

*" Forward together with innovation: Understanding the need and framing the discussion
for Serology testing for SARS-CoV-*

December 17th, 2020

09.30 – 11.00 CET

Overview:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a major threat to public health. As set out in the Commission Communication on short-term EU health preparedness¹, robust testing strategies and sufficient testing capacities are essential aspects of preparedness and response to COVID-19, allowing for early detection of potentially infectious individuals and providing visibility on infection rates and transmission within communities. Moreover, they are a prerequisite to adequate contact tracing. It is argued by the Commission that Member States should be implementing comprehensive testing to rapidly detect an increase in cases and to identify groups at high risk of disease.

While serology testing for SARS-CoV-2 can be beneficial and potentially even necessary in assessment of vaccine effectiveness, there are issues whether country will utilize this technology.

Presently, healthcare systems have not developed concrete plans regarding serological tests for surveillance. Serological testing could have multiple benefits for healthcare systems for: (1) establishing a threshold for protection or immunity, (2) confirming an initial neutralizing antibody response shortly and (3) tracking of antibody levels. This would support the public health community and decision makers to assess the delivery of vaccine to the most vulnerable communities

The **objective** of this roundtable is to assess the factors, understand the need and frame the discussion for Serology testing for SARS-CoV-2 at a country level by engaging with experts.

The European Commission have stated that in their Communication entitled 'Preparedness for COVID-19 vaccination strategies and vaccine deployment' that "To monitor the performance of the vaccination strategies, it is essential for Member States to have suitable registries in place. This will ensure that vaccination data is appropriately collected **and enables the subsequent post-marketing surveillance and 'real time' monitoring activities**. Member States should ensure that Electronic Immunisation Information Systems or other vaccination registries are up-to-date and fully compliant with data protection legislation".

A **key target audience** is decision making (public health professionals, public health institutes, medical authorities as WHO Europe, and EMA) so as to understand the barriers and enablers so that serology testing in vaccination surveillance systems can be adopted.

Questions to be addressed:

- Testing strategies: restricted vs. systematic - Is there a need to revise earlier recommendations?
- Should approaches to testing adapt to different types of vaccines, also in view of progressively lifting containment measures?
- What is the state of play of serological testing? Could/should we anticipate recommendations before it becomes accessible?

Target Audience



Attendees will be drawn from key stakeholders from the community whose interaction will create a cross-sectoral, highly relevant and dynamic discussion forum. These participants will include healthcare professionals, decision makers, patient organisations, and European umbrella organizations representing interest groups and associations actively engaged in the field of Personalised Medicine. Each session will comprise panel discussions as well as Q&A sessions to allow best possible involvement of all participants

Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5270262009133705232>

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09.30 – 10.30 Opening Plenary Setting the Scene

Chair: Denis Horgan, *EAPM Executive Director*

Bettina Borisch, *Executive Director World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) (10 Minutes)*
Q&A

Vicki Indenbaum, *Laboratory expert working on sero-epidemiological Studies, World Health Organisation (10 minutes)*

Charles Price, *Health security and vaccination Unit, European Commission (10 Minutes)*
Q&A

Stefania Boccia, *Professor, Department of Health Sciences and Public Health, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (10 minutes)*
Q&A

Ursula Wiedermann-Schmidt, *Professor of Tropical Medicine, Medical University Vienna (10 minutes)*

Jean-Charles Clouet, *Siemens-healthineers (10 minutes)*
Q&A

Q&A

10.30 -10.50 Discussion:

10.50 -11.00 Closing & Next Steps