



Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review
24 October 2020 :: Number 576
Center for Vaccine Ethics & Policy (CVEP)

This weekly digest targets news, events, announcements, articles and research in the vaccine and global health ethics and policy space and is aggregated from key governmental, NGO, international organization and industry sources, key peer-reviewed journals, and other media channels. This summary proceeds from the broad base of themes and issues monitored by the Center for Vaccine Ethics & Policy in its work: it is not intended to be exhaustive in its coverage.

Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review is published as a PDF and scheduled for release each Saturday evening at midnight [0000 GMT-5]. The PDF is posted and the elements of each edition are presented as a set of blog posts at <https://centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.net>. This blog allows full-text searching of over 9,000 entries.

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Milestones :: Perspectives :: Research

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WHO SAGE Meeting

Highlights from the Meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization 5- 7 October 2020

(Full report will be published in the Weekly Epidemiological Record on 4 December 2020, and only the wording of the full report should be considered as final)

Global Report

:: The global report focused on 2019 progress and how COVID-19 impacted immunization programmes globally in 2020. It highlighted how countries have already responded to the current pandemic and how they could continue to respond in the future so that major, purposeful shifts can emerge from this crisis.

:: SAGE underlined the opportunities for integration in the current situation. SAGE further emphasized the importance of taking into considerations gender aspects as enablers and barriers to vaccination.

:: Gavi 5.0 Priorities remain critical and COVID-19 creates a greater need to be agile and innovative. Gavi will prioritize 1) Continuity of immunisation, 2) Reaching zero dose, 3) Pacing breadth of protection, 4) Safeguarding domestic financing, and 5) COVID-19 vaccine access and delivery.

Immunization in context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other disruptive events with regional and country focus

:: SAGE was updated on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on immunization activities. All six regions reported measurable disruptions of immunization activities with notable setbacks for mass vaccination campaigns, outreach services, and surveillance activities. Global and regional surveys revealed that the underlying reasons for disruptions included supply and demand constraints as a result of the pandemic, re-assignment of health workers from immunization activities to COVID-19 response, travel restrictions, shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), and fear among communities of becoming SARS-CoV-2 infected while seeking services.

:: However, Regions also reported signs of recovery and resumption of immunization activities.

:: SAGE encouraged countries and immunization partners to document and share the rich lessons learned from these pandemic experiences of disruption and recovery.

:: As immunization programmes continue to recover, they will likely primarily be reaching the children with access to services before the pandemic. Communities with unimmunized, or “zero dose” children are likely to continue to be missed despite being more vulnerable and susceptible to outbreaks. Attention to these communities needs to be particularly emphasized during the recovery period as well as beyond.

:: SAGE advised all countries to urgently prioritize implementation of catch-up vaccination strategies, including mass vaccination campaigns, assuring proper planning and adequate financial resources for effective infection prevention control measures to protect health workers and the community. Undertaking catch-up vaccination activities now is particularly critical in anticipation of possible near-term events that may again impact usual immunization services, including the potential introduction of COVID-19 vaccines.

:: SAGE endorsed the statement 'Immunization as an Essential Health Service: Guiding principles for immunization activities during times of severe disruption, including during the COVID-19 pandemic' which supersedes the previous guiding principles issued in March 2020. The statement enhances prior principles regarding the importance of preserving immunization as an essential health service, the necessity of catch-up vaccination policies and strategies, and the importance of prioritization of activities to address outbreak-prone vaccine preventable diseases and to protect vulnerable populations. The statement is newly broadened to be relevant to any major disruption event, to recognize the dynamic nature of such shocks to the immunization system and thus the need for flexibility and constant re-assessment, and to use the disruption as an opportunity to integrate with and strengthen primary health care and attain equity goals.

:: With much admiration and appreciation, SAGE applauded national immunization programme staff, frontline health workers, and National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs) in their extraordinary efforts during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic to sustain and restore immunization services on behalf of the children and communities they serve.

