



**VERSION 2**

# PRINCIPLES FOR SHARING COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES WITH COVAX

*This document updates version 1 of the principles for dose sharing which were published in December 2020.*

COVAX is a multilateral initiative to ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for all countries regardless of wealth. Donors have contributed substantial funds to the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) to accelerate access to safe, efficacious, and early doses of COVID-19 vaccines, and these funds are the primary source of doses from COVAX for AMC eligible countries. However, acute supply constraints have severely limited the availability of doses in many countries and there is an urgent need for additional dose sharing that can be delivered immediately. Continued access to shared doses will enable these countries to further build their capacity to roll out vaccines and immunize their populations as soon as possible.

Given the urgent need to mobilise additional supply, the Facility has established a dose sharing mechanism. Dose sharing encompasses several different modalities, including dose donations from bilateral agreements between donors and manufacturers, donations by SFP countries of doses available pursuant to their SFP Commitment Agreement, and the donation of doses already under title and possession of a donor country. The Facility will continue to explore options to accept donated doses under various circumstances, as they align with its principles and goals. COVAX is also open to offers from donors that involves the Facility purchasing doses from the donor (i.e. dose resale) as long as the offer fits with the principles outlined below and helps to further COVAX's goals of increasing supply equitably to Participants. Donors' commitments to donate doses to the Facility are recorded [here](#), with the first donated doses delivered in June 2021.

Dose donation through the Facility is the simplest and fastest way for donors to increase supply to COVAX. The Facility has a legal framework for dose donation with several manufacturers. It continues to evolve its processes to reduce transaction costs for all parties. Both donors and recipients will benefit from the sharing of doses through the Facility, using the Facility's established procurement processes, and providing AMC eligible countries access to the No Fault Compensation Scheme.

The Facility retains the right to accept or refuse a donation offer based on the holistic value of the offer to increase vaccine supply to recipient countries while maintaining COVAX's principles. The following **principles** for shared doses guide the Facility's consideration of dose sharing offers:

- 1. Safe and effective:** shared doses must be of assured quality with, at a minimum, WHO prequalification/emergency use listing or licensure/authorization from an SRA. Vaccine doses can be transferred to countries most rapidly if they are already in the COVAX Facility Portfolio; other vaccines could be shared when they are eligible to join the Portfolio.
- 2. Availability and visibility:** shared doses should be made available as soon as possible to maximise impact. Pledges that have been made should be front-loaded according to demand and capacity in order to maximise impact. The Facility asks for as much lead time as possible on volume and timing of shared doses and will pool shared doses where possible to ensure equitable and informed allocation decisions and more efficient delivery. This provides recipient countries the opportunity to plan their immunisation programmes, which is essential to achieve high coverage.
- 3. Rapidly deployable:** sharing of doses should be signaled as early as possible in the manufacturing process, with the dose-sharing country facilitating WHO authorizations, so that doses are shipped directly from the manufacturer with standard COVAX labelling and packaging, allowing rapid deployment and maximizing shelf-life. The Facility will not accept doses where the shelf-life at the time of delivery in country will be less than two and a half months. Where new agreements with a donor or manufacturer are needed, accepting standard templates will speed up agreements and reduce transaction costs for all parties, including recipients.
- 4. Flexibly deployable:** doses should be allocated to the Facility to allow flexible deployment to meet Participants' needs. To facilitate equitable access and in keeping with COVAX's allocation mechanism, unearmarked doses are the standard. In limited and exceptional cases, the Facility may allow earmarking if requested by a donor country and when such earmarking does not impede the ability to allocate doses equitably. In such cases earmarking should be limited to "soft earmarking" across broad regions and/or a long list of countries. The Facility will allocate all doses according to the standard Fair Allocation criteria, taking into account absorptive capacity, readiness, the epidemiological situation, and logistics. Requests by donors to adjust country allocation decisions will not be accepted. Requirements by a donor to earmark may be a reason for the Facility to reject a dose sharing offer if the earmarking

requirements do not allow adherence to the allocation principles.

While the Humanitarian Buffer will be primarily resourced through AMC funds, the Facility may determine, subject to the relevant legal agreements, that doses shared with the Facility can be used to meet the needs of populations served by the Buffer. As a result of the challenges of matching dose donations to applications to the Buffer, doses cannot be earmarked to the Buffer.

- 5. Cost-effective:** The attractiveness of dose sharing offers will depend on the severity of supply constraints in the given context and other operational considerations. Shared doses should be in sufficient and predictable volumes, particularly where donors already have title to the doses, to have a substantive impact in achieving the goals of the Facility. Donated doses are fully paid for by the dose-donating country, and donors should also pay for ancillary costs to cover syringes, diluent, freight and the NFC. With respect to resale, the Facility will not pay any more than standard COVAX APA prices for a given vaccine.

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**COVAX welcomes further commitments by potential dose-sharing countries and manufacturers to these principles, which are in line with the overall principles of COVAX, and to partner with COVAX to provide additional doses for equitable distribution.**

