

## PANDEMIC VACCINE PRIORITIZATION CONSIDERATIONS

- The objective of Canada's pandemic vaccine strategy is to provide a safe and effective vaccine for all Canadians as quickly as possible during a pandemic.
- In Canada, there are no pre-determined priority groups for the receipt of pandemic vaccine; prioritization recommendations are determined at the time of a pandemic based on the pathogen, the unique epidemiology and disease characteristics, among other factors. Typically this work is done with a specific vaccine product in mind, but in this case there is not yet enough evidence on any single vaccine product to issue product-specific advice.
- Guidance on the use of pandemic vaccine, including prioritization recommendations, will be provided by Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), which is an external advisory body that provides advice to the Public Health Agency of Canada on the use of vaccines. NACI is starting to review evidence with the objective of issuing prioritisation advice over the summer, in anticipation of any potential vaccine needs or product availability in the fall of 2020.
- NACI's recommendations will inform the F/P/T Public Health Network's pandemic Special Advisory Committee to decide on a pan-Canadian approach to vaccine prioritization. Factors considered for national prioritization recommendations include the available scientific evidence, ethical and legal considerations, and program considerations.
- Pandemic vaccine can be rolled out sequentially to priority groups in a variety of ways to achieve Canada's pandemic goal of minimizing serious illness, death, and societal disruption. Because initial supplies are expected to be insufficient to cover all Canadians right away, certain groups will be identified as part of the prioritization strategy to receive the vaccine earlier than others.
- The prioritization strategy may focus on those at higher risk of severe outcomes, such as adults 65 years of age and older (approximately 6,500,000) or residents of long-term care facilities (approximately 300,000), or frontline healthcare workers (approximately 1,000,000).
- Federal, provincial, and territorial governments are working together to develop plans for the efficient, effective, and equitable allocation, distribution, and administration of the eventual COVID-19 vaccine. These plans will be informed by the prioritization recommendations.
- In terms of early use for specific populations, Health Canada, working with vaccine clinical trial sponsors, will assess proposals for populations to be included as part of late stage clinical trials, as well as potential regulatory pathways for emergency use authorization in specific groups, if deemed appropriate.