COVID-19 vaccines

:: SAGE was presented with COVID-19 disease epidemiology, the COVID-19 vaccine landscape, the COVAX Facility, modelling efforts to help develop vaccination policies, and a report from the Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS).

:: SAGE has undertaken a three-step process to provide guidance for overall programme strategy as well as vaccine-specific recommendations:

1. A Values Framework. The WHO SAGE values framework for the allocation and prioritization of COVID-19 vaccination, issued on 14 September 2020, outlines six principles and 12 public health objectives.
2. A Prioritization Roadmap. To support countries in planning, the Roadmap suggests public health strategies and target priority groups for different levels of vaccine availability and epidemiologic settings.
3. Vaccine-specific recommendations. As licensed vaccines become available, specific recommendations for the use of these vaccines will be issued in the future. Evidence will be retrieved and assessed through a living systematic review.¹

1 Cochrane. <https://covid-nma.com/vaccines/>, accessed October 2020

:: SAGE recommended that overall public health strategies should be grounded in ethical values as outlined in the Values Framework.

:: SAGE endorsed the Prioritization Roadmap and recommended that Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (RITAGs) and subsequently countries in consultation with their NITAGs start using this Roadmap. An ongoing dialogue with SAGE, RITAGs and NITAGs should be maintained which will assist SAGE in further adapting the Roadmap once data on vaccine performance data become available. SAGE recommended that the Roadmap be considered a living document and be published as interim guidance.

:: SAGE highlighted the need for early, comprehensive preparedness planning for post-licensure surveillance of COVID-19 vaccines impact, which should include planning for vaccine safety monitoring and effectiveness studies using different methodologies and in different populations. SAGE also acknowledged the ongoing work of GACVS on pharmacovigilance preparedness.

:: SAGE strongly endorsed strict adherence to Good Clinical Practice (GCP) with the focus on robust regulatory oversight, careful monitoring of safety by independent data safety monitoring boards in phase III clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines, and the rights to medical confidentiality of all trial participants.

Influenza and pneumococcal vaccination in the context of COVID-19

:: There are currently limited data on COVID-19 comorbidity with influenza or pneumococcal disease or on benefits of influenza or pneumococcal vaccination in the COVID-19 context.

:: In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, SAGE reconsidered the prioritization of risk groups for influenza vaccination as outlined in the 2012 WHO vaccine position paper. SAGE recommended that during the COVID-19 pandemic, highest priority groups for influenza vaccination are health and care workers and older adults. In no particular order, additional groups for influenza vaccination are pregnant women, individuals with underlying health conditions, and children (6-59 months of age).

:: SAGE noted that evidence is insufficient to support a recommendation to introduce an adult pneumococcal vaccination programme in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in countries with existing adult pneumococcal vaccination programmes, improving vaccine coverage and thereby reducing pneumococcal disease may be expected to alleviate the related burden on health systems.

Polio

:: SAGE acknowledged the certification of the WHO African Region as wild polio virus-free on 25 August 2020 by the African Regional Certification Committee, however, expressed serious concerns about the eradication effort. Specifically, SAGE expressed concern about continuing circulation of wild poliovirus in Afghanistan and Pakistan and by the inability of the program to effectively control outbreaks of vaccine-derived polioviruses in Africa.

:: SAGE endorsed a second inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) dose to be introduced into all 94 countries that currently administer one IPV dose and bivalent oral poliovirus vaccine (bOPV) in their routine immunization schedules and provided recommendations regarding preferred and alternative schedules for the two IPV doses. Introduction of the second IPV dose will not reduce the number of bOPV doses used in the routine immunization schedule.

:: SAGE was updated on the progress of the novel oral poliovirus vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) which is currently being submitted for Emergency Use Listing (EUL); nOPV2 is the first vaccine to go through the EUL process.

