

Procurement of COVID-19 vaccines

Context

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is working with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Health Canada and Industry, Science and Economic Development Canada, along with the COVID Vaccine Task Force to prepare for the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines and related supplies.

Suggested response

- Given intense global competition, the government is taking an aggressive approach to secure access to the most promising vaccine candidates so that Canada is prepared to deliver vaccines to its citizens as quickly as possible
- Following the careful review and recommendation of the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force, we have already established agreements with Pfizer and Moderna to secure millions of doses of their vaccine candidates
- The government continues to negotiate additional agreements with both domestic and international suppliers to establish a guaranteed supply of potential vaccine

If pressed on the details of advance purchase agreements:

- in addition to the agreements we have just signed with Pfizer and Moderna, we are currently in active discussions with multiple suppliers of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. In order to protect our negotiating position and commercially sensitive pricing information, we cannot disclose details of these contracts at this time

If pressed on provincial and territorial collaboration:

- from the outset the Government of Canada has been working directly with provincial and territorial governments to ensure that we are considering their needs
- we are in regular contact with provincial and territorial counterparts to ensure that we are working cohesively and collaboratively, and that they are getting the support they need

If pressed on material shortages:

- the Government of Canada is purchasing supplies from a number of sources and countries, both internationally and domestically
- we have entered into contracts for materials such as syringes and needles to ensure sufficient supplies to support immunization clinics
- this is over and above the efforts provinces and territories are taking to secure their own supplies

If pressed on national security exception (NSE) contracting:

- the NSE is invoked to remove procurements from the obligations of Canada's trade agreements for reasons of national security
- in the case of COVID-19, after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the pandemic, PHAC made a request on behalf of the federal government that PSPC invoke the NSE with respect to the acquisition of goods and services required in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic
- some of the procurements being carried out in response to COVID-19 are being done under a NSE, meaning that many solicitation documents are not published on Buy and Sell. This allows us to move rapidly as we purchase goods and services to protect the health and safety of Canadians as we face this pandemic