



PHAC Media Lines

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Issue: Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has teamed up with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to create a pooled procurement mechanism for the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines called COVAX Facility. This will pool the resources of countries to make advanced purchase agreements for a number of promising vaccine candidates. The Facility will include both low- and lower-middle income countries, whose purchases will be financed by official development assistance, and upper-middle and high-income countries who will self-finance their own purchase of vaccine doses for domestic use through the Facility.

In July, Gavi asked potential self-financing countries, such as Canada, who may be interested in using this mechanism to submit a non-binding Expression of Interest (EOI), which would allow those countries to participate in the further development of the Facility. Canada was one of 75 countries that submitted an EOI.

Gavi [announced and named some of](#) the countries that submitted an expression of interest in the COVAX Facility in a news release on July 15, 2020, and an update on the [extension of intention to participate](#) in the facility on August 25. On August 31, Canada submitted a non-binding “confirmation of intent” letter to participate in the COVAX facility, in advance of the September 18 deadline for binding commitments. These key messages are provided to potentially address media enquiries.

Key messages:

- Ensuring Canadians’ access to vaccines and antivirals is a top priority. The Government of Canada has announced more than \$1 billion in support of a national medical research strategy to fight COVID-19, which includes vaccine development and the production of treatments. There are currently several candidate vaccines in research and development, and it is not possible to determine which ones will be successful in preventing COVID-19 infection.
- The Government of Canada is supporting multiple organizations that are working at unprecedented speed to develop candidate vaccines.
- Participation in the COVAX Facility as a self-financing country is one way for Canada to secure additional options for vaccine doses for use domestically. This approach complements the bilateral arrangements Canada has in place with vaccine manufacturers and diversifies our investment in potential supply.
- On August 31, Canada submitted a non-binding “confirmation of intent” letter to participate in the COVAX facility. This signalled our intent to sign a binding commitment by September 18.
- The Government of Canada is looking forward to ongoing engagement with Gavi and other supporting countries on the COVAX Facility, with the aim of developing a mechanism that works for all countries and supports equitable global access to safe, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, once developed.

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- Canada is committed to global collaboration to end this pandemic. The COVAX Facility, and the Advance Market Commitment within it, is designed to guarantee rapid, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for every country in the world to slow the pandemic.
- Supporting other countries in their fight against COVID-19 and other infectious diseases is an investment to protect Canada and Canadians.
- The Government of Canada continues to monitor and support emerging science, and is committed to ensuring that our domestic efforts and international contributions are supported by the best available evidence, and aligned with global efforts.
- The Government of Canada is closely monitoring vaccine development efforts—domestically and internationally—and will work quickly to negotiate advanced purchase agreements with vaccine manufacturers to secure supply for Canadians as soon as it is feasible.

Questions and Answers:

Q1. How many countries have expressed support for the COVAX Facility?

As of August 24, 2020, 172 countries submitted expressions of interest to COVAX Facility, joining 92 additional countries that could be supported by the COVAX Advance Market Commitment. This represents interest from governments representing more than 60% of the world's population. To date, the UK, Japan, the EU and Canada have submitted non-binding commitments to join the facility.

Q2. What is the goal of COVAX?

The goal of COVAX is to deliver two billion doses of safe, effective vaccines that have passed regulatory approval and/or the World Health Organization (WHO) prequalification by the end of 2021. These vaccines will be delivered to all participating countries, proportional to their populations, initially prioritizing those most vulnerable then expanding to cover 20% of the population of participating countries. Further doses will then be made available based on a country's needs, vulnerability and COVID-19 threat. The COVAX Facility will also maintain a buffer of doses for emergency and humanitarian use, including dealing with outbreaks before they become uncontrolled.

Q3. What is COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC)?

In June 2020, Gavi [launched](#) the COVAX AMC, a financing instrument aimed at incentivizing vaccine manufacturers to produce sufficient quantities of eventual COVID-19 vaccines to ensure access for developing countries. The Gavi COVAX AMC has already raised close to US\$600 million against an initial target of US\$2 billion from high-income donors as well as the private sector.

Input from GAC

Q4. How has the Government of Canada supported Vaccine Development and Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations?

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As part of Canada's global response, on April 5, 2020, the Government of Canada announced a \$40 million investment in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) for COVID-19 vaccine development.

Further, on May 4, the Prime Minister pledged the alignment of over \$850 million of Canada's domestic and international investments to the Coronavirus Global Response, to help researchers and develop solutions to test, treat and protect people, and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Recently, on June 27, the Government of Canada committed an additional \$120 million to support the activities of the Access to COVID-19 Accelerator, including a further \$20 million for CEPI.

Q5. Why is the Government of Canada supporting GAVI?

Supporting Gavi is a high priority for Canada, given the organization's strong track record for saving the lives of children and protecting people's health by increasing the use of vaccines in vulnerable countries.

In May 2020, Canada pledged \$600 million to the third replenishment of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Canada's support will help Gavi to immunize hundreds of millions of children around the world against deadly diseases, such as measles, diphtheria and typhoid. Additionally, Canada's support will help to strengthen health systems, including improving vaccine supply chain and storage, establishing and maintaining data systems, strengthening management of immunization programs, and promoting immunization. Stronger health systems will help countries better respond to COVID-19.

Q6. Is the \$600M pledge to Gavi separate from the \$850M pledged by the Prime Minister to support Canada's domestic and international investments to the Coronavirus Global Response?

The \$600M pledge to Gavi is separate from the \$850M pledged by the Prime Minister to support Canada's domestic and international investments to the Coronavirus Global Response. The pledge to Gavi was for Gavi's Third Replenishment and to support the 2021-2025 Strategy. This strategy was planned and approved prior to COVID-19. Gavi's expected work on COVID-19 will require additional funds which will be sought in addition to the funding raised for the upcoming strategy. The \$600M will help to ensure the ongoing routine immunization of children in Gavi-supported countries.

Q7. If Gavi vaccine is teamed up with CEPI and we already funded CEPI, did we defacto fund Gavi?

Funding for Gavi and CEPI is kept separate. CEPI funding will support the R&D and manufacturing, while Gavi AMC funding will support procurement, distribution and health systems strengthening (e.g., training, cold chain storage where needed). By working together, CEPI and Gavi can ensure "end-to-end" vaccine manufacturing, procurement, and delivery for participating countries in the COVAX Facility, including the COVAX AMC.

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