:: SAGE re-affirmed its April 2020 recommendation on the nOPV2 initial use criteria under EUL and made new recommendations related to nOPV2 assessment and safety monitoring to support decision-making for subsequent phases of nOPV2 use.

:: In principle, SAGE endorsed that nOPV2 becomes the vaccine of choice for response to circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreaks after the interim recommendation for EUL is issued and after review of the initial use period is completed and all requirements for use are met.

:: SAGE does not recommend IPV to be used for poliovirus outbreak response.

Measles

:: SAGE endorsed the Measles and Rubella Strategic Framework, 2021-2030, a document to guide the strategic priorities and programmatic efforts toward measles and rubella elimination. SAGE welcomed this major multi-partner initiative which frames an approach to tackle both immediate challenges, such as the COVID-19 disruption, and medium-term challenges, such as achieving elimination targets.

:: The reported global annual number of measles cases of 872, 872 in 2019 is the highest that it has been in 15 years. Measles vaccine delivers the highest returns on investment in immunization by a large margin, and the benefits of continuing measles vaccination during the

COVID-19 pandemic exceed all other antigens when considering overall child deaths averted through routine immunization. SAGE echoed concern that the COVID-19 pandemic is creating large immunity gaps that will inevitably lead to future outbreaks if not proactively and urgently addressed.

Rotavirus vaccines

:: Since SAGE last reviewed rotavirus vaccines in April 2012, global progress with rotavirus vaccination has occurred. Currently, 112 or 58% of countries have introduced rotavirus vaccines. Rotavirus vaccine impact is evident from the 40% reduction in rotavirus prevalence documented by the Global Rotavirus Surveillance Network during 2008-2016 as well as studies in a variety of countries that show reductions in hospitalizations and mortality due to rotavirus. Additional safety and effectiveness data have accrued for Rotarix™ and RotaTeq™ and in 2018, WHO prequalified two more rotavirus vaccines, Rotavac™ and Rotasiil™.

:: As a result of the current updated review, SAGE recommended all four live oral rotavirus vaccines (Rotarix™, RotaTeq™, Rotavac™, and Rotasiil™) for use.

:: SAGE re-affirmed 2013 recommendations that rotavirus vaccines should be included in all national immunization programmes and be considered a priority, particularly in countries with high rotavirus gastroenteritis-associated fatality rates, that use of rotavirus vaccines should be part of a comprehensive strategy to control diarrheal diseases, and that first dose of rotavirus vaccine should be administered as soon as possible after 6 weeks of age.

:: SAGE noted that the considerable rotavirus disease burden during the second year of life supports catch-up vaccination for children not vaccinated on time, particularly in high-mortality and crisis contexts, including recent disruptions to immunization services related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the typical age distribution of rotavirus gastroenteritis, rotavirus vaccination of children >24 months of age is not recommended.

Development of the Immunization Agenda 2030 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Action (IA2030 ME&A) Framework and the Ownership and Accountability (OA) Mechanism

:: SAGE was presented with the IA2030 ME&A Framework as well as with the current development of the OA Mechanism based on the results of country and stakeholder consultations. Different options were reviewed with an emphasis on leveraging existing structures and mechanisms.

:: SAGE commended the progress made so far and raised questions and points to consider while finalising the IA2030 ME&A Framework which will be submitted for the May 2021 World Health Assembly.

:: SAGE discussed the possible targets for the Impact Goal indicators for global and regional vaccine preventable disease control. For the OA Mechanism, SAGE discussed the possibility of using existing national health observatories and how to better integrate and leverage civil society organizations by formalizing and structuring their role, in particular with regards to reaching unreached communities.

Pneumococcal vaccines

Considerations for use in national programmes to vaccinate older adults

:: Mature pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) childhood programmes provide indirect protection to older adults for most PCV10 and PCV13 serotypes.

:: Introduction of a childhood PCV programme, ensuring optimal uptake of PCV in children, and sustaining high coverage should be prioritized over initiating an older adult vaccination programme.

