

Deadline: Wednesday August 26, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. ET

**Questions:**

**I see below that members of the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force are required to disclose anything that could constitute a conflict of interest, and also recuse themselves from any discussions on those matters.**

**<https://nrc.canada.ca/en/corporate/declaration-interests-protocol-covid-19-vaccine-task-force>**

- 1. How many conflict of interest disclosures have been made by the members (not including the ex-officio members who have existing declarations on the public registry).**
- 2. How many times have members of the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force exercised their responsibility to recuse themselves from discussions on topics in which they have a conflict of interest?**

**Proposed response:**

- The health and safety of Canadians remains the Government of Canada's top priority. This is why the Government of Canada has brought together a highly capable Task Force of vaccine and immunology experts and industry leaders with proven experience in developing and commercializing vaccines to provide advice on COVID-19 vaccines.
- In the interest of ensuring the Task Force includes the leading experts in vaccine development and production in Canada, a deliberate decision was made to include individuals who may have a real or perceived conflict of interest with respect to one or more proposals to be evaluated by the Task Force.
- To ensure that Conflict of Interest best practices are followed, while permitting individuals with interests in the proposals before the Task Force to participate, the following protocol has been used to guide member participation:
  - Every member is required to sign a Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Agreement and to disclose activities and interests that could place them in a Conflict of Interest situation with respect to the work of the Task Force.
  - The Task Force will embrace full transparency of declaring interests at its meetings related to any items under discussion so that other members are aware.
  - These declarations will be recorded and advice given by the Task Force to Ministers will take note of the relevant interests.
  - Any member will appropriately recuse themselves from any active discussion of recommendations in which they have an interest.
- Since June 2020, the COVID-19 Task Force and its Bio-manufacturing Sub-Committee have reviewed and provided advice on 40 domestic vaccine and bio-manufacturing proposals. In 18 instances, a Task Force member declared a Conflict of Interest pertaining to a specific proposal, recused themselves, and did not participate in deliberations or the formulation of advice. The Task Force also reviewed and provided advice on 20 international vaccine candidates, and no Conflicts of Interest were identified.