

## **The Manitoba/North Dakota Essential Workers Cross Border Vaccination Initiative**

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The spirit of friendship and collaboration between Manitoba and North Dakota is strong and undiminished.

North Dakota and Manitoba share the fifth-busiest border crossing between the United States and Canada. More than a million vehicles per year typically cross our shared border. Our two jurisdictions are the gateway to Midwestern and Prairie prosperity that we wish to preserve and protect amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Province of Manitoba and the State of North Dakota are therefore embarking on a joint project, the *Essential Workers Cross-Border Vaccination Initiative*, in support of our shared priority to vaccinate as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, so that our common border can be safely re-opened for all our residents.

With this initiative, we affirm our shared values and goals:

- To help and support each other throughout this pandemic
- To protect the residents of Manitoba and North Dakota by vaccinating as many individuals as possible, as quickly as possible
- To ensure that essential workers, goods, and services necessary for our lives and livelihoods are able to travel safely across our shared border
- To lay the groundwork for a quick and safe return to open borders, open trade, and open travel between us
- To create a model of continental cooperation for others to emulate.

We view the *Essential Workers Cross-Border Vaccination Initiative* as an opportunity to support our integrated economies by cooperating on the vaccination of individuals who work in both our jurisdictions. This initiative will begin with truck drivers as they regularly cross the U.S.-Canada border, keeping our economy moving and our people and businesses supplied with the goods they need.

### **THE INITIATIVE**

The State of North Dakota will provide COVID-19 vaccine to fully immunize Manitoba-based truck drivers during their routine trips to the U.S. over the next 6-8 weeks.

### **Eligibility**

- Drivers must be able to cross into the U.S. and return to Canada without a requirement to quarantine under federal public health rules
- Drivers will be required to have a valid Manitoba Class 1 license and be on assignment at the time of vaccination
- Eligibility and appropriate use of the initiative will be communicated directly to drivers with the assistance of the Manitoba Trucking Association and its members
- Estimated initiative uptake is 2,000-4,000 drivers

### **Vaccination Location(s)**

- Northbound Alexander Henry Rest Area near Drayton, North Dakota
- Others to come on stream as required
- Location will have sufficient space for truck parking, drive-thru inoculation, and 15-minute observation periods

### **Vaccine Administration**

- Vaccines and immunization staff will be supplied and administered by the State of North Dakota
- North Dakota has an online pre-registration system that will be used to limit crowding and lost time for drivers, and aid in the scheduling of staff and delivery of doses
- Trucking companies may want to manage vaccine booking in tandem with their driver scheduling

### **Vaccine and Dose Schedule**

- North Dakota will administer vaccines authorized by the United States Food and Drug Administration and Health Canada
- North Dakota will adhere to the recommended dose schedule and will administer both first and second shots to eligible drivers accordingly
- All drivers will be eligible for doses within the dose schedule

### **Vaccine Records and Information-sharing**

- North Dakota to provide proof of vaccination to drivers
- North Dakota to provide record of vaccine use to US federal government, barring issue with Canadian addresses
- North Dakota to provide record of vaccinations to Manitoba for incorporation into provincial database

### **Timing of Initiative**

- Vaccinations will commence on Wednesday, April 21
- The vaccination site will be open each Wednesday-Friday, noon to 8pm to accommodate northbound, returning travel by truckers

**Costs and Reimbursement**

- There will be no cost to North Dakota or Manitoba. Vaccines and the cost of administering vaccines will be covered by the United States Government

**Future Application**

- This initiative will be considered for scaling to meet other designated vaccination needs for Manitobans