:: For countries that already have mature PCV childhood programmes and would like to provide direct protection to older adults, general considerations for national vaccine introduction should include:

- o Population structure and demographics amongst older adults to guide the age at which introduction should be considered;
- o Operational factors, including cost and cost-effectiveness, to ensure that optimal coverage can be achieved in the target population.

Use of pneumococcal vaccines in outbreak settings:

:: Sustained (≥ 5 years) high PCV coverage in children is likely to reduce the risk of pneumococcal outbreaks.

:: While there is insufficient data to recommend a reactive vaccination campaign in response to Serotype 1 outbreaks, further research needs to be encouraged.

Vaccine Innovation Prioritization Strategy (VIPS)

:: SAGE agreed with the three product innovations prioritized by VIPS, namely, micro-array patches (MAPs), heat thermostable formulations, including controlled temperature chains (CTC) and the use of barcodes on both secondary and primary vaccine packaging. If available and implemented, these innovations could have significant programmatic impact and increase vaccine acceptability.

:: SAGE recommended that VIPS continue to assess the product innovation landscape in the context of COVID-19 vaccines to identify potential, additional priorities for VIPS. Additionally, beyond advancing development and use of 'supply-side' product innovations, SAGE noted that attention to developing 'demand-side' innovations is also needed in order to reach the unreached (e.g., innovations to identify the location of/coverage status of target populations).

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COVID-19 Vaccines – Regulatory Milestones

Editor's Note

Among the critical milestones in the development and regulatory review of candidate COVID-19 vaccines was the meeting earlier this week of the FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee. We are not aware that any summary report or notes have been released on this meeting but the webcast is now available at the link below. While the meeting runs 08:50 it is critical to appreciating what will come next in the COVID-19 vaccines journey.

FDA – [Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee](#)

10/22/2020

The Committee met in open session to discuss, in general, the development, authorization and/or licensure of vaccines to prevent COVID-19. No specific application was discussed at this meeting. [View webcast](#)

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COVID-19 Vaccines – Access/Guiding Principles

Editor's Note

The "guiding principles" below take their place in a long line of formulations of access principles, various forms of "guidance", ethical imperatives, and normative frameworks around distribution of and access to COVID-19 vaccines [as they become available] We cannot report seeing an orderly aggregation and analysis of these contributions to a very complex and evolving challenge. Readers are invited to alert us if they have encountered such an analysis or if they are working to develop one!

Pharmaceutical Supply and Payment Chain Coalition Announces Guiding Principles for Safe, Efficacious Access to COVID-19 Vaccine

Washington, D.C. (October 22, 2020) — Today, representative organizations of America's pharmaceutical supply and payment chain, including prescription and over-the-counter brand and generic manufacturers; pharmacies and pharmacists across all practice settings, including health systems and hospitals, community, specialty, and managed care; supermarkets; wholesalers; pharmaceutical quality standard developers; employers and other health plan sponsors; health insurance providers; and pharmacy benefit managers, released guiding principles for the safe efficacious development, distribution, and allocation of vaccine(s) to achieve mass immunization against the coronavirus (COVID-19)

The guiding principles represent the commitment of the private sector to the efficient, well-coordinated distribution, allocation, and mass immunization against COVID-19 as a necessary countermeasure to the current pandemic.

The strong and ongoing collaboration demonstrated by the pharmaceutical supply and payment chain has been essential for a host of issues important to Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. The coalition looks forward to continuing to work together in the best interest of the individuals and families that we serve.

