


## COVID-19 VACCINE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION WEEKLY REPORT

<b>Week ending:</b>	2 October 2020	<b>Priority:</b>	Routine
<b>Security classification:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	2021-1019

	Action sought	Deadline
Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Note</b> the contents of this Weekly Report	N/A
Hon Grant Robertson <b>Minister of Finance</b>		
Hon Dr Megan Woods <b>Minister of Research, Science and Innovation</b>		
Hon Chris Hipkins <b>Minister of Health</b>		
Rt Hon Winston Peters <b>Minister of Foreign Affairs</b>		

  
Dr Peter Crabtree  
General Manager Science, Innovation and International  
02 / 10 / 2020

  
Maree Roberts  
Deputy Director-General, Systems Strategy  
and Policy  
02 / 10 / 2020

Minister's comments:



IN CONFIDENCE

# COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy Implementation

Weekly Report

Week ending 2 October 2020

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## Purpose

This weekly joint report updates Ministers on key developments of the implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy.

## Workstreams

### Advance Purchase Agreements

Contact: Poppy Haynes

Phone: 9(2)(a)

#### *Overall progress summary*

Science reviews: 5 Science reviews completed.

Provision of Heads of Terms/supply agreements: 5 drafts received.

Negotiations with vaccine suppliers: 1 Heads of Terms negotiation concluded. 4 in active discussion.

#### *Progress this week*

This week, we plan to seek approval from joint ministers for the Director-General of Health to sign the Heads of Terms with a priority vaccine candidate. The briefing sets out the analysis of the candidate against the vaccine purchasing framework and highlights legal and commercial considerations.

We have also completed a business case on the indemnity for the same priority candidate. This will inform Treasury's advice to the Minister of Finance, who will ultimately make the decision on whether to give the indemnity.

We expect to conclude negotiations on heads of terms with two other suppliers within the next fortnight and are engaging with two other potential vaccine candidate suppliers.

We continue to support the Science and Clinical Review Panel by collating relevant science information on candidates, which may be offered as part of the COVAX arrangement. This will ensure New Zealand is on the front-foot when presented with purchasing options through COVAX.

### Immunisation Strategy and Programme

Contact: Mathew Parr

Phone: 9(2)(a)

Joint Ministers will, this week, receive a request for funding to deliver a critical component of the immunisation programme, which is the purchase of minus 70 degree cold chain infrastructure and all the consumables required to deliver the portfolio of vaccines purchased. Given the pressure on global supply chains due to COVID-19, it is critical that the purchasing of these progresses quickly.

The Immunisation Implementation Advisory Group (IIAG) will have their first substantive meeting on 2 October 2020 to discuss prioritisation. It is envisioned that the group will meet fortnightly.

Internally, the Ministry of Health is progressing several workstreams to ensure we are positioned to deliver the portfolio of vaccines. This includes developing plans for how each vaccine will be delivered at the operational level, and running internal workshops to understand how we ensure we have a workforce

capable of delivering the vaccines. The Ministry of Health is also working with MBIE to develop a comprehensive communications and engagement approach across all aspects of the programme.

## COVAX

Contact: Glenys Karran

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At least 168 economies will participate in the COVAX Facility and the COVAX Advance Market Commitment, including 76 self-financing economies and 92 ODA-eligible economies. Contacts at Gavi expect the number to continue to rise in the coming days, and we anticipate the UK will be among the later additions.

Officials are preparing for the first decision point in the COVAX Facility procurement process, which concerns whether to participate in a Purchase Opportunity for purchase of doses from a given manufacture. Once Gavi finalises the terms of agreement with a manufacturer, Purchase Opportunity participants will be invited to exercise Purchase Options.

We can expect to need to consider Purchase Opportunities from as early as mid-October (following payment of upfront costs). Joint Ministers will be consulted on any decisions to opt-out of Purchase Opportunities, and any subsequent decisions on exercising Purchase Options.

Officials are also seeking capital-based engagement with Realm governments at working level to discuss next steps for provision of vaccines for Realm populations through New Zealand's participation in the COVAX Facility.

Following your approval for the use of ODA funding for the purchase of vaccines for Polynesia, a joint briefing on New Zealand's vaccine portfolio is being prepared for the Prime Minister and Ministers of Finance, Research Science and Innovation and Health. This will include information about New Zealand's intention to advance purchase sufficient doses of some vaccines to be able to offer doses to Polynesian countries for later reimbursement by the ODA programme. Work is under way to implement this decision in such a way that supports existing regional WHO-led COVID-19 response initiatives and uses the Polynesian Health Corridors initiative to support the immunisation needs of these populations.

## Science and Manufacturing

Contact: Justine Daw

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### *Manufacturing*

Officials have set up a meeting with representatives from the Canadian Government to exchange views on opportunities for domestic contract manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines, including sharing learnings from bilateral APA negotiations. This discussion will aid development of longer-term thinking as to how we can best build future pandemic preparedness in New Zealand.

### *Science advice*

The Taskforce's independent *Science and Clinical Review Panel* has completed five science reviews of priority APA vaccine candidates. Two more science reviews are expected this month for bilateral APA candidates, with up to four more possible this calendar year for vaccine candidates on offer through the multilateral COVAX Facility.

The Consensus documentation that results from each review process draws on both commercially-privileged information and data provided to New Zealand by the developer/supplier, as well as publicly available information (e.g. trial registration data, pre-print research summaries and data, and peer-reviewed research publications), and is used to inform officials' advice to the Taskforce (and subsequently Ministers) on vaccine purchase decisions.

Summary documentation is to be prepared from this material, which will be updated as new information becomes available (e.g. clinical trial results, regulatory approvals) to inform future decisions on the use (or otherwise) of purchased vaccine candidates.

## Communications

Contact: Karl Fergusson

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### *Communications planning*

An overarching communications and engagement strategy has been completed and approved by the Taskforce. The strategy sets out distinct phases, and has been developed in conjunction with all Taskforce agencies, particularly the Ministry of Health.

The strategy recognises the lead role that the Ministry of Health will have in developing and implementing a national public information campaign once a suitable vaccine becomes available. As part of the strategy development, we have connected with DPMC and related agencies to determine how best to monitor and potentially counter, mis/disinformation about vaccines.

Planning continues to support future APA announcements.

### *Stakeholder engagement*

We are working with the Ministry of Health to develop the Terms of Reference and likely membership of a joint Stakeholder Reference Group. The approach recognises common interest by stakeholders in both the procurement and roll-out of a suitable vaccine and is designed to ensure we have one, aligned conversation to capture their views and input.

### *Media management*

We have worked with MFAT to support Dr Helen Petousis-Harris to undertake a Niue TV interview. The interview focused on dispelling myths about COVAX (some of which are 'experimental vaccines'), vaccine safety, and likely timings of vaccine availability.

## Upcoming Briefings

Due Date	Briefing Number	Title	Sign Out Manager
30/09/2020	2021-0996	Commitment to purchase COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer Inc.	Peter Crabtree
TBC (Oct 2020)		Building a portfolio of COVID-19 vaccines	Simon Rae (MBIE) Allison Bennett (MOH)
TBC (Nov 2020)		Business Case for Domestically Manufacturing COVID-19 Vaccines	Simon Rae

## Cabinet Paper

Due Date	Briefing Number	Title	Sign Out Manager
TBC (Nov 2020)		COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy – Nov 2020 Progress Report	Peter Crabtree

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