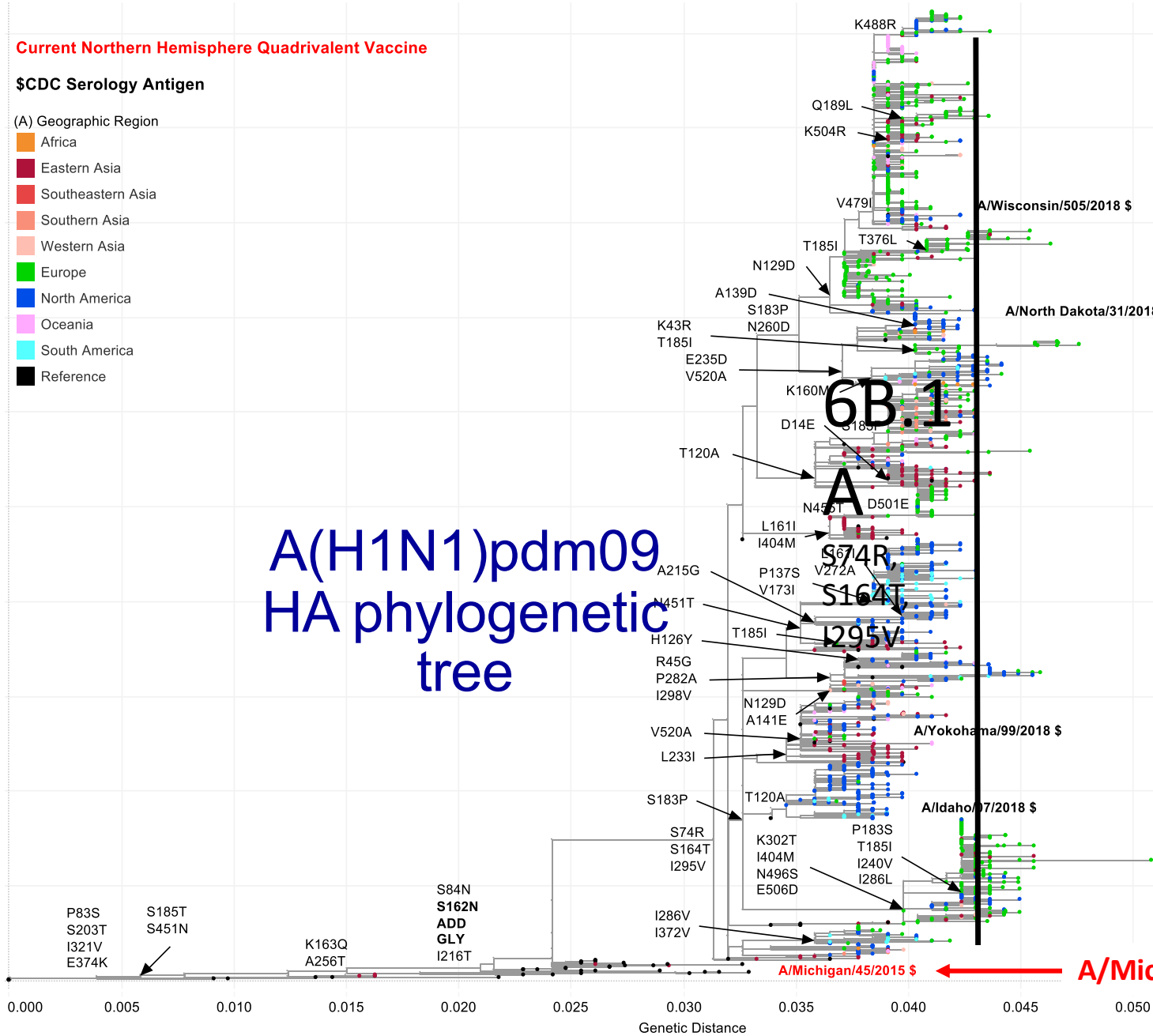
Current Northern Hemisphere Quadrivalent Vaccine