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (<https://www.amcp.org/disease-state-resources/COVID-19-resources-managed-care-pharmacy>)

America's Health Insurance Plans (<https://www.ahip.org/issues/coronavirus-COVID-19/>)

American Pharmacists Association (<http://www.pharmacist.com/coronavirus>)

ASHP – American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (<https://www.ashp.org/COVID-19>)

Association for Accessible Medicines (<https://accessiblemeds.org/COVID-19-FAQs>)

Biotechnology Innovation Organization (<https://www.bio.org/policy/human-health/vaccines-biodefense/coronavirus>)

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (<https://www.bcbsprogresshealth.com/issues/addressing-the-covid-19-pandemic-with-care-and-compassion>)

U.S. Chamber of Commerce (<https://www.uschamber.com/coronavirus>)

FMI – the Food Industry Association (<https://www.fmi.org/coronavirus>)

Healthcare Distribution Alliance (<https://www.hda.org/issues/COVID19-response>)

National Association of Chain Drug Stores, "Flu Shots, Regular Vaccine Schedules, Preparation for COVID-19 Vaccines" (<https://www.nacds.org/COVID-19/>)

National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (<https://naspnet.org/COVID-19-resources/>)

National Community Pharmacists Association, "Coronavirus Information" (<https://ncpa.org/coronavirus-information>)

National Grocers Association (<https://www.nationalgrocers.org/news/national-grocers-association-coronavirus/>)

Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (<https://www.pcmanet.org/COVID-19-how-pbms-are-helping-patients-and-health-plans/>)

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (<https://phrma.org/coronavirus>)

U.S. Pharmacopeia (<https://www.usp.org/COVID-19>)

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Guiding Principles for Safe and Efficacious COVID-19 Vaccine Development, Distribution, Allocation, and Mass Immunization

The efficient, well-coordinated distribution, allocation, and mass vaccination activities against the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) will help ensure vaccination is an effective countermeasure to the current pandemic. High COVID-19 vaccination rates with an effective vaccine are essential to mitigating the pandemic now and protecting against future outbreaks.

The Pharmaceutical Supply and Payment Chain Coalition offers the following guiding principles for the safe and efficacious development, distribution, and allocation of a vaccine(s) to achieve coordinated mass vaccination against COVID-19:

:: COVID-19 vaccine development, approval, and post-marketing surveillance must adhere to transparent and scientifically rigorous processes that engender public trust in the safety and efficacy of these products. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) is the global “gold standard” for the safety and efficacy of medical products. In addition to FDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has unparalleled experience and expertise in defining use considerations and guidelines for vaccines so they are used safely and effectively by hundreds of millions of people. Widespread confidence in all licensed or authorized COVID-19 vaccines is critical for individuals to choose to be vaccinated and to overcome vaccine hesitancy. In furtherance of this trust, the FDA should continue to facilitate timely access to vaccine pharmacovigilance data and other relevant safety information as the vaccination process unfolds.

:: Equitable allocation of COVID-19 vaccine is paramount, and priority should be given to achieving the greatest public health impact. Decision-making about who should be granted priority access to the initial supply of COVID-19 vaccine(s) must be transparent, comprehensive, inclusive, and adhere to the highest possible ethical standards. Timely national dialogue, through multiple forms of community engagement, will encourage public trust in fair vaccine allocation and distribution strategies.

:: Consistent public engagement and clear communication on initial and subsequent prioritization decisions by ACIP will be needed. Public health officials recognize that initial supply and subsequent availability may be insufficient for the vaccination of all priority groups. Decision-making processes for subsequent prioritization by ACIP must adhere to the same high standards and transparent processes as initial decisions. Vaccine selection and immunization decisions should continue to be made based on updated evidence of vaccine effectiveness, including evidence demonstrating relative effectiveness for specific patient populations (e.g.,

pediatrics, pregnancy, older adults, patients with complex health conditions, and other sub-groups).

