



ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 27TH EMERGENCY TELECONFERENCE MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM (4TH IN 2021) HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH MARCH 2021.

We, members of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) at our emergency meeting held today, deliberated on the administration of the first batch of the COVAX AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine which was received by the government of Nigeria on 2nd March 2021.

1. The Forum received briefing from the Executive Secretary of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr. Faisal Shuaib in the company of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) and Chairman of the Presidential Tax Force (PTF) on COVID-19, Boss Mustapha, on the vaccine roll-out plan for the country.
2. The meeting also received updates and remarks on the planned vaccination exercise from the Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire; the Director General of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu, and members of the Forum's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group led by Professor Oyewale Tomori.
3. Nigeria received 3.9 million doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine as part of the COVAX facility arrangement with the government of Nigeria. The administration of the vaccine in the country will begin on the 5th of March 2021 at the National Hospital with front line health workers who have been the highest at risk of contracting the virus.
4. Following extensive discussions on the vaccine administration, Governors called on the Federal Government to take necessary steps to support logistics and inoculation activities in States and resolved to take the following actions to ensure a smooth vaccine roll-out exercise across the country:
 - i. Initiate the launch of the vaccination programme in all States from 10th March 2021;
 - ii. Ensure strict compliance and prioritization of the list of eligible persons to be vaccinated starting with all frontline workers, support staff, COVID-19 rapid response teams, workers in lab networks, isolation and treatment centres as well as tertiary and specialist hospitals. Strategic leaders will also be vaccinated to give confidence to the public on the safety of the vaccine. The second phase will prioritize older adults (50 and above) while the 3rd and 4th phases will focus on adults (18 – 49) with co-morbidities such as hypertension, diabetes, lung disease, and other health conditions; and adults (18 – 49 years) without any underlying health condition and the rest of the population;
 - iii. Actively monitor vaccine administration in their States through a vaccine implementation dashboard;
 - iv. Facilitate the timely release of counterpart funds from State governments to ensure the vaccine roll-out exercise runs smoothly;



- v. Upscale all vaccine communication and advocacy mechanisms already in place in States to reduce the level of vaccination hesitancy amongst Nigerians;
- vi. Provide adequate security to all State and local government-owned cold stores that will be used for storing the vaccine.

Governor Kayode Fayemi
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum
4th March 2021