



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



**44th DIRECTING COUNCIL**  
**55th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

*Washington, D.C., USA, 22-26 September 2003*

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***RESOLUTION***

***CD44.R8***

**INFLUENZA PANDEMIC: PREPARATION IN THE HEMISPHERE**

***THE 44th DIRECTING COUNCIL,***

Having seen the progress made in global and regional surveillance and preparedness for influenza (Document CD44/13) and recognizing the need to adopt urgent measures at the regional and national levels for implementing mechanisms for early detection of novel influenza virus strains and pandemic preparedness planning to effectively manage risk associated with its spread;

Taking into account that annual influenza epidemics cause millions of cases and thousands of deaths each year in the Region;

Recognizing the limited national and regional preparedness for a future influenza pandemic and concerned with its health and economic burden particularly in developing countries;

Further recognizing the preventability of many of these deaths through the increased use of existing vaccines; and

Considering the need for expanded regional vaccine production, more equitable access to antiviral drugs, and enhanced viral surveillance as part of national and regional pandemic preparedness,

***RESOLVES:***

1. To urge the Member States to:
  - (a) implement strategies to expand coverage of high risk populations with influenza vaccine, including the elderly and persons with underlying diseases with the goal of achieving vaccination coverage of the elderly population of at least 75% by 2006;
  - (b) assess the health and socioeconomic impact of annual influenza epidemics;
  - (c) prepare and implement national plans of preparedness for influenza pandemics with particular attention to viral circulation surveillance, vaccination strategies, medical care, medical supplies, and communications;
  - (d) activate influenza multidisciplinary national pandemic task forces responsible for developing long-term strategies as part of national emergency preparedness committees.
2. To request the Director to:
  - (a) continue to strengthen regional influenza surveillance as a critical component of preparedness for seasonal epidemics and pandemics of influenza;
  - (b) facilitate mechanisms for safe and timely transport of biological specimens;
  - (c) provide technical cooperation to support the countries and the subregional emerging infectious diseases networks in their efforts to develop national and subregional influenza preparedness plans;
  - (d) facilitate the increase of regional production and equitable access, which includes the cost of influenza vaccines, for epidemics or global pandemics, in partnership with international and national partners;
  - (e) foster ties with multilateral, bilateral, and private health development partners to act synergistically in the preparations for dealing with and controlling influenza.

*(Ninth meeting, 26 September 2003)*