

Canada donates 5 million doses of excess H1N1 vaccine to WHO redistribution effort

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TORONTO - The federal government is donating five million doses of H1N1 vaccine to the World Health Organization. The doses will be added to a pool of donated vaccine that the WHO is redistributing to countries that could not afford to secure their own pandemic vaccine contracts.

As well, Canada will donate \$6 million to the WHO to support the agency's ongoing pandemic relief efforts.

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq announced the donation in a news release, saying Canada can take this step now because the country's own immediate needs have been met.

Demand for the vaccine here has plummeted since late December, as flu activity has tailed off.

Canada bought 50.6 million doses of vaccine and likely faces a surplus of several tens of millions of doses, even after making the donation to the WHO.