

MANDATE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES FOR COVID MANAGEMENT

MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES TEAM (MCMRI)

A. DM-LEVEL INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

DEPUTY MINISTERS COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL COUNTER MEASURES

Mandate:

The Deputy Ministers' Committee on Medical Countermeasures (DM MCM) aims to provide strategic oversight and decision-making based on scientific information on issues related to the portfolio of COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments, therapies, and vaccines required for the Canadian health care system.

Composition/Participants:

Membership – DM Committee:

- Deputy Minister of Health (Co-Chair)
- Deputy Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (Co-Chair)
- President of the Public Health Agency of Canada
- Deputy Minister of Public Services and Procurement
- President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- President of the National Research Council
- President of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Ex-officio: Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister

The Deputy Ministers' Committee is supported by a Committee of Assistant Deputy Ministers. This Committee acts as both supports for the DM Committee, and also as a clearinghouse for issues in advance of them being brought to the DM table for discussion, e.g., the ADM committee prepares documents for the DM committee to approve such as Budget requests or Cabinet documents.

The Deputy Ministers' Committee will stay focused on scientific information, recognizing that there are three DM committees currently focused on making more tactical arrangements for procurement of vaccines and therapeutics, vaccine deployment, and testing. It is the intention of this DM Committee on Medical Counter Measures and Research to guide the work of those DM Committees.

Membership – ADM Committee:

- Vice President, Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Branch, Public Health Agency of Canada (Co-Chair)
- Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Industry Sector, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Co-Chair)
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Innovation Canada, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Procurement Branch, Public Services and Procurement Canada
- Vice President, Life Sciences, National Research Council
- Vice President, Research Programs, Canadian Institutes of Health Research

- Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Products and Food Branch, Health Canada
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Regional Operations and Enforcement Branch, Health Canada
- Assistant Deputy Minister, COVID-19 Task Force, Health Canada
- Assistant Deputy Minister, COVID-19 Procurement, Health Canada

Frequency: The Committee meets at the discretion of the Co-chairs as required, typically every three to four weeks.

Modus Operandi

The DM MCM considers advice to Ministers on large-scale investments and procurement that require funding approval beyond departmental reference levels. The DM MCM will also coordinate direction where other significant investments and procurements are required to assure the supply and Canadian capacity to manufacture and procure medical countermeasures for delivery through the healthcare system, as well as scientific work.

Functionally, the DM Committee is supported by a Secretariat, headed by the ADM, MCMRI. The Secretariat meets with counterparts from PHAC and ISED each Monday to set the agenda and identify priorities for the governance of the ADM and DM committees. While the ADM Committee is supported by a Secretariat from ISED, the teams work together in a streamlined manner, establishing clear and shared forward agendas and priorities.