

# ANALYSIS OF THE ACTIVITIES ON VACCINATION AND ANTIVIRAL MEDICATION DURING THE PANDEMIC A/H1N1 2009 INFLUENZA

## 1. SUMMARY

### *Background and content*

The Pandemic A/H1N1 2009 Influenza was characterised by the presence of a novel virus that caused mild disease in the absence of risk factors, initial involvement of young population, high transmission rates and cause for concern for the population.

The availability of Preparedness and Response Plans against influenza pandemics, at regional, national and international levels, determined the activities to be undertaken in the different areas of action depending on the phase declared. Moreover, they established the organisational structure and inter-institutional and inter-territorial coordination to be implemented in case of pandemic.

This document gathers the results of the internal analysis of the intervention in terms of vaccines and antiviral medicines conducted within the Spanish Subcommittee on Vaccination and Antiviral Medication (Subcomité de Vacunas y Antivirales) during the pandemic. To this end, the activities and objectives envisaged in the National Plan have been reviewed. Prior to the analysis, the actions undertaken by this Subcommittee before the pandemic outbreak have been summarised.

### *Methods*

The evaluation was performed on the basis of a survey sent to the members of the Subcommittee on Vaccination and Antiviral Medication during the alert and subsequent pandemic, in which they were asked about antiviral medicines, pandemic vaccines, vaccination and organisation strategies, and coordination and management of the Subcommittee performance.

### *Results*

Replies were received from representatives of 17 Autonomous Communities and Cities and 2 State Institutions.

The availability of Preparedness and Response Plans against influenza pandemics has provided us with a reference framework for the actions to be taken. The process carried out by the Subcommittee on Vaccination and Antiviral Medication has been described as positive by its members and the agreements proposed and subsequently adopted by the Public Health Committee have been implemented in all the Autonomous Communities.

The positive aspects of the response developed in this Subcommittee include the coordination and consensus among the Subcommittee technical experts on antiviral medicines and vaccines, the distribution of antiviral medication in the Autonomous Communities and the availability of information on the access to vaccines between the State and Autonomous levels.

The paper highlights different aspects to be improved when updating the Preparedness and Response Plans in case of pandemic, including the integration of different scenarios for action depending on the epidemiological trends, the need to speed up the implementation of the agreements adopted within the Subcommittee on Vaccination and Antiviral Medication and the review of communication strategies, mainly regarding communication to healthcare professionals.

### *Conclusion*

In conclusion, the activities developed by the Subcommittee on Vaccination and Antiviral Medication has been received positively by its participants. Some areas of improvement have been identified, which shall be taken into account when updating the Preparedness and Response Plans in case of influenza pandemic.