



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Health

Ministry of Health's Preparedness to Receive and Distribute the COVID-19 Vaccine

Presented by: Dr. Roshan Parasram
Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health

Background

- ▶ **The Ministry of Health has taken a three-pronged approach to securing COVID-19 vaccines:**

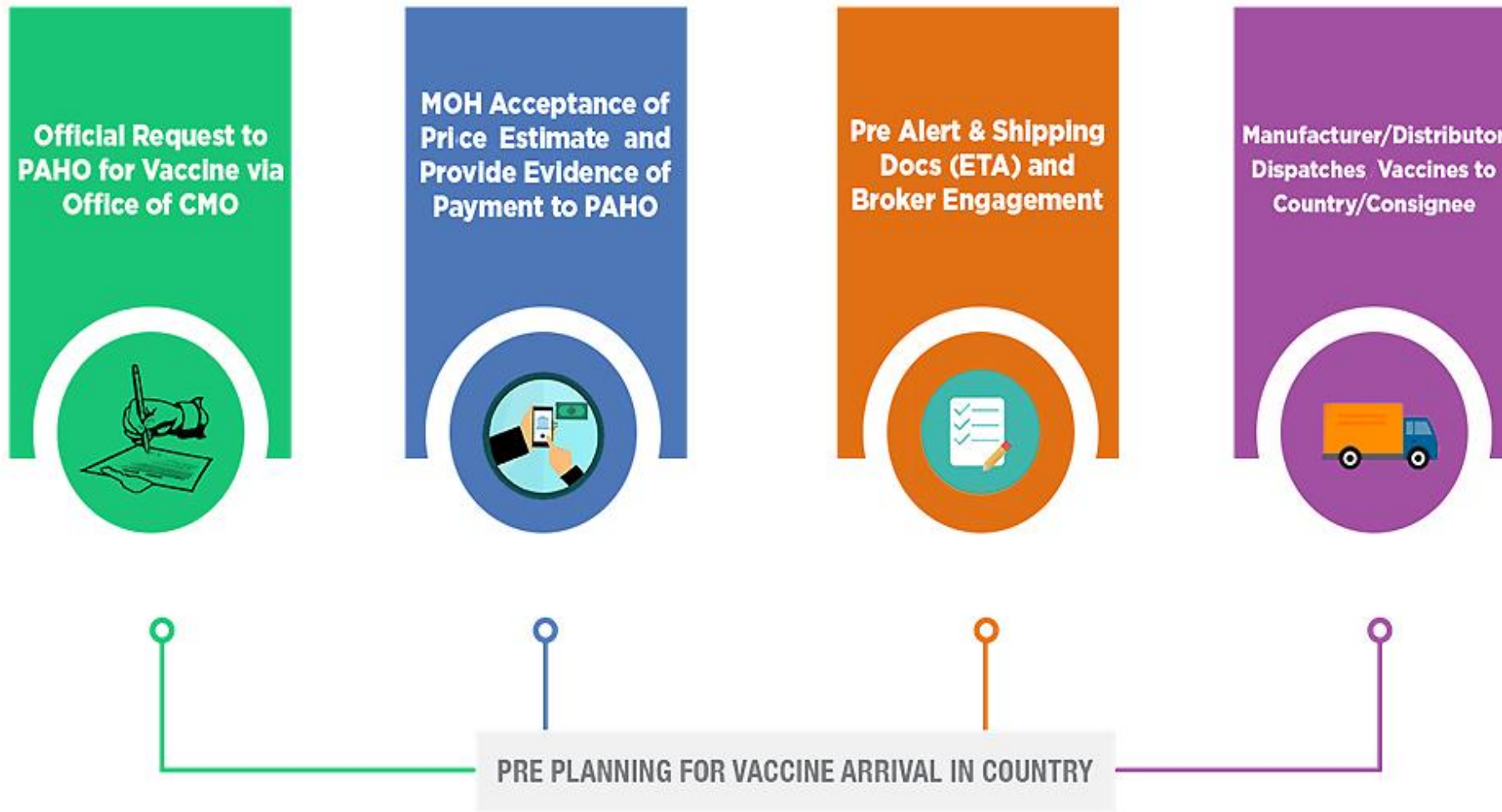
1 - The COVAX Facility (co-led by WHO, Gavi and CEPI) agreement signed on Sept 18, 2020 & down payment of TT\$10Mn.

