

**International Forum**  
**Friday 28 January 2022**  
**Brief Readout**

**Summary**

- This session featured presentations and discussion on Global Genomic Surveillance Capability from UK, Japan, and Israel, with further contributions from other partner countries.

**UKHSA**

**Centre for Pandemic Preparedness (CPP)**

- Joe Littlewood from CPP.
  - Developing our understanding of preparedness based on model developed for Covid-19 but ensuring that it ready for any future health security threat.
  - This model will be key to identifying strengths, weaknesses, gaps, opportunities in the model.
  - CPP provided a brief overview of the ongoing WHO workstream to create a new International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN).
  - Genomic Surveillance:
    - Retaining Capabilities & Knowledge
    - International Networks
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**New Variant Assessment Platform (NVAP)**

- **5.1.2e** provided an overview of NVAP.
  - NVAP is an initiative launched in April 2021 to support early detection of variants globally.
  - It provides a comprehensive programme of support to strengthen genomic sequencing, and provides access to genomic sequencing capacity in UK, as well as support.
  - Seeks to build institutional capacity through training and supply of relevant equipment.

**Japan**

- Japan provided an overview of observations from their ongoing domestic genomic surveillance efforts, noting that complete genome sequencing is critical for successful Covid contact tracing by health authorities to avoid its nationwide spread.



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

- The country's global genomic surveillance enhancement work is ongoing through the WHO with partner countries incl. Australia, South Korea, Singapore, the "EMPaCT Surveillance Network".
- Japan remains keen to increase collaboration globally, sharing experiences when needed.

### **Israel**

- Israeli colleagues provided a detailed overview of their domestic genomic sequencing programme incl. wastewater monitoring, from positive sample collection to variant detection and reporting.
- They are currently independent developing a semi-automated 'radar' for the characterisation of variants in Israel and globally.
  - Objective: To rapidly identify the potential future variants of concerns (VoC) allowing effective mitigations to delay/block its arrival to Israel.

If you wish to attend the fortnightly meeting of the International Forum, please contact the secretariat at [5.1.2| Functionele emailadressen](#) @dhsc.gov.uk.