



Regional Consultation on zoonotic influenza Human-Animal Interface

Second meeting of the GF-TADs Permanent Group of Experts on Avian Influenza

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Humano-Animal de Influenza

PAHO work at the human-animal interface for zoonotic influenza

- The **Infectious Threat Management Unit** of the Health Emergency Department (PHE/IHM) and the **PANAFTOSA** Center of the Department of Communicable Diseases and Environmental Health Determinants (CDE/PANAFTOSA) have been working for the last **6 years to promote work on zoonotic influenza at the human-animal interface.**
- Baseline Regional survey in 2017
- Opening meeting in PAHO headquarters in 2017
- Country workshops involving OVSs and Public Health authorities



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Regional consultation on zoonotic influenza human- animal interfaz

On March 2023, in Rio de Janeiro, took place this Regional Consultation to:

- 1. Review the experiences** in the response and **lessons learned** from the countries with occurrence of avian influenza outbreaks
- 2. Strength regional work** on the human-animal interface with countries, WHO Collaborating Centers and strategic partners
- 3. Update guidelines** on influenza at the human-animal interface and PAHO/WHO recommendations to strengthen intersectoral work in surveillance, early detection, and response



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Intersectoral working groups made up of representatives from **Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, the United States of America, Guatemala, Mexico, WHO, WHO CCs, WOA, FAO, OIRSA, IICA**

Consultation with directed questions and *ad hoc* discussions. Blocks discussed:

- 1 - **Surveillance, prevention and early detection** of zoonotic influenza
- 2 - **Emergency preparedness and response**
- 3 - **Governance mechanisms and regulatory frameworks**
- 4 - **Risk assessment and analysis** with an intersectoral character
- 5 - **Risk communication strategies**

- ✓ Context
- ✓ Experiences/ Good practice
- ✓ Challenges
- ✓ Actions/ Recommendations
- ✓ Opportunities



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Results



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Intersectoral work in surveillance

- Generate reciprocal work **mechanisms for the process** of human and animal surveillance and data interpretation
 - Enabling platforms to share information effectively
- **Strengthen animal surveillance of avian and swine influenza subtypes** that are of public health interest (beyond the WOAHA Code)
 - PAHO/WHO Recommendations
- Establish criteria for **revision of surveillance structure** (according to the exposed population based on the animal component)
- Strengthen the **collaboration of national human and animal laboratories**
- Include and strength *animal samples for shipment to the WHO CCs*
 - Activate animal reference laboratories
- Consider the use of Public Health resources to strengthen influenza surveillance in the animal sector.
- Establish **regional commissions** on influenza work at the interface





Emergency preparedness and intersectoral response

- Establish **protocols and joint actions**, with well-established roles that address:
 - Epidemiological investigation that contributes to the counterpart,
 - Risk communication for different populations under the emergency,
 - Biosafety training for the workers involved.
- Carry out **drills** that put into practice the established protocols.
- Conduct **joint emergency risk assessments**
- **Institutionally** - implement joint round tables to facilitate the exchange and analysis of information, joint risk assessments, and emergency preparedness and **response**
 - Development of guidelines and tools adapted for the joint response
- **Review** interaction **protocols** between laboratories for efficient and rapid exchange of samples





Governance mechanisms and regulatory frameworks

- Establish regulations for zoonotic influenza with **funds for routine work and emergency response**
- The intersectoral interface in the context of the emergency proposed scenarios with a certain heterogeneity despite the reference standards and agreements, for example in relation to the different **organizational levels (municipal, jurisdictional)**
- Everything that is invested in animal health is being invested in human health. **Invest more in animal health so** that human health is protected.
- Include the industry to obtain resources - **Insurance compensation**





Block 4 Joint risk assessment

- **Build capacity** for risk assessment at the interface,
 - Implement the use of support **tools for risk analysis**
 - Carry out risk assessment involving **all interested parties**: human, animal, and environmental parts (laboratory, epidemiology, managers, communications);
 - Guarantee the **flow of information in a timely** manner among all the actors involved.
- Use risk assessment to **guide decision-making**, both for **surveillance and for response**
- Risk assessments **must be carried out not only during emergencies**, but also in times of peace
- Use risk assessments to update **pandemic preparedness plans**





- **Develop a National Risk Communication Plan** for zoonotic influenza:
 - Inclusion of participation of **all interested sectors**
 - Invest in **training and awareness** in communication (eg with producers, academic institutions);
 - **Aligned** and pre-established messages with **joint spokespersons**, with concepts of animal health and public health;
 - For the creation and discussion of this plan, a **multidisciplinary team** is necessary, including experts in social sciences.
- **Communicate early** both the situation and the **key messages to strengthen the prevention and control** of the event;
- Guide messages based on **technical evidence**
- Strengthen the use of didactic **materials** (eg: infographics, Twitter, podcast, management of special communities (radio), etc.)
- Carry out the **evaluation of the impact of risk communication.**





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Next Steps



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Next steps

- **Develop and publish regional guidelines** on influenza at the human-animal interface including PAHO/WHO recommendations to strengthen surveillance, prevention, early detection, investigation, and response
- **Develop and publish** a regional document on **technical Q&A** on zoonotic influenza (eg, surveillance strategies, clinical management, vaccination, sample shipment, etc.)
- Strengthen **technical collaboration at national level** through joint missions
- Implement **monitoring mechanisms** for multisectoral collaborations (eg: SPAR)
- **Consolidate a technical group** within SARI-net plus **for intersectoral work** on influenza at the human-animal interface



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Thank you !!



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