Abstract

**Box III Text of the abstract**

The present invention provides engineered hemagglutinin (HA) polypeptides and relevant fragments thereof, compositions containing them, and methods of making or using them, wherein said engineered HA polypeptides comprises Lys224 and Leu226 amino acid substitutions in the 130 loop of the reference H5 HA, wherein the position of the amino acids of the features correspond to the referenced position of the reference H5 HA. The engineered HA polypeptide of this invention is further characterized by increased preference for binding to α2-6 topology over α2-3 topology glycans relative to that preference displayed by the reference H5 HA polypeptide.