

Public Health Agency of Canada
Acceleration Opportunities – COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative

Overview of PHAC's role and opportunities to accelerate process

Vaccination is a shared responsibility among different levels of government in Canada. The planning and delivery of immunization programming falls under the purview of provincial and territorial (PT) governments, including local public health authorities. The federal government plays key leadership, convenor, and supporting roles.

While P/T governments are responsible for purchasing vaccines and delivering vaccination programs, federally, PHAC coordinates the purchase of publicly-funded vaccines through PSPC's **Bulk Procurement Program**.

- Vaccine is the single largest public health expenditure during a pandemic, and an advanced F/P/T cost sharing agreement brings cost-certainty, but also saves critical time when supply is finite and decisions must be made quickly.
 - This process can be accelerated through an early signals check with Cabinet to establish a negotiating mandate with the P/Ts.
- PHAC will serve a convening role with the P/Ts through the Vaccine Supply Working Group (VSWG) to develop the statement of requirements for a vaccine supply contract (e.g. multi-dose vials vs single use, packaging, etc), and will support PSPC in defining the logistical arrangements, including delivery sites for the P/Ts.
 - This work can be accelerated by using the pandemic influenza vaccine statement of requirements as a basis for discussion with P/Ts, and advancing F/P/T discussions as early as possible.

Evidence-based **guidance on vaccination** is one of PHAC's primary levers in protecting Canadians. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), an external advisory body to PHAC, reviews evidence to inform its recommendations on the use of vaccines for P/T programs and frontline providers in Canada.

- NACI will review all available scientific evidence for a COVID-19 vaccine that has been approved in Canada, and will produce recommendations for use.
 - This work can be accelerated through early engagement with the manufacturer and sharing the regulatory review submission between HC and NACI so that NACI review can be done concurrently.
 - Early F/P/T consensus on a prioritization framework to support the roll-out of vaccine amongst Canadians is critical to deployment, understanding that vaccine will only be available in limited supply at the outset