

**Draft**

**Minister Anand Remarks  
Presser for COVID-19 Update  
October 23, 2020**

**Introduction**

Good afternoon.

I would like to begin by thanking all Canadians for their collective efforts to stop the spread of this virus. I know that the restrictions enacted here in Ontario and in other areas of the country are having a very real and challenging impact on business owners, employees and families. None of this is easy, but collective action to bring our case counts down is critically important.

And as we, as a country, work hard to prevent COVID transmission my department, Public Services and Procurement Canada, is ensuring front line employees continue to have needed protective equipment. As well, we are making sure that Canadians will have access to a vaccine when one becomes available.

As I have announced previously, we are working around the clock to secure access to a diverse range of promising COVID-19 vaccine candidates.

## **Announcement: Vaccines**

As announced by the Prime Minister earlier today, I am very pleased to note that we have further increased our roster of potential vaccines. We have signed an agreement with Medicago, headquartered in Quebec City, for up to 76 million doses of their COVID-19 vaccine candidate.

*Comme le premier ministre l'a annoncé plus tôt aujourd'hui, nous avons encore augmenté notre liste de vaccins potentiels, ce qui me réjouit. En effet, nous avons conclu une entente avec Medicago, dont le siège social est à Québec, pour avoir accès jusqu'à soixante-seize (76) millions de doses de son candidat-vaccin contre la COVID-19.*

This is our seventh vaccine agreement, and the first candidate we've secured that was developed right here in Canada. It's worth noting that this particular vaccine would also go through the final stages of production—known as fill and finish—in Canada as well.

*Il s'agit de notre septième entente pour un candidat-vaccin et de la première qui porte sur un vaccin mis au point ici même, au Canada. Il faut souligner que les dernières étapes de la production de ce vaccin, appelées le remplissage et la finition, se dérouleront également au Canada.*

In addition to agreements previously signed with Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax, Johnson & Johnson, Sanofi and GSK, and AstraZeneca, we now have access to a guaranteed minimum of 194 million doses of potential vaccines to protect Canadians and save lives.

*Considérant les ententes que nous avons déjà passées avec Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax, Johnson & Johnson, Sanofi et GSK, et AstraZeneca, nous avons maintenant accès à un minimum garanti de cent quatre-vingt-quatorze (194) millions de doses de vaccins potentiels en vue de protéger la population canadienne et de sauver des vies.*

We have, since day one, relied on science to guide our response to COVID-19. Our approach to vaccines is no different, so all Canadians can rest assured that vaccines will only be distributed once the hard work of trials and studies is completed, and Health

Canada regulatory approval is granted after the vaccines are reviewed for safety, efficacy and manufacturing quality.

Only then will the vaccines be offered to Canadians.

In the meantime, having a robust testing capacity across the country remains critically important. To this end, we are making sure that provinces and territories have access to a diverse range of tests, which leverage the best available approved technologies.

### **Update: Abbott Tests**

Over the past few weeks, I have announced agreements to procure two different types of tests from Abbott.

I am pleased to confirm that last week, the first 100,000 ID NOW rapid tests and 110 analyzers were shipped by Abbott, with more expected this week. By the end of December, we expect to have received a total of 2.5 million of these tests, as well as 2,500 analyzers.

*Eh bien, je suis heureuse d'annoncer que la semaine dernière, Abbott a expédié les cent mille (100 000) premiers tests de dépistage rapide ID NOW et cent dix (110)*

*analyseurs, et que nous en attendons d'autres cette semaine. D'ici la fin de décembre, nous devrions avoir reçu un total de deux virgule cinq (2,5) millions de ces tests, ainsi que deux mille cinq cents (2 500) analyseurs.*

This week, we received our first delivery of nearly one million Panbio COVID-19 Antigen tests from Abbott, with a total of 8.5 million of these tests to be delivered by the end of the year.

*Cette semaine, nous avons reçu d'Abbott une première livraison de près d'un (1) million de tests de dépistage Panbio COVID-19. Au total, huit virgule cinq (8,5) millions de ces tests doivent être livrés d'ici la fin de l'année.*

With rising case numbers, testing and tracing has become a critically important foundation of our fight against COVID-19. The federal government is here to support the provinces and territories in this effort, and as new tests and tools become available and approved, we will continue to bring them online so health authorities have access to all available resources needed to get us through this pandemic.

## **Closing**

I want to echo the Prime Minister's words: our top priority is keeping you and your family healthy and safe. The Government of Canada will do whatever it takes for as long as it takes to get us through this pandemic.

Thank you again to every single Canadian for doing everything possible to keep yourselves, your families and your fellow Canadians safe. Know that we are working alongside you to equip Canada with PPE, vaccine candidates, tests and treatments so that together we get through this.

*Merci – Thank you.*