\$CDC Serology Antigen

(A) Geographic Region

- Africa
- Eastern Asia
- Southeastern Asia
- Southern Asia
- Western Asia
- Europe
- North America
- Oceania
- South America
- Reference

A(H1N1)pdm09
HA phylogenetic
tree

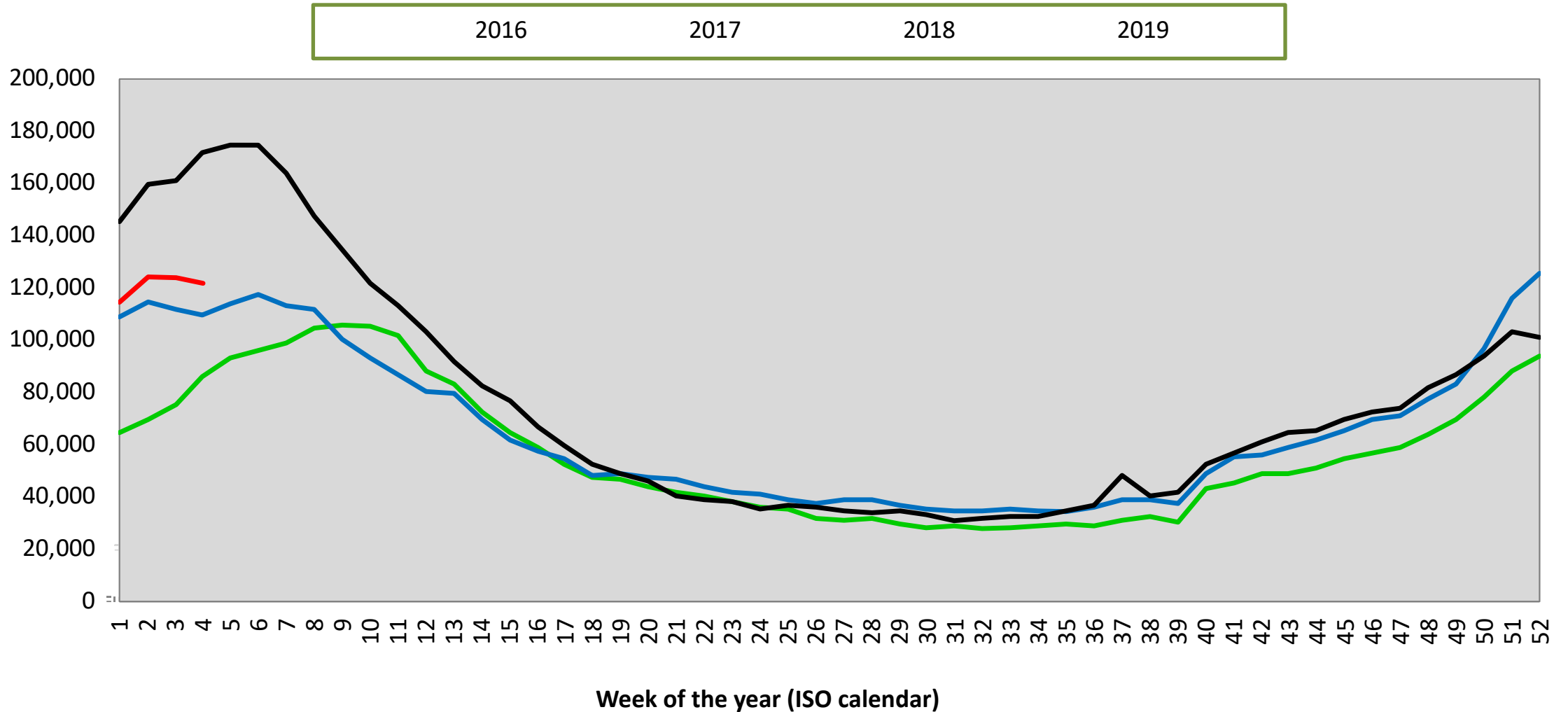


S183P

2017-2018
vaccine strain



Number of specimens processed by GISRS





Criteria for strain change

Widespread and increasing circulation of viruses showing:

