

Reporter / Media: Dylan Short / Edmonton Journal

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Background/Context:

With the announcement that Canada has signed an agreement to purchase millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccines from four separate U.S. Based manufacturers I was wondering if there is an official I can speak with to describe how those vaccines would be distributed to the individual provinces. I am particularly interested in Alberta.

Questions and responses:

Who decides what provinces will get what number of doses?

How many doses will be sent to Alberta? When can Canadians and Albertans expect to be able to become vaccinated?

DG Approved Response

Who decides what provinces will get what number of doses?

The Government of Canada is working with provincial and territorial governments—who have the responsibility for planning and implementing COVID-19 vaccination programs in their jurisdiction—on plans to allocate, distribute and administer vaccines as efficiently, equitably and effectively as possible.

The Government of Canada is working closely with provinces and territories to ensure that a COVID-19 vaccine strategy considers the following objectives:

- Provide a safe and effective vaccine for all Canadians as quickly as possible;
- Allocate, distribute and administer vaccine as efficiently, equitably and effectively as possible; and
- Monitor the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccine(s).

How many doses will be sent to Alberta? When can Canadians and Albertans expect to be able to become vaccinated?

The Government of Canada is working towards procuring sufficient doses to have enough vaccine for any Canadian who chooses to be vaccinated.

While the Government of Canada has secured access to four of the leading vaccine candidates, all of these candidates are still in their developmental stage and at this time it is not possible to determine which one(s) will eventually be deployed to Canadians.

As more information becomes available on the vaccine candidates most likely to be available in Canada, the Government of Canada will work with provincial and territorial governments to ensure that effective and efficient distribution plans are in place in advance of anticipated vaccine availability.

Further information/on background, as required

The Government of Canada is aggressively pursuing the purchase and development of COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and related supplies to protect Canadians and is working to strengthen Canada's bio-manufacturing sector. This includes engaging with international and domestic scientists and with businesses and manufacturers that are stepping up to fight COVID-19.

Plans for the distribution of vaccines to provincial and territorial governments are still in development.

Provinces and territories have well-established processes and practices for the efficient distribution of vaccines within their jurisdiction. To the extent that these processes and practices need to be adapted to accommodate the specific characteristics of the vaccines to be used in Canada (for example, the storage requirements), the Government of Canada will work with the provinces and territories to make the necessary adjustments.

Provinces and territories are responsible for planning and implementing COVID-19 vaccination programs in their jurisdiction, including who will be tasked with administering COVID-19 vaccines, and in what settings (e.g., public health clinics, physicians' offices, pharmacies).