

Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)

ORGANISM (ORGA)

BCH-ORGA-SCBD-45782-7

LAST UPDATED: 01 MAY 2020

Organism information

Scientific name

Influenza A virus

Taxonomic Classification

Phylum Negarnaviricota
Class Insthoviricetes
Order Articulavirales
Family Orthomyxoviridae
Genus Alphainfluenzavirus
Species Influenza A virus

Common name(s)

Influenza

EN

Flu

EN

Avian flu

EN

Human flu

EN

Swine influenza

EN

Equine influenza

EN

Bird flu

EN

Type of organism

Viruses

Characteristics related to biosafety

Known pathogenicity and/or allergenicity

Influenza viruses that cause influenza in vertebrates, including birds, humans, and other mammals.

EN

Common use(s)

Vaccine

Additional Information

Influenza A virus genome is comprised of 8 negative-sense RNA segments, encoding 10 proteins (hemagglutinin (HA), neuraminidase (N), membrane channel protein, nucleoprotein, matrix protein, polymerase basic 1, polymerase basic 2, polymerase acidic protein, nonstructural protein 1 and nonstructural protein 2). The HA protein is categorized into 18 subtypes and confers the H number in the influenza strain (e.g. H1, H3, etc). Similarly, the N protein has 11 sub-types and confers the N number in the influenza strain (e.g. N1, N2, etc.). During co-infection of two strains, reassortment can occur to produce new strains of influenza.

EN

Other relevant website addresses and/or attached documents

- ? [Orthomyxoviridae - Wikipedia](#) (*English*)
- ? [The biology of influenza viruses.pdf](#) (*English*)
- ? [WHO: Influenza](#) (*English*)
- ? [FAO: Avian flu](#) (*English*)
- ? [OIE: Swine influenza](#) (*English*)
- ? [Common aspects of animal influenza \(Influenza A\).pdf](#) (*English*)
- ? [Influenza Research Database](#) (*English*)
- ? [Global environmental drivers of influenza.pdf](#) (*English*)
- ? [CDC - Types of Influenza viruses](#) (*English*)
- ? [Animal influenza virus infections in humans- A commentary.pdf](#) (*English*)
- ? [Bearing the brunt - Mongolian khulan \(Equus hemionus hemionus\) are exposed to multiple influenza A strains.pdf](#) (*English*)

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Further Information

Questions about the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety or the operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House may be directed to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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