(1) marked change in antigenic profile compared with previous vaccine strains (typically 4 to 8 fold reduction in HAI titers)

AND

(2) changes in sequence of HA protein, especially at known antibody- or receptor-binding sites

AND

(3) poor recognition by serum antibodies from people who received the previous vaccine

AND

(4) availability of suitable candidate vaccine strains isolated in eggs



Not all viruses are suitable for vaccine production

- Egg adaptive changes
- Stability of antigens
- Poor growth
- Not all viruses reassort successfully

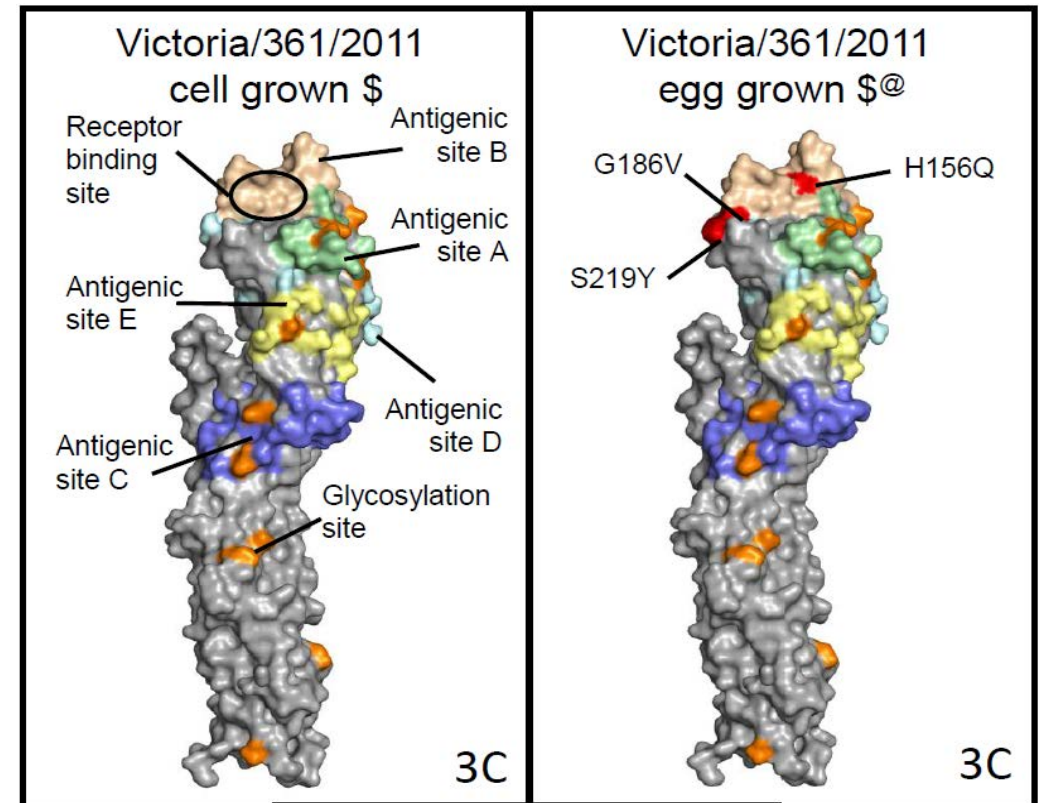


Image prepared by WHO CC at US CDC and presented at Information Meeting, WHO, Geneva, February 2013



A(H3N2) low reactors in HI assays by WHO CCs

WHO CC	A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016- <u>Cell</u> (3C.2a1)	Low (≥ 8 fold)
CNIC	73 (84%)	14 (16%)
VIDRL	248 (98%)	5 (2%)
Total	549 (96%)	21 (4%)



A(H3N2) low reactors in HI assays by WHO CCs

WHO CC	A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016- <u>Egg</u> (3C.2a1)	Low (≥ 8 fold)
CDC	18 (11%)	140 (89%)
CNIC	78 (90%)	9 (10%)
CRICK	28 (52%)	26 (48%)
VIDRL	8 (3%)	245 (97%)
Total	132 (24%)	420 (76%)

