Guidance on conducting vaccine effectiveness evaluations in the setting of new SARS-CoV-2 variants

INTERIM GUIDANCE

22 JULY 2021

World Health Organization

Addendum to Evaluation of COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness: Interim guidance

COUNTRY READINESS AND DELIVERY

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WHO continues to monitor the situation closely for any changes that may affect this interim guidance. Should any factors change, WHO will issue a further update. Otherwise, this interim guidance document will expire 2 years after the date of publication.

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Contents

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Abbreviations

AEFI	adverse events following immunization
aOR	adjusted odds ratio
ARDS	acute respiratory distress syndrome
aRR	adjusted relative risk
ARU	attack rate among the unvaccinated
ARV	attack rate among the vaccinated
CaCo	case-control study
CEM	cohort event monitoring
CEPI	Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovations
CI	confidence interval
CLIA	chemiluminescence immunoassays
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
DBP	diastolic blood pressure
ECMO	extracorporeal membrane oxygenation
ELISA	enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays
ERC	ethical review committee
EUA	Emergency Use Authorization
EUL	Emergency Use Listing
Hib	*Haemophilus influenzae* type b
HMO	health maintenance organization
ICU	intensive care unit
ILI	influenza-like illness
IVIR-AC	Immunization and Vaccine-related Implementation Research Advisory Committee (WHO)
LFI	lateral flow immunoassays
L/MICs	low- and middle-income countries
LRT	lower respiratory tract
NPI	non-pharmaceutical interventions
RDD	regression discontinuity design
rRT-PCR	real-time reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction
RSV	respiratory syncytial virus
SAGE	Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (WHO)
SARI	severe acute respiratory infection
SBP	systolic blood pressure
SES	socioeconomic status
STROBE	Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology
TND	test-negative design case-control
URT	upper respiratory tract
US CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
VAED	vaccine-associated enhanced disease
VE	vaccine effectiveness
WHO	World Health Organization