

## COVID-19 vaccine deployment: key actions on vaccine stock monitoring, 22 March 2021

**Target Audience:** Focal points in the WHO and UNICEF Country Offices and Ministries of Health

This briefing note calls for the meticulous monitoring, recording, and reporting of COVID-19 vaccine doses, and distribution and consumption across all levels of the supply chain, including at service points. The need for a robust stock management system has been highlighted both in the *Guidance on developing a national deployment and vaccination plan*<sup>1</sup> and *COVID-19 vaccination: supply and logistics guidance*.<sup>2</sup>

This emphasizes the need to support and strengthen national systems, in order to prepare for:

1. Mitigation of supply chain and logistic risks, particularly those that are novel and/or heightened by the unique operational context of COVID-19 immunisation; and
2. Standardized COVAX reporting requirements, which are essential to securing timely and consistent additional vaccine supplies.

### *(1) Mitigation of novel and intensified supply chain risks*

Strengthening stock monitoring and reporting for all vaccines will particularly help address growing concerns related to COVID-19 vaccine wastage, falsification, security issues, diversion. Proper records demonstrating the tracking of supply and distribution, immunisation registers, adverse events following immunization and safe disposal of used vials and associated waste will ensure integrity in the consumption and use of vaccines.<sup>3</sup>

### *(2) Standardised COVAX reporting for AMC participating countries*

Countries supported by the COVAX Facility will be required to regularly submit reports based on standardized metrics and to respond to questions primarily related to vaccine use across different target populations and associated wastages through the COVID-19 vaccination module of the electronic Joint Reporting Form (eJRF). Key monitoring and performance data such as vaccine stock, utilization and wastage will be reviewed by the COVAX Facility, a process that will guide adjusting future dose allocation and shipments, and provision of technical assistance.

Equally, from an accountability perspective, having a monitoring and reporting system in place will facilitate the audits Gavi will be conducting on COVAX-supported countries to ensure that programmes are well managed, target population are reached, and risks are mitigated.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Vaccine\\_deployment-2020.1](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Vaccine_deployment-2020.1)

<sup>2</sup> [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/339561/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccine\\_deployment-logistics-2021.1-eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/339561/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccine_deployment-logistics-2021.1-eng.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [COVID-19 vaccination supply and logistics guidance](#)

Finally, in compliance with the requirements of WHO's no fault compensation mechanism, each dose supplied by COVAX must be recorded with the corresponding batch number. <sup>4</sup>

**WHO and UNICEF Regional and Country Offices and MOH immunization supply chain focal points are encouraged to:**

- Ensure countries' supply chain have clear mechanisms in place to effectively monitor COVAX stock, supply distribution, utilisation and wastage;
- Ensure that countries take appropriate measures to assess the threat to vaccine security and strengthen security of COVAX doses onsite and during movement, to avoid theft or diversion of vaccine doses;
- Promptly identify and address gaps in vaccine stock and supply management processes and systems;
- Facilitate access to appropriate reporting templates and guidance documents relevant to the required stock monitoring and reporting. The countries should maintain a complete suite of vaccine and hand-off records (e.g., goods received notes, etc.); undertake regular stock inventories, investigate differences between records and physical inventory; properly document vaccine delivery strategies matched by appropriate operations and logistics; and put in place reverse vaccine logistics;
- Support countries that receive COVAX doses, in maintaining and completing underlying vaccine documentation and reporting requirements;
- Ensure AMC participating countries understand how compliance with the required reporting affects future COVID-19 vaccine allocations;
- Communicate and ensure that the requirements of WHO's no fault compensation mechanism for COVAX supplied doses are included as part of health workers COVID-19 programme of training, and that this translates into front-line workers maintaining detailed underlying immunisation records and completing vaccination cards appropriately; and
- Promote transparency and accountability in reporting programmatic performance and implementation.

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<sup>4</sup> The No-fault compensation Program (NFC) Claims Administrator (ESIS, Inc.) has sent out emails to the EPI Managers with a copy to their Supervisors within the Ministries of Health of 85 of the 92 AMC economies. The emails provided information about the NFC Program, including "How to submit an Application" instructions, and to raise awareness about tracking and keeping records of each COVAX-distributed vaccine and its diluent. Further information on the NFC can be obtained from <https://covaxclaims.com/>