On January 30, 2021, T&T was allocated an initial 100,000 to 120,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine via the COVAX facility and should be delivered March 2021.

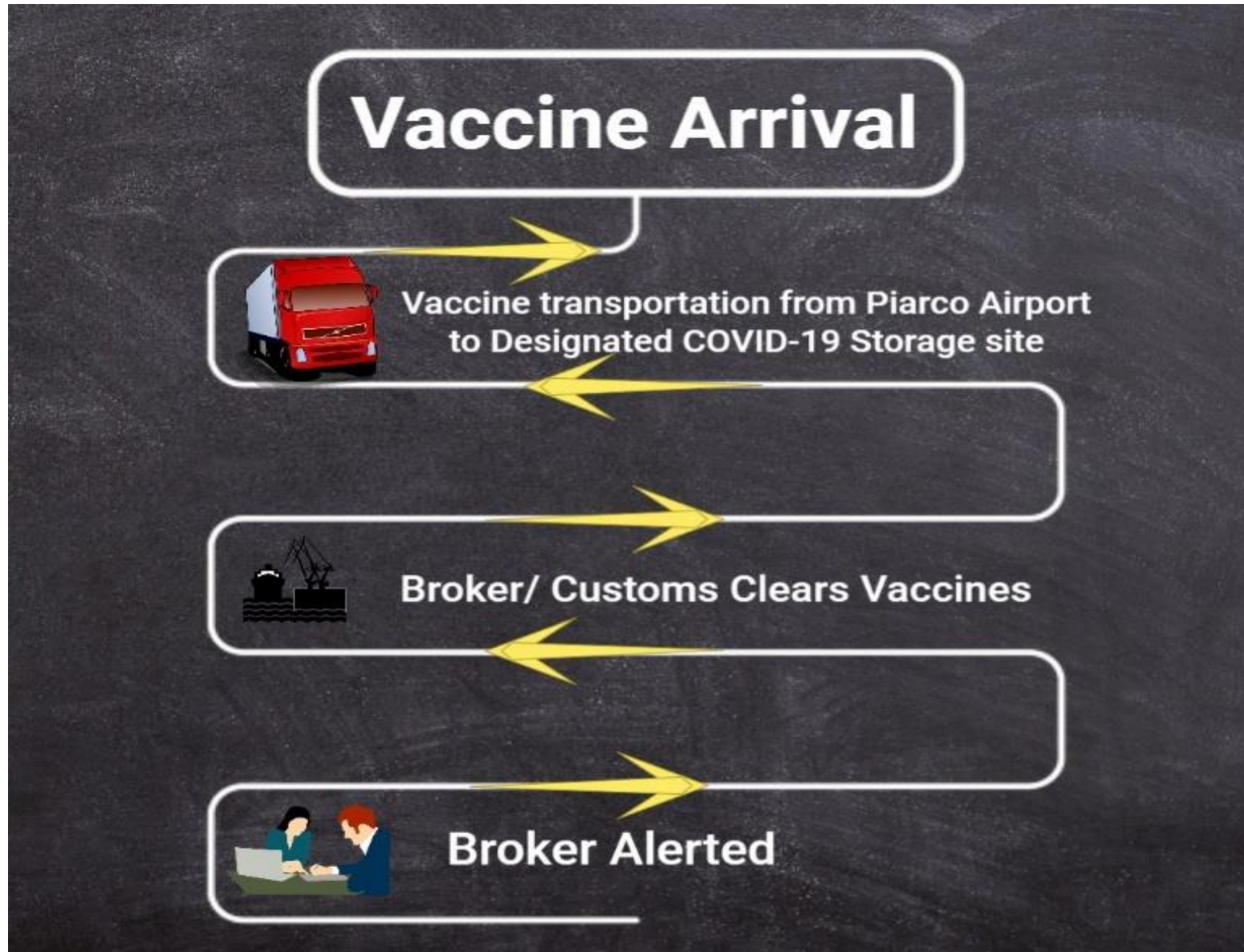
**2 - Bilateral discussions with vaccine suppliers since October 1, 2020
Pfizer, Oxford-AstraZeneca; Sinopharm, Moderna and Sanofi.**

3 - The use of a CARICOM initiative, where Trinidad and Tobago is registered as a purchaser of vaccines via the African Medicine Council.

