



September 14, 2020

Dr. Caroline Quach-Thanh
Chair, National Advisory Committee on Immunization
130 Colonnade Road, A.L. 6501H
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9
Via email: c.quach@umontreal.ca

Dear Dr. Caroline Quach-Thanh,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Best Medicines Coalition (BMC), a national alliance of 28 patient organizations, together representing millions of patients, with a shared goal of equitable, timely and consistent access for all Canadians to safe and effective medicines that improve patient outcomes. As you can appreciate, the patient communities our member organizations represent have been deeply impacted by COVID-19 and we are closely monitoring progress towards a safe and effective vaccine.

We understand that the National Advisory Committee on Immunization has an integral role in planning for the eventual roll-out of a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccines, including the important work of identifying which groups or types of individuals should receive priority and early access. We commend the efforts underway by you and your colleagues in considering various aspects,

As this initiative proceeds, we request information regarding the scope and process for your considerations. It would be helpful to have clarity on timelines and next steps, including regarding consultations with experts and stakeholders external to your committee. Specifically, we wish to understand what plans are in place to involve ethicists in your deliberations and whether you have established processes to consult with and involve patients and their representatives in your review.

We look forward to your response to these requests and to learning more about this crucial initiative. We are, of course, available to discuss any of these issues and to offer our perspectives.

Sincerely,

John Adams
Chair, Best Medicines Coalition

Encl.

cc:

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health: hcmister.ministresc@canada.ca

Sabina Saini, Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister of Health: Sabina.Saini@canada.ca

Stephen Lucas, Deputy Minister of Health: stephen.lucas@canada.ca

Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer, Public Health Agency of Canada:

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Dr. Matthew Tunis, Executive Secretary, National Advisory Committee on Immunization,
Public Health Agency of Canada: matthew.tunis@canada.ca



About the Best Medicines Coalition

The Best Medicines Coalition is a national alliance of 28 patient organizations with a shared goal of equitable, timely and consistent access for all Canadians to safe and effective medicines that improve patient outcomes. The BMC's areas of interest include drug approval, assessment, and reimbursement, as well as patient safety and supply issues. As an important aspect of its work, the BMC strives to ensure that Canadian patients have a voice and are meaningful participants in health policy development, specifically regarding pharmaceutical care. The BMC's core activities involve issue education, consensus building, planning and advocacy, making certain that patient-driven positions are communicated to decision makers and other stakeholders. The BMC was formed in 2002 as a grassroots alliance of patient advocates. In 2012, the BMC was registered under the federal Not-for-profit Corporations Act.



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| <p> Alliance for Access to Psychiatric Medications
 Arthritis Consumer Experts
 Asthma Canada
 Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada
 Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance
 Canadian Association of Psoriasis Patients
 Canadian Breast Cancer Network
 Canadian Cancer Survivor Network
 Canadian Council of the Blind
 Canadian Epilepsy Alliance
 Canadian Hemophilia Society
 Canadian Mental Health Association
 Canadian PKU & Allied Disorders
 Canadian Psoriasis Network </p> | <p> Canadian Skin Patient Alliance
 Canadian Spondylitis Association
 Crohn's and Colitis Canada
 Cystic Fibrosis Canada
 Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Treatment Society
 Fighting Blindness Canada
 Health Coalition of Alberta
 Huntington Society of Canada
 Kidney Cancer Canada
 Lymphoma Canada
 Medicines Access Coalition – BC
 Millions Missing Canada
 Ovarian Cancer Canada
 Parkinson Canada </p> |
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