



SUSPENSION OF COVAX REDEPLOYMENT POLICY

POLICY OVERVIEW

Redeployment is defined as the transfer of COVAX-distributed vaccine doses after they have been received in-country, from one Participant to another – for example, due to the inability of the original receiving Participant to use the vaccine doses in question before their expiry.

In July 2021, COVAX introduced a *Redeployment Policy* to support Participants ensure the effective use of all received doses. This decision was taken during a time when vaccine supply was constrained. Under this policy, COVAX successfully redeployed almost two million doses.

However, participants have now greater visibility of demand and COVAX has enough supply to allow Participants access sufficiently longer shelf-life doses to meet their needs. As such, transferring short shelf-life doses from one participant to another is no longer required, and the associated quality risk, administrative effort, and financial costs outweigh the benefits.

The COVAX redeployment policy is therefore suspended, effective as of 21 April 2022.

For doses redeployed prior to this date, the previous policy applies (available at <https://www.gavi.org/sites/default/files/covid/covax/COVAX-Redeployment-Policy.pdf>)

The implications of the suspension of COVAX redeployment, are as follows:

- The COVAX Facility will no longer authorize or approve the redeployment of COVAX-distributed vaccine doses from one Participant to another, and will not provide funding for the redeployment of doses.
- COVAX will treat any redeployment activity from AMCs as a breach of the AMC terms and conditions.
- The majority of manufacturers require that doses are not transferred or exported following delivery. Participants should be aware of any restrictions expressed in the supply agreement they have (if applicable) with the relevant manufacturer, or with UNICEF or PAHO, regarding redeployment, sale or exportation (e.g., restriction on transfer/export of doses).

- The COVAX No-Fault Compensation Program for AMC Eligible Economies (the “COVAX NFC Program”) does not apply to COVAX-distributed vaccine doses redeployed to the AMC Eligible Economies **on or after** the effective date of this suspension notice.
- If an AMC Participant redeploys to a Self-Financing Participant (SFP), the COVAX Facility must be reimbursed for the cost of the doses by the AMC Participant, and the SFP may be required to also pay any price differential to the manufacturer.
- Self-Financing Participants are strongly encouraged to review their terms and conditions and agreements with manufacturers to ensure they are not in breach of their obligations.

We understand that some Participants may be concerned about in-country wastage. Please note that COVAX supports Participants adopting an increased risk tolerance for wastage, while making best efforts to attempt to use doses to protect their populations. Since vaccine supply has greatly increased, the challenges of getting vaccines into the arms of the people who need them most is often a race against time. Increased supply creates increased risk of wastage. Yet, it is a risk we should embrace in the service of promoting sustained access and accelerating coverage.

COVAX is doing its part to help participants manage wastage risk through demand planning, offering limited flexibility around shipment timing, and investing in vaccine delivery support. COVAX is phasing its donation supply just as it is phasing its supply from advance purchase agreements (APAs). Since there is currently sufficient supply, COVAX can ensure that it supplies only doses with longer shelf lives.

The same position applies to Humanitarian Buffer doses received by participants and humanitarian agencies.

Participants can find the previous documentation regarding the Redeployment Policy here:

<https://www.gavi.org/sites/default/files/covid/covax/COVAX-Redeployment-Policy.pdf>