Pre-Planning for Vaccine Arrival



Arrival of Vaccines



Vaccine - Oxford-AstraZeneca

- ▶ The AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine has proven to be effective and can be stored in the standard vaccine refrigerator, which maintains a temperature of 2 to 8 degrees Celsius.
- ▶ 2 dose vaccine
- ▶ This initial allocation will provide vaccines for at least 50,000 persons.

Vaccine Storage Plan

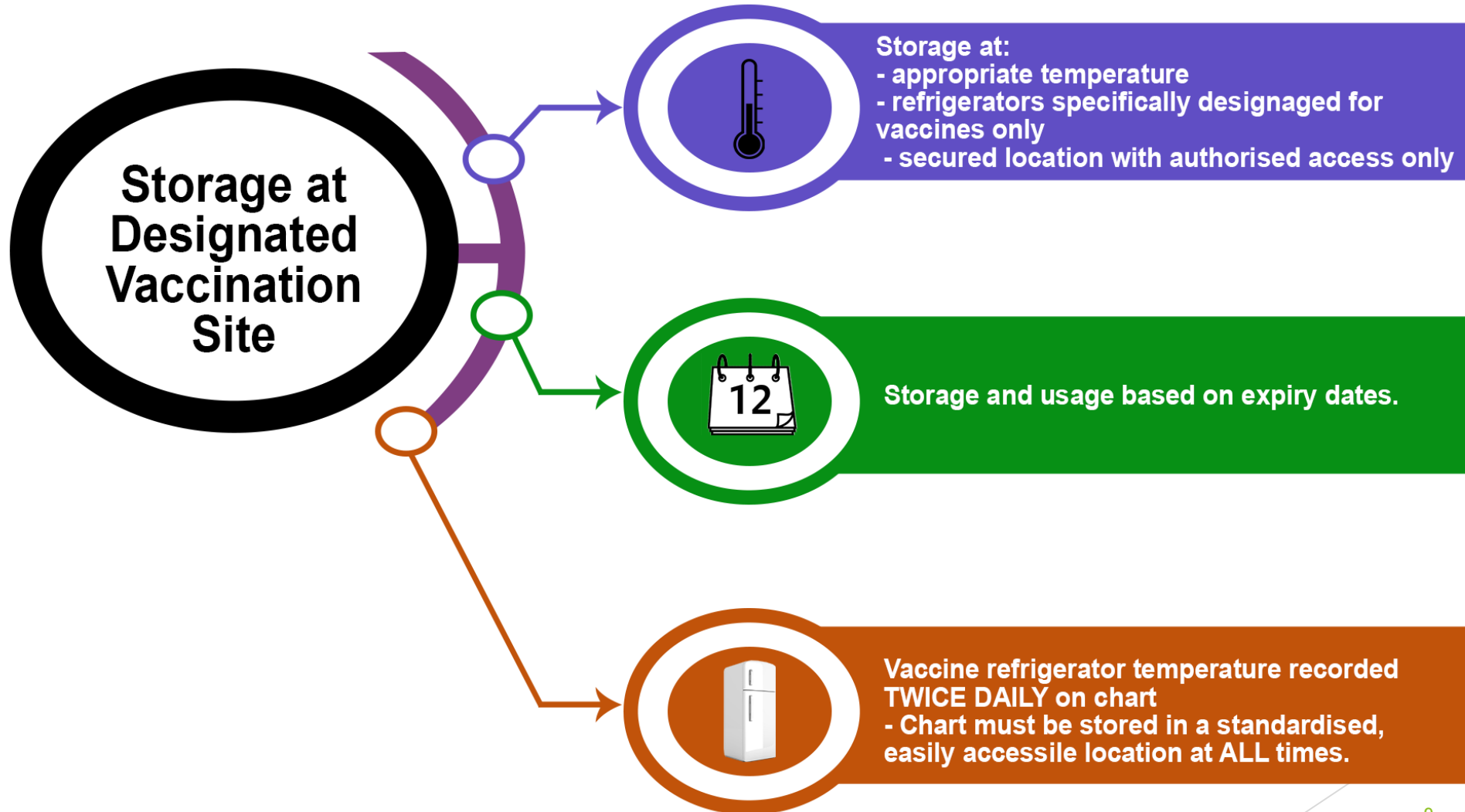
Currently, the MoH has identified the following sites for COVID-19 Vaccine Storage for temperatures 2-8 degrees :

