

COMMUNICATIONS MESSAGES – VACCINE LOGISTICS

CONTEXT :

The Government of Canada issued a Letter of Interest (LOI) seeking information from industry on logistics capabilities for [potential COVID-19 vaccines](#).

STATEMENT:

The Government of Canada will always protect the health and safety of Canadians, while ensuring a safe, sustainable economic recovery, and continues to work hard to make sure we have the right measures to limit the spread of COVID-19.

On September XX, 2020, the Government of Canada issued a LOI seeking information on logistic capabilities to support the transport, storage and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

The Government of Canada continues to manage the impacts of the pandemic, while proactively preparing for future waves. This includes taking steps to ensure Canadians can access future treatments and vaccines.

Through this LOI, valuable information will be gathered to ensure the Government of Canada is well positioned to put in place an effective logistics solution for vaccines.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who is being consulted through this LOI?

Specifically, the Government of Canada is looking for feedback and comments from industry with knowledge or experience in:

- supply chain logistics to support both domestic and international transport, warehousing and distribution of vaccines or other biological, pharmaceutical, or diagnostic products
- vaccine warehousing and distribution in Canada compliant with Health Canada regulations
- cold transport and storage

2. Why wasn't vaccine logistics included in the major PPE logistics services contract awarded September 11, 2020?

Canada has a robust system for vaccine supply already in place to ensure access to vaccines for routine immunization programs, including seasonal influenza campaigns and outbreak response activities. As the specific requirements associated with vaccine logistics that would be different from current supply chain requirements are still unknown, it was not feasible to include them in the PPE logistics contracts. Once the Government of Canada has gathered more information around the specific requirements, the existing solutions will be assessed to determine if they can also be leveraged and if so, to what extent.

The precise technical specifications for logistics support for a potential COVID-19 vaccine may vary depending on the approved vaccine. Should these technical specifications (such as frozen transport of vaccines, temperature monitoring, record keeping and rapid recall procedures) exceed current warehousing and distribution capacities, a third-party logistics supplier(s) may be required, as well as transportation providers.

Distribution may include remote regions of Canada, both land and air transport options, and associated supplies (such as needles and gauze) to accompany vaccine distribution.

3. When will the vaccine logistics contract be awarded?

The purpose of this LOI is to consult industry on the logistics capabilities currently available for vaccines and what type of logistics solutions will be required, over and above the current vaccine supply chain system in Canada managed by the provinces and territories, for a COVID-19 vaccine. This LOI is not an invitation to bid and does not constitute a commitment, implied or otherwise, that the Government of Canada intends to solicit bids for this purpose.

SPOKESPERSON: *Media Relations Office – (819) 420-5501*