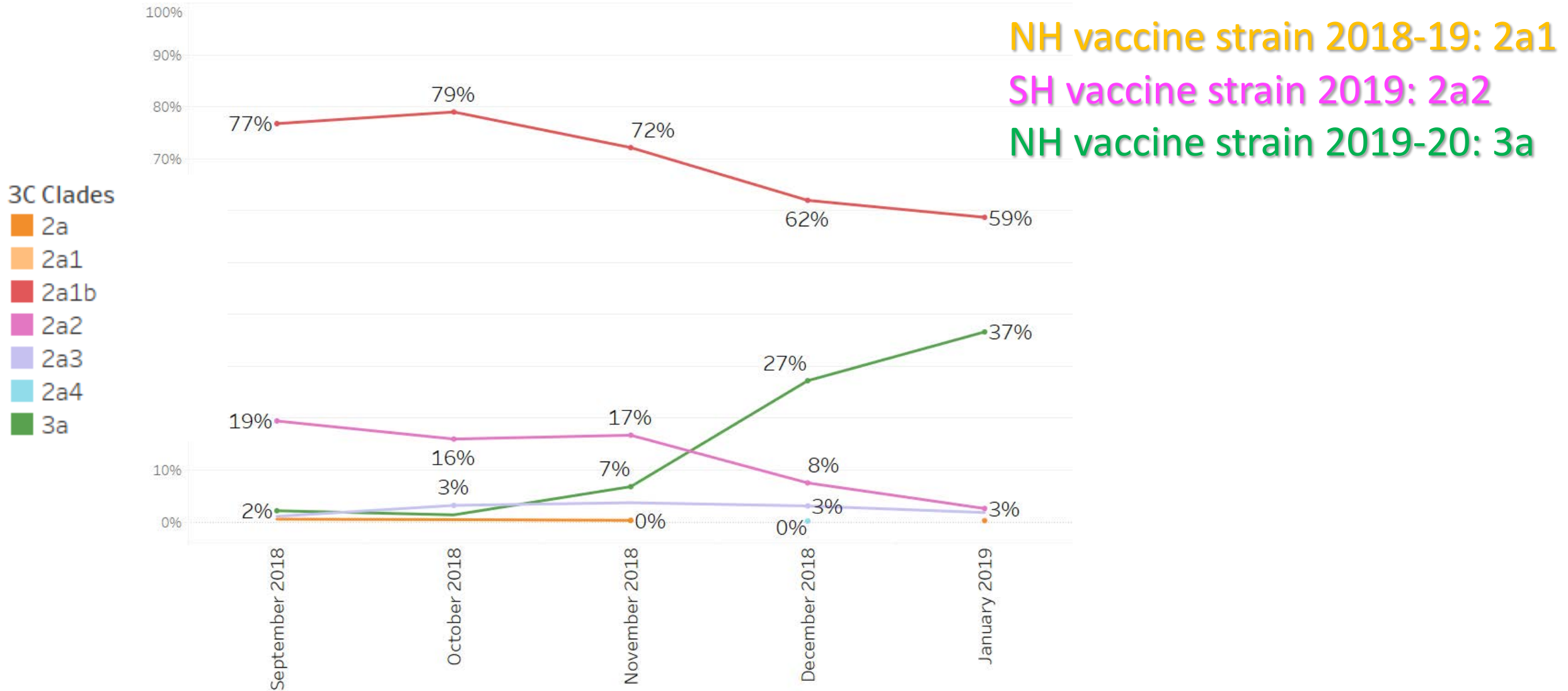


Many viruses are developed, many fail

- **A(H1N1): A/California/07/09-like**
 - A/Brisbane/10/10
 - A/Bolivia/559/13
 - A/South Africa/3626/13
 - A/New Caledonia/58/14
 - A/Florida/62/14
 - A/Minnesota/32/15
 - A/Slovenia/2903/15
 - A/St. Petersburg/61/15
 - A/Michigan/45/15 (6B.1)
 - A/Iowa/53/16 (6B.2)
- **B Victoria: B/Brisbane/60/08-like**
 - B/Texas/2/13
 - B/Indiana/25/15
 - B/Brisbane/46/15
- **A(H3N2): A/Hong Kong/4801/14-like**
 - A/Hong Kong/7127/14
 - A/New Caledonia/71/14
 - A/Norway/2178/14
