



Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0P9

March 24, 2021

Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health

18(1)(a); 18(1)(b)

Re: Correctional Service Canada (CSC) collaboration with Alberta's Provincial Public Health Units on COVID-19 Vaccination for CSC Institutional Staff

Dear Dr. Hinshaw:

CSC has continued to have COVID-19 outbreaks during this second wave despite intensive Infection Prevention and Control practices. The impact on inmates has been significant. CSC's vaccine strategy is to achieve the fullest and most timely vaccination to both inmates and staff to mitigate the risk and extent of potential future outbreaks. This would mirror the public health approach to Long Term Care who have vaccinated both staff and residents simultaneously. CSC recognizes that their staff would in normal course receive vaccine from public health, their family physician or pharmacy, as some may already have. As the interval between vaccine doses has been extended, this provides CSC the opportunity to collaborate with Provincial Public Health units to use some of our allocation to provide vaccine to CSC staff, at the same time as inmates, to those who have not yet been deemed eligible to receive vaccine through their local Public Health Unit.

CSC will receive their next allocation, approximately 27,000 doses, in mid-April. With your support, CSC would work directly with the local Public Health Unit in the region where our congregate, institutional sites are located, including Community Correctional Centres. CSC would only offer vaccine to those staff who work within these institutions, who haven't already been within one of the prioritized groups to receive vaccine at the time CSC starts administering vaccine to the inmate population in mid-April. CSC would want to ensure that an agreement is reached to enable CSC to directly input patient vaccine information into the provincial immunization registry, both for inmates and staff, preferably at the time the clinics are operational or if not then at a later agreed time. In the next federal allocation, CSC will be requesting a similar allocation to April to provide the required second dose.

Through the pandemic CSC has been very grateful to Provincial Public Health & all Public Health Units for their support, both in planning and outbreak management. CSC looks forward to continue to build on this with the opportunity to collaborate on staff vaccination. If it would help to clarify any concerns or address any questions, I would be happy to call you at your convenience.

Kind regards, Jim

James Worthington

Dr. J.R. Worthington, MB, ChB, FRCPC
CSC National Medical Advisor