

**MINISTERUL
SĂNĂTĂȚII, MUNCII ȘI
PROTECȚIEI SOCIALE
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA**



**MINISTRY
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SOCIAL PROTECTION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

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**Dr Seth Berkley CEO GAVI,
the Vaccine Alliance
COVAX Facility**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova presents cordial greetings and expressing our deep gratitude and recognition for efficient collaboration and significant permanent support in the field of health provided to Republic of Moldova.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection continues to take all necessary planning and preparation activities regarding the introduction of anti-COVID-19 vaccines, in accordance with international recommendations.

The National anti-COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, developed in accordance with guidance on developing a national deployment and vaccination plan for anti-COVID-19 vaccines approved by the MoHLSP on 9th January and by National Extraordinary Committee of Public Health on 13th of January, 2021. https://msmps.gov.md/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Planul-national-imunizare-anti-COVID_2021_final.pdf (source of NDPV from Republic of Moldova).

National Plan for anti-COVID Vaccination provide three waves: 1-10%; 11-20%; 21-50%, with additional wave to reach at least 70% of population. For the first wave: limited target group will consist of essential frontline health workers, comprising up to 0.25% of the total population represented by front line Health Care Workers which are working in intensive care unit and special COVID medical units.

On the 13th and 14th of January 2021, national wide general trainings for HCW were conducted. The web training was of mandatory participation for HCW from Hospitals, Primary Health Care, Emergency and Social Workers. An additional national training will be conducted prior to start implementation of the anti-COVID-19 vaccination, linked to the producer's instruction. There is in place a training plan for HCW and stakeholders (authorities, journalists, etc.)

The national vaccination plan, includes vaccination sites and ultra-cold chain vaccine management plan. In place are sufficient ancillary materials (e.g. PPE),

regarding syringes Republic of Moldova was informed that will be delivered through COVAX with the vaccine, but there are national bidders for procurement of a reserve quantity of syringes (for dilution 2ml, 3ml and 5ml with 0,1ml gradation and for administration syringes 0,3 ml – 1ml with gradation of 0,1ml)

The safety monitoring, management and reporting process, including the capacity to manage anaphylaxis at vaccination sites is stipulated in national plan and national legislation framework. Surveillance of post-immunization events will be performed based on the AEFI Surveillance Guide in the Republic of Moldova. At the same time, the MHLSP Order no. 1019 from 5th of November 2020 "On the Operation of the System for Assessing Causality and Classification of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)" works to monitor and ensure the quality of vaccines and vaccination services.

Vaccines can be purchased by the Republic of Moldova in different ways: COVAX, Bilateral Agreements or Donations. Republic of Moldova will receive COVID-19 vaccines for 20% of the total population, for both banks of the Nistru River, free of charge (donation), through COVAX.

Subsequently, the Republic of Moldova will be able to make, through the COVAX Cost-Sharing Program, an additional request of doses for other 30% of the total population.

At the same time, the Republic of Moldova is in the process of obtaining quantities of vaccine as donations from the EU and other states. Vaccines received free of charge (donation), as well as those purchased through the UNICEF mechanism, including the COVAX mechanism, will be exempt from customs fees and taxes. Vaccine authorization costs in the Republic of Moldova (authorization fee) will be covered from state budget means. The other immunization-related costs will be covered from the funds allocated from the state budget.

Specific measures conducted:

1. The equipment of the cold chain within the national vaccine store of the National Agency for Public Health (national level) can accommodate depending on the temperature:
 - a) -70°C: 140.000 doses of Comirnaty vaccine (with additional reserve of 400.000 doses);
 - b) -20°C: 2.000 liters;
 - c) from +2 °C to +8 °C: 24.000 liters.
2. The vaccine authorization and import process is prepared according to the accelerated approval procedures for the anti-COVID-19 vaccine by the

Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices and the Customs Service. The process of authorization in express manner can be done in 2 days.

Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices (NRA) agreed to use standard labels and to rely on WHO Emergency Use Listing or Emergency Use Authorization or equivalent by a WHO designated SRA to grant national regulatory authorization and import authorization for the Pfizer vaccine in January 2021. National legislation recognizes EMA approvals and WHO designated SRA.

3. The distribution and logistics process was defined from the national level to the regional level and the vaccination points (within the medical institutions equipped with equipment that ensures from +2 °C to +8 °C and -20 °C).
4. General trainings for HCW regarding COVID-19 vaccination process were conducted on 13th and 14th January 2021.
5. The National Communication Strategy for COVID-19 vaccination was developed and is in process of implementation.
6. Republic of Moldova have the necessary indemnity and liability frameworks in place and is able to complete an agreement with Pfizer or other producers immediately after to indemnify the manufacturer for product liability claims associated with the use or administration of that vaccine. Additional national legislation is prepared for covering medical and social aspects in case of registration of AEFI.
7. In place are implemented focused activities according to the implementation national plan for anti-COVID-19 vaccination.

In the context of the above, the Republic of Moldova is prepared to initiate anti-COVID-19 vaccination process, including with the Comirnaty vaccine (BioNTech and Pfizer).

Avail myself of this opportunity I would like to express the assurance of my highest considerations for your support in preparing and roll out the vaccination process against COVID-19.



Tatiana ZATÎC
Secretary of state

Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection