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Recommended composition of the northern hemisphere influenza vaccine for the 2013-14 season

On 21 February 2013, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended that vaccines for the 2013-14 northern hemisphere influenza season contain the following:

A (H1N1): an A/California/7/2009 - like virus.

A (H3N2): a virus antigenically like the cell-propagated prototype virus A/Victoria/361/2011. It is recommended that A/Texas/50/2012 is used as the A(H3N2) vaccine component because of antigenic changes in earlier A/Victoria/361/2011-like vaccine viruses resulting from adaptation to propagation in eggs.

B: a B/Massachusetts/2/2012 - like virus (Yamagata lineage)

It is recommended that quadrivalent vaccines containing two influenza B viruses contain the above three viruses plus a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus (Victoria lineage).

For further information please see the WHO web site.

The composition of the Australian 2013 influenza vaccine was announced in October 2012. For further information please see the TGA web site.