 - A/Montana/28/15
 - A/South Australia/09/15
 - A/Brisbane/47/15 & /82/15
- **B Yamagata: B/Phuket/3073/13-like**
 - B/Brisbane/9/14
 - B/Utah/09/14
 - B/Maryland/12/15
 - B/California/12/15



A(H3N2) 3C clade dynamics based on available HA sequences





Global influenza B/Victoria lineage clades based on available HA sequences (WHOCC Atlanta)

HA genetic group

V1A

V1A.1

V1A-3 Del

Africa

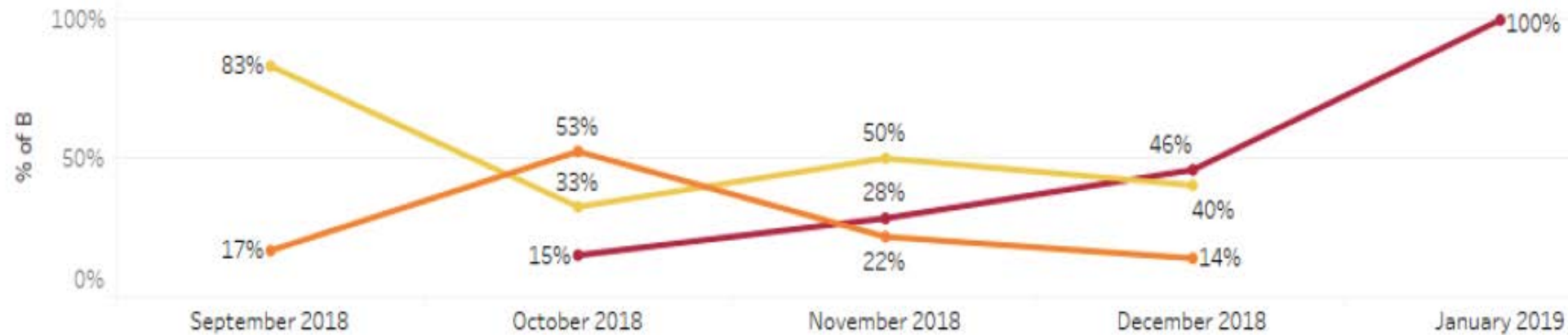
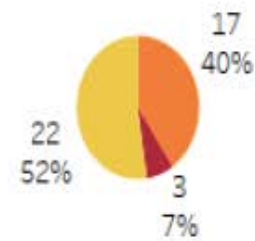
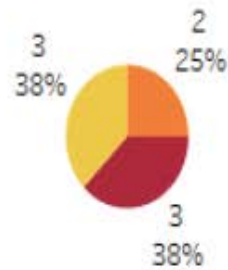
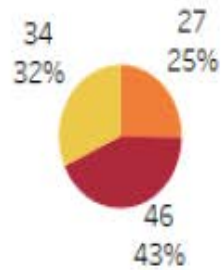
Asia