:: Distribution must be guided by a well-coordinated national strategy that is aligned with existing strategies for the distribution of routine vaccines. Deliberate planning at all levels of government and in collaboration with state and local public health stakeholders, and the private sector, will be necessary for appropriately executing national guidelines to the unique and changing needs of local communities. Distribution should leverage existing mechanisms and infrastructure; this includes ensuring equitable access and availability across the country, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

:: Vaccination program policies and deployment strategies must account for the readiness of local vaccination infrastructure and safety of the immunizer workforce. Policies and deployment strategies must ensure vaccinations are conducted under safe conditions, with the immunizer workforce and other essential health care workers prepared and protected from associated risk. As front-line health care workers, the immunizer workforce – consisting of pharmacists, physicians, nurses, pharmacy technicians, and other health care professionals – requires priority access to the initial vaccine supply. Those responsible for local vaccine infrastructure will need to adhere to the FDA-approved labeling instructions for each respective vaccine for proper storage and handling of vaccines throughout the supply chain. Strategies must also account for specific instructions for storage, handling, and administration of vaccines, including proper handling of sharps.

:: Vaccination for the prevention and management of infectious disease, including COVID-19, is a core health service that should be prioritized and promoted. Achieving high COVID-19 vaccinations rates will require minimizing vaccine hesitancy and misinformation and ensuring vaccines are administered properly and in accordance with national clinical guidance. Health care professionals, including pharmacists, will be relied on to provide patient education about vaccine options and safety, and manage patients with complex health care conditions. National clinical guidance for immunization providers should be issued and should include considerations for differing clinical application of various COVID-19 vaccines and where booster doses are needed to maintain efficacy. There also needs to be clear communication regarding how long the vaccine is effective and when individuals may need booster doses. A coordinated vaccine registry approach and record-keeping guidance, particularly to track vaccines requiring booster doses, also may be needed.

:: Ensuring affordability and access, including by preventing and removing financial barriers, will be critical to a successful public health response to COVID-19. Upon FDA licensure or authorization, and once recommendations are issued by ACIP, manufacturers, payors, physicians, pharmacists, and other critical stakeholders, such as community health centers, should promote broad access and affordability following national clinical guidance. ACIP should ensure that its recommendations are made immediately available so there is not a lag between the licensure or authorization decision and the ACIP recommendation. Reimbursement of immunization providers for reasonable administration fees is essential to maximizing access.

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COVID 19 Vaccine Programs Update

Moderna Completes Enrollment of Phase 3 COVE Study of mRNA Vaccine Against COVID-19 (mRNA-1273)

October 22, 2020

:: Moderna to make statement at today's FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) meeting

:: Moderna thanks PPD, its CRO partner, for the successful execution of COVE Study enrollment

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Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, Announced Today Precision NanoSystems Will Receive \$18.2 Million from the Government of Canada to Develop an RNA Vaccine for COVID-19

:: PNI will use the investment to advance a cost-effective Made-in-Canada COVID-19 vaccine
:: PNI offers expertise in self-amplifying mRNA vectors, lipid-based drug delivery systems and nanomedicine manufacturing

:: PNI will contribute to Canada's ability to secure an effective COVID-19 vaccine and build technologies towards enabling rapid response against future pandemics

Oct 23, 2020, 14:00 ET

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EMERGENCIES

Coronavirus [COVID-19]

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Weekly Epidemiological and Operational updates

last update: 8 October 2020, 20:00 GMT-4

Confirmed cases :: 42 055 863 [week ago: 39 023 292] [two weeks ago: 36 754 395]

Confirmed deaths :: 1 141 567 [week ago: 1 099 586] [two weeks ago: 1 064 838]

Countries, areas or territories with cases :: 218Bottom of Form

WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 - 23 October 2020

:: We are at a critical juncture in this pandemic, particularly in the northern hemisphere. The next few months are going to be very tough and some countries are on a dangerous track. We urge leaders to take immediate action, to prevent further unnecessary deaths, essential health services from collapsing and schools shutting again.

:: Oxygen is one of the most essential medicines for saving patients with COVID-19, and many other conditions. WHO is committed to working in solidarity with all governments, partners and the private sector to scale up sustainable oxygen supply.

:: Tomorrow marks World Polio Day week, and partners around the world – led in particular by Rotary International – are organising events and raising awareness about the need to eradicate polio.

