

## IFRC guidance introduction of COVID-19 vaccines

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### 1. Guidance for NS support to COVID 19 vaccination programs

In response to the pandemic, many countries are planning and conducting vaccination activities. Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies are being asked by their National Governments and Ministries of Health to participate in COVID-19 vaccine introduction.

Multiple manufacturers have developed COVID-19 vaccines, some of which have been licensed and/or approved for Expanded Use Listing (EUL) by WHO, a Stringent Regulatory Authority (SRA) as designated by WHO<sup>1</sup>, or by a National Regulatory Authority (NRA).

Established by national law, a National Society's relationship to the authorities is defined by its role as "auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field"<sup>2</sup>. In line with this auxiliary role multiple National Societies have made the decision to support their governments COVID-19 vaccine introduction plans.

While National Societies take the decision on whether to support the governments vaccine introduction, the decision on the type of COVID-19 vaccine(s) used in a country rests solely with the government and designated National Regulatory Authorities.

***Upon request, and based on available resources, IFRC will provide funding and technical assistance to National Societies supporting their governments COVID-19 vaccine introduction plan in line with vaccine approvals provided by the respective National Regulatory Authorities.***

IFRC does not anticipate getting involved in procurement of COVID-19 vaccines; international transport of COVID-19 vaccines; or importation of COVID-19 vaccines. **In line with IFRC's international procurement policies and procedures, if IFRC decides to procure COVID-19 vaccines, only WHO, SRA approved vaccines could be considered for procurement with IFRC funds.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/medicines/regulation/sras/en/>

<sup>2</sup> Statutes of The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (adopted by the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross at Geneva in 1986, amended in 1995 and 2006).