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Intercare Corporate Group Inc. “The Heart of Excellence”

Infection Prevention & Control

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The Future of Vaccines from the World Health

A new World Health Organization (WHO) study names 17 pathogens that regularly cause diseases in communities as top priorities for new vaccine development. The WHO study is the first global effort to prioritize endemic pathogens based on criteria that included regional disease burden, antimicrobial resistance risk and socioeconomic impact.

The study reconfirms longstanding priorities for vaccine research and development (R&D), including for HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis – three diseases that collectively take nearly 2.5 million lives each year. The study also identifies pathogens such as Group A streptococcus and Klebsiella pneumoniae as top disease control priorities in all regions, highlighting the urgency to develop new vaccines for pathogens increasingly resistant to antimicrobials.

WHO asked international and regional experts to identify factors that are most important to them when deciding which vaccines to introduce and use. The analysis of those preferences, combined with regional data for each pathogen, resulted in top 10 priority pathogens for each WHO region. The regional lists were then consolidated to form the global list, resulting in 17 priority endemic pathogens for which new vaccines need to be researched, developed and used.

This new WHO global priority list of endemic pathogens for vaccine R&D supports the Immunization Agenda 2030’s goal of ensuring that everyone, in all regions, can benefit from vaccines that protect them from serious diseases. The list provides an equitable and transparent evidence base to set regional and global agendas for new vaccine R&D and manufacturing, and is intended to give academics, funders, manufacturers and countries a clear direction for where vaccine R&D could have the most impact.

This global prioritization exercise for endemic pathogens, complements the WHO R&D blueprint for epidemics, which identified priority pathogens that could cause future epidemics or pandemics, such as COVID-19 or severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

The findings of this new report on endemic pathogens are part of WHO’s work to identify and support the research priorities and needs of immunization programs in low- and middle-income countries, to inform the global vaccine R&D agenda, and to strategically advance development and uptake of priority vaccines, particularly against pathogens that cause the largest public health burden and greatest socioeconomic impact.

WHO Priority Endemic Pathogens list

- Vaccines for these pathogens are at different stages of development:

Pathogens where vaccine research is needed:

- Group A streptococcus
- Hepatitis C virus
- HIV-1
- Klebsiella pneumoniae

Pathogens where vaccines need to be further developed:

- Cytomegalovirus
- Influenza virus (broadly protective vaccine)
- Leishmania species
- Non-typhoidal Salmonella
- Norovirus
- Plasmodium falciparum (malaria)
- Shigella species
- Staphylococcus aureus

Pathogens where vaccines are approaching regulatory approval, policy recommendation or introduction:

- Dengue virus
- Group B streptococcus
- Extra-intestinal pathogenic E. coli
- Mycobacterium tuberculosis
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)



Hand Hygiene Auditing

Hand Hygiene Auditing is a standardized methodology that is used to monitor (via direct observation) and record the hand hygiene practices of healthcare providers based on the “**Four (4) Moments for Hand Hygiene**”. Hand Hygiene Auditing is completed on a monthly basis at all Intercare sites.

The **Four (4) Moments of Hand Hygiene** include:

Moment 1 – Before initial contact with a resident or resident’s environment.

Moment 2 – Before an aseptic procedure.

Moment 3 – After body fluids exposure risk.

Moment 4 – After contact with a resident or resident’s environment.

Hand hygiene means proper practices which remove microorganisms with or without soil from the hands. Proper hand hygiene requires that all surfaces of the hand (including wrist surfaces, palms, areas between fingers, back and sides of hands, fingers, fingertips, thumb, nails and under the ring if one is worn) be cleaned and decontaminated using either an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and water.

Handwashing with soap removes germs from hands; removing germs from our hands can help prevent infections in a number of ways:

- Germs can get into the body through the eyes, nose and mouth and make us sick. (People frequently touch their eyes, nose, and mouth without even realizing it.)
- Germs from unwashed hands can get into foods and drinks while people prepare or consume them. (Germs can multiply in some types of foods or drinks, under certain conditions, and make people sick.)
- Germs from unwashed hands can be transferred to objects such as handrails, door knobs, tabletops or toys and then re-transferred to another person’s hands.

Handwashing with soap reduces:

- The number of people who get sick with diarrhea by 23-40%.
- Diarrheal illness in people with weakened immune systems by 58%.
- Respiratory illnesses, like colds, in the general population by 16-21%.
- Absenteeism due to gastrointestinal illness in schoolchildren by 29-57%.

Did you know?

- Approximately 1.8 million children under five (5) years of age die each year from diarrheal diseases and pneumonia; these are the top two (2) diseases that lead to mortality in young children around the world.

