

Questions and Answers—Announcement on Vaccines

1. Why can you not disclose the details of these contracts? Do Canadians not deserve to know the costs?

Apart from the agreements we have just signed, we are currently in talks with a number of suppliers of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. To protect our negotiating position and the confidentiality of commercial information regarding price, we cannot disclose the details of these contracts right now. That being said, in accordance with our commitment to transparency, we will continue to disclose as much information as possible about all actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. When will the clinical trials conclude?

For information on the clinical trials, contact the suppliers of the vaccine candidates directly.

3. What happens if the vaccine candidate is not approved? Do you still have to pay the supplier?

The Government is doing what is necessary to ensure Canada is ready to administer vaccines to its citizens as quickly as possible.

Given strong global competition, payments must be made to guarantee Canada's supply in the event the vaccine is authorized. Conditions for these payments vary. In some cases, Canada will recover a portion of its payment if the vaccine candidate is not authorized.

4. To your knowledge, when will the first vaccine deliveries occur?

Specific delivery timelines vary from candidate to candidate and will be determined by the clinical trials and the vaccine candidate's authorization by Health Canada. Our intention is to have an approved vaccine rapidly accessible.

5. How many companies are you currently negotiating with?

We are actively working to acquire COVID-19 vaccines and supplies to protect Canadians. This involves establishing partnerships with the main international vaccine producers.

Negotiations are underway with a number of suppliers so that Canada has the best possible access to a COVID-19 vaccine. In order to protect our negotiating position, we cannot disclose any more details right now.

6. Why has it taken the Government of Canada so long to sign these agreements when other countries have been announcing similar agreements for weeks?

A number of vaccine candidates are being developed, and it is currently impossible to determine which vaccine will prevent COVID-19 infections. For this reason, the Government of Canada is negotiating agreements with numerous organizations who are working at unprecedented speeds to develop vaccine candidates.

As the main purchasing agent for the Government of Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada is making every effort to acquire safe and effective treatments and vaccines as quickly as possible for Canadians.

We are working quickly and are negotiating with a number of suppliers of potential COVID-19 vaccines. We are being advised by the vaccine task group, which examines the potential vaccine candidates. We have a duty to Canadians to explore every promising vaccine option, and that is exactly what we will continue to do.

7. Are you negotiating an agreement with *Company X*?

Given the uncertainty associated with the development of effective vaccines, Canada is implementing a strategy involving multiple vaccine candidates and numerous platforms. In order to protect our negotiating position, I cannot say more about the companies with whom we are negotiating. However, I can tell you that we are proposing multiple options so that Canada has access to a COVID-19 vaccine once it is ready.

8. Who decides what to purchase?

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), the Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada are working together to purchase COVID-19 vaccines.

They are supported by the COVID-19 vaccine task force made up of vaccination and immunology experts and industry leaders responsible for examining potential vaccine candidates. The task force has already provided the Government with a scientific and technical opinion on a set of very promising international vaccine candidates.

9. Are you negotiating with any Canadian suppliers?

PSPC is making every effort to obtain safe and effective vaccines and treatments as quickly as possible for Canadians. Given global competition, we are actively negotiating with Canadian and international suppliers, while diversifying our supply chains.

We are endeavouring to quickly negotiate advance purchase agreements with vaccine manufacturers to guarantee stocks for Canadians as soon as possible and ensure a source for the supply of potential vaccines.

10. What will you do when countries like the United States impose export restrictions?

We are studying every possibility, including collaborating with Canadian suppliers and establishing partnerships with the major global vaccine producers, while developing domestic capacity to fight future pandemics.

By supporting vaccine research and development, bio-manufacturing requirements to support large-scale production, enhancing capacity and access for clinical trials, and seeking solutions for domestic capacity, Canada will be in a better position to rapidly access a vaccine once it becomes available and it will be ready to face challenges out of its control.