- ▶ Nipdec C-40 with a capacity of 120,000 doses;
- ▶ Arima General Hospital with a capacity of 120,000 doses;
- ▶ Point Fortin Hospital with a capacity of 100,000 doses;
- ▶ County Medical Office of Health with a capacity of 50,000 doses;
- ▶ Couva Hospital and Multi-training Facility Chiller under construction with a planned capacity of 400,000 doses.

Vaccine Storage Plan

- ▶ **The facilities have the capacity to store substantial quantities of doses of COVID-19 vaccines:**
 - 4 Chillers at 2 to 8 degrees with a capacity of 390,000 doses**
 - 8 Ultra Low Freezers at -20 degrees with a capacity of 1mn doses**
 - 4 Ultra Low Freezers at -70 degrees with a capacity of 450,000 doses**
- ▶ **Additionally identified Designated COVID-19 Vaccine Sites currently have the capacity to store vaccines at 2 to 8 degrees.**

Vaccine Storage Plan



Initial Distribution

- ▶ **Distribution of the vaccine will occur throughout the country.**
- ▶ **Initial distribution will be facilitated by the Regional Health Authorities (RHA's).**
- ▶ **Distribution of the vaccine to Designated COVID-19 Vaccine Sites will be done via 2 established pathways:**
 - ▶ **Expanded Programme for Immunization (EPI) delivery System**
 - ▶ **District Health Visitors (DHV)**

Administration

Administration will be done in a phased basis:

Phase 1

- ▶ Healthcare Workers
- ▶ 60 years and over
- ▶ Persons with Non-Communicable Diseases

Phase 2

- ▶ Essential Workers –
(eg. Teachers, Police, Fire Service, Defence Force, Sanitation workers & Airline staff).
- ▶ Mass vaccination
 - ▶ Persons over 18 years within the recommended categories

Administration

- ▶ The MoH is far advanced in its preparation to receive and distribute the vaccine locally.
- ▶ Necessary consumables for vaccination have already been stockpiled in significant quantities including 1 million alcohol swabs and 1.5 million syringes.
- ▶ Health Visitors and Registered Nurses are being trained by EPI in the storage, handling and administration of the vaccine.
- ▶ COVID-19 Vaccination is not mandatory

Public Private Partnership

The Ministry recognises that a public/private sector partnership is required to administer vaccines to the national population in the shortest time (mass vaccination).

National COVID-19 vaccine deployment will be implemented using two parallel pathways –

- ▶ The 1st managed directly by the Public Health Sector and
- ▶ The 2nd managed by the Private Sector with oversight by the Ministry of Health.

23 public health facilities have been identified as future vaccination sites

Plans are in place for the creation of 4 mass vaccination sites.¹³

Monitoring and Evaluation

- ▶ An ICT System will be implemented to track the vaccine and ensure accountability
- ▶ Data Entry Clerks will be trained in the use of the ICT System
- ▶ Benefits of the ICT System include:
 - ▶ Database of patients, vaccine uptake & Inventory Mgt
 - ▶ Increased accountability
 - ▶ Reduction of wastage
 - ▶ Ensure theft reduction
- ▶ Through Telemedicine:
 - ▶ Patients will be notified for their 2nd dose
 - ▶ Adverse reactions will be reported and recorded.



You can lead a horse to water,
but you can't make him drink.

Thank You

Questions or Comments



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