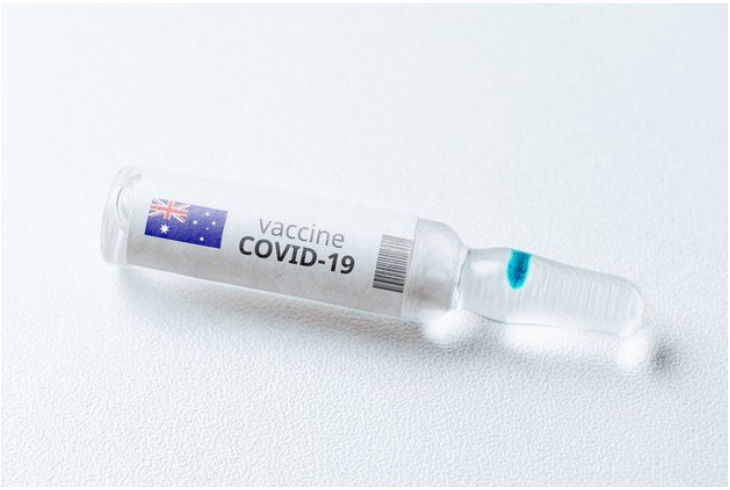
BioSpectrum
the business of Bio & Health Sciences
ASIA EDITION

Australia rolls out strategies for COVID-19 vaccine supply and distribution

December 28, 2020 | News

Signs contract with the companies for safe and controlled logistics and data tracking to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to all Australians from March next year



Australian Government has announced that it has signed contracts with the companies to partner for safe distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to all Australians from March next year and completion of the whole of the population in 2021.

The contracts cover three vital aspects of the vaccine rollout:

- Distribution and logistics— industry-leading providers DHL Supply Chain and Linfox will undertake COVID-19 vaccine distribution.
- Data—Accenture will provide tracking of vaccine doses as well as enabling overall program implementation monitoring.

In addition, PwC will be the Department of Health's Program Delivery Partner for the vaccine rollout.

The finalization of these contracts confirms Australia is on track to achieve a well-ordered, efficient and safe rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. Subject to approvals, the first vaccinations will be provided to health workers and aged care residents from March.

DHL Supply Chain and Linfox will work with the Department of Health to design and operate a national distribution network. They will support vaccination for all, including people in rural, remote and very remote areas and others who are hard to reach.

They will also be required to track and report the temperature of the vaccine at all times. The required temperature could be 2 to 8 degrees (standard cold chain temperatures) to as low as minus 70, which is needed for the Pfizer vaccine.

Purpose-built dry ice containers will be supplied for moving the Pfizer vaccine around Australia, as part of the Government's global distribution deal with Pfizer.

As well as transporting the vaccines from the point of acceptance from manufacturers to vaccination administration sites, the logistics partners will be responsible for transport and management of vaccination supplies such as needles, syringes, and personal protective equipment.

Data partner Accenture will design, develop, and implement a software solution to enable “point in time” visibility of COVID-19 vaccine doses across the delivery chain.

This will include receipt of the vaccine by health services, vaccination of patients, and subsequent monitoring for adverse reactions.

Australia Government has secured over 117 million doses to cover the Australian population several times over.