Serosurvey Design Worksheets

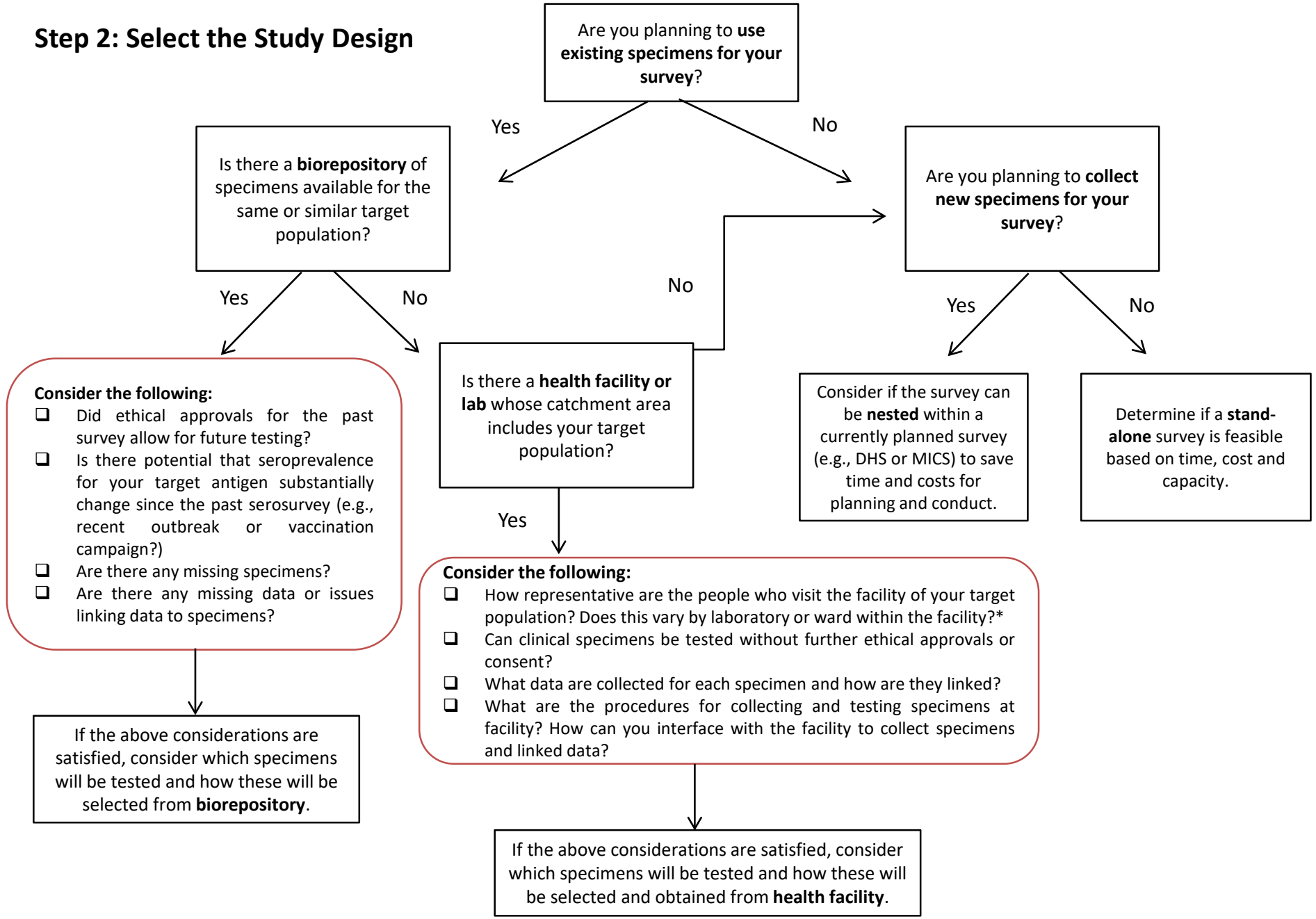
Use the table and flowchart in this file to help guide your serosurvey design discussions.

Refer to Section 2 of the WHO Vaccination Coverage Cluster Survey manual and Section 2 of the WHO Serosurvey Manual for more detailed information about survey objectives and target population.

Step 1: Define Objectives and Target Population

Characteristics	Responses
Target Population	
Specify any subgroups (e.g., age groups, communities) of interest	
Geographic or administrative level results will be representative of (national, state, district, etc.)	
Vaccine antigens and infectious diseases	
Research question(s) *Type of questions:* *Estimate seroprevalence* *Classify a population based on seroprevalence* *Compare seroprevalence between subgroups* *Assess trends*	
Objectives *Based on your research questions*	
Primary	
Secondary	

Step 2: Select the Study Design



*Note: it may be unlikely to find a facility truly representative of your target population. It is important to consider biases and their potential influence on seroprevalence estimates, then determine if your research question(s) can still be addressed from those specimens.

Step 3: Choose the specimen type

Consider the following questions to determine if whole blood (collected by venipuncture or capillary collection methods) is a good option for your project. If not, consider using dried blood spots or other specimen types.* Refer to Module-Specimen Collection for more information.

Questions	Responses	Considerations
Is there a long distance and/or poor transport conditions between the community site and the laboratory?		If unable to spin specimens in the community (lack of equipment or electricity), consider dried blood spots.
If Yes, is it possible to process the specimens in the community prior to transport (e.g., spin whole blood using a portable centrifuge)?		
Can a cold chain be maintained from the time to collection through processing and testing? *This includes equipment such as a vaccine carrier with ice packs immediately following collection and freezers at the laboratory.*		If no, consider dried blood spots.
Will you hire trained phlebotomist to collect the specimens?		If no, consider fingerprick blood collection.
Are community members accepting of venous blood collection?		If no, consider fingerprick blood collection and/or plan for additional community engagement.

Note: These considerations are most relevant for survey designs where you will collect new specimens.
*If planning to use dried blood spots or other specimen types, confirm laboratory assays are available for the selected specimen type and antigen of interest.