

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Inquiry into Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Written Question on Notice, 8 October 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000265

National stockpile for the molnupiravir courses

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

5. When did the Department approve the purchase of the 300,000 doses courses molnupiravir?
6. Is there an agreed rollout timeline to the national stockpile for the 300,000 molnupiravir courses?
 - a.) What is the state-by-state allocation breakdown plan for the 300,000 molnupiravir courses?

Answer:

The Prime Minister announced the purchase of 300,000 courses of molnupiravir (Merck Sharp & Dohme (Australia) Pty Ltd) on 5 October 2021.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)'s consideration of molnupiravir is expected to occur in late 2021, and a TGA approval and delivery of the treatment to the National Medical Stockpile is expected to occur in early 2022.

Using modelling and expert advice, and consultation with states and territories, the Department of Health is finalising how molnupiravir will be distributed and allocated throughout 2022. The Department will be monitoring supply to the states and territories and deployments will be prioritised to support the management of increasing COVID-19 cases.