Europe

North America

Oceania

Central and South America





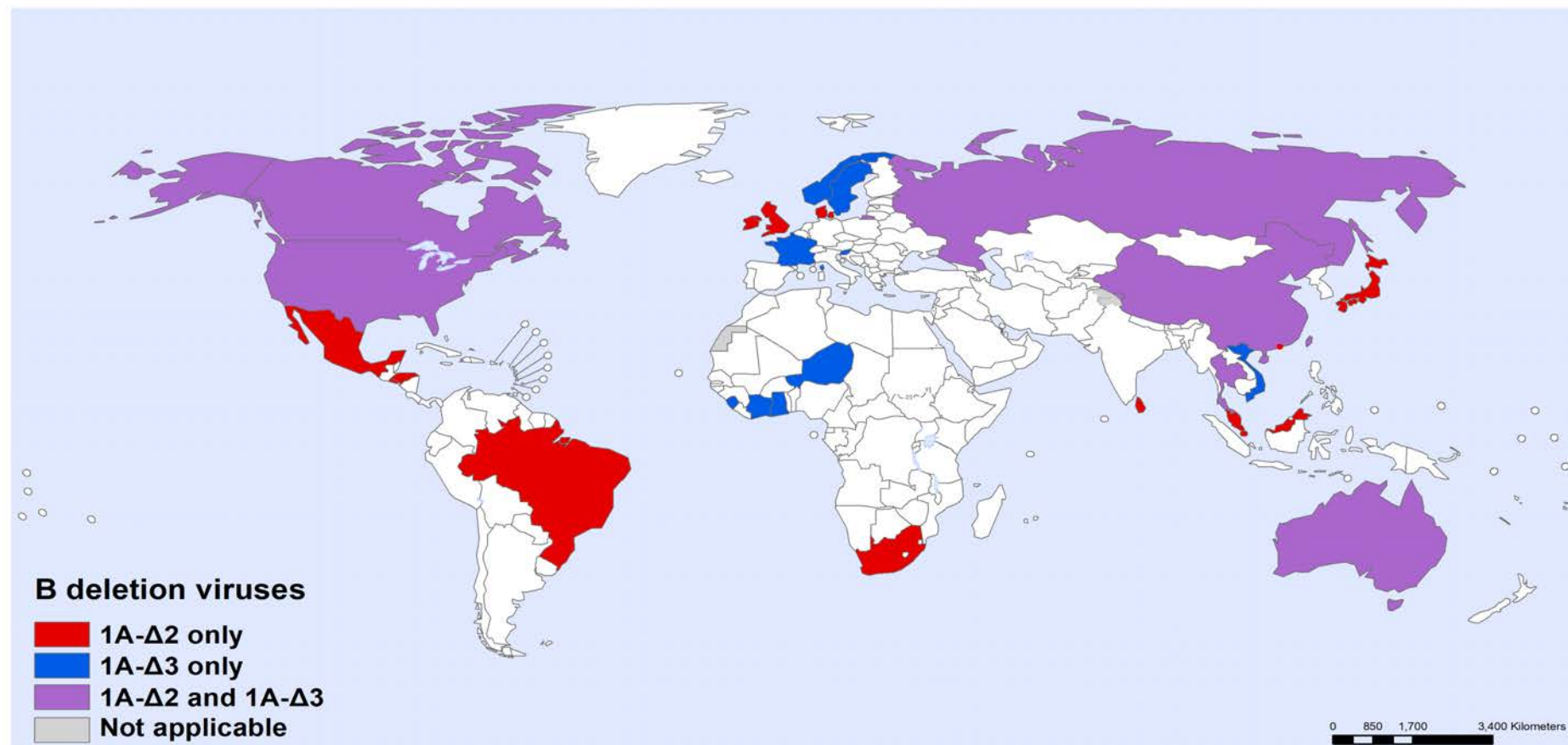
Influenza B/Victoria deletion viruses

2-del = 121

3-del = 85

Influenza B Victoria deletion viruses with HA sequence available

19 February 2019



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: WHO CCs and NICs of GISRS, February 2019
Map Production: WHO GISRS Team
World Health Organization



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Vaccine composition recommendation

It is recommended vaccines for use in the 2019-2020 northern hemisphere influenza season contain the following:

Quadrivalent

- A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- A/Kansas/14/2017 (H3N2)- like virus; **(3a strain)**
- B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus (B/Victoria/2/87 lineage); and **(2 deletion strain)**
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata/16/88 lineage)

Trivalent

- Two A components as above
- B/Colorado/06/2017-like



Give It Your
Best
Shot

A purple, spiky, cartoonish monster with three large eyes and a wide, toothy grin, appearing to be splashing or running through the word 'Shot'.



Thank you

Richard Webby, PhD
Miguela Caniza, MD
Stacey-Schultz-Cherry, PhD
Sanja Trifkovic, PhD