:: Smallpox eradication is a remarkable achievement, not least because it was completed at the heart of the Cold War. Health did then and should now always come above politics and it is with sadness that this week we lost one of the great titans of smallpox eradication with the passing of Dr Mike Lane. We will continue to honour his legacy.

:: WHO is proud to announce the second Health for All Film Festival, to cultivate visual storytelling about public health.

Weekly epidemiological update - 20 October 2020

Global epidemiological situation

The incidence of new COVID-19 cases has continued to accelerate, while the incidence of new deaths has remained relatively stable (Figure 1). As of 18 October, over 40 million cases and 1.1 million deaths have been reported globally, with over 2.4 million new cases and 36 000 new deaths reported over the past week.

The European Region has continued to report a rapid increase in cases and deaths, with over 927 000 new cases reported this past week – a 25% weekly increase in cases compared to the previous week – contributing 38% of all new cases reported worldwide (Table 1). Similarly, the number of deaths continues to climb with a 29% increase from last week. Increases, although more gradual, were also observed in the African, Eastern-Mediterranean and Western Pacific Regions. Declines continued to be reported in the Region of the Americas and the South-East Asia Region; although the incidence of new infections remains high, and collectively these two regions contribute over half of new cases and deaths observed globally.

The countries reporting the highest number of cases in the past week remain the same as last week: India, the United States of America, France, Brazil and the United Kingdom.

Key weekly updates

:: **Therapeutics:** The Solidarity Therapeutics Trial have produced conclusive evidence on whether selected repurposed drugs are effective for COVID-19. Interim results from the Solidarity Therapeutics Trial, coordinated by WHO, indicate that remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir and interferon regimens appear to have little or no effect on 28-day mortality or the in-hospital course of COVID-19 among hospitalised patients.

:: **A call of Solidarity:** Kim Sledge and the World We Want have partnered with WHO Foundation to re-record the unity anthem, “We Are Family”, in response to COVID-19 and to bring focus on global public health needs. A special edition cover of Sister Sledge’s hit “We Are Family” will be released in a new and inspiring call for global solidarity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and to generate proceeds to address the most pressing global health challenges of our time. In support of the song’s release, people worldwide are invited to submit videos of themselves singing We Are Family for inclusion in a compilation video for release on 7 December 2020.

:: **Briefings:** WHO Director-General Dr Tedros, in his regular media briefing on 12 October, expressed concern around the concept of reaching so-called “herd immunity” by the letting the virus spread – “never in the history of public health has herd immunity been used as a strategy for responding to an outbreak, let alone a pandemic. It is scientifically and ethically

problematic". Furthermore, in a media briefing on 16 October, Dr Tedros highlighted the rising number of cases of COVID-19 globally, especially in Europe where, although the number of deaths reported is much lower than in March, hospitalisations are increasing.

:: Health System Strengthening: WHO published a Handbook for public health capacity-building at ground crossings and cross-border collaboration. The objectives of the handbook are to introduce principles of strategic risk assessment for prioritizing preparedness and response capacity building; highlight issues to consider when selecting ground crossings for designation under the International Health Regulations (2005, IHR); and, support the establishment and maintenance of cross-border collaboration to improve coordination and communication.

:: Food security, public health and livelihoods: On 13 October, WHO with the International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) released a joint statement on the Impact of COVID-19 on people's livelihoods, their health and our food systems. The pandemic has been affecting the entire food system and has laid bare its fragility. Border closures, trade restrictions and confinement measures have been preventing farmers from accessing markets, including for buying inputs and selling their produce, and agricultural workers from harvesting crops, thus disrupting domestic and international food supply chains and reducing access to healthy, safe and diverse diets. According to the policy brief published by the United Nations, in the long run, we face possible disruptions to the functioning of food systems, with severe consequences for health and nutrition.

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Emergencies

POLIO

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Polio this week as of 21 October 2020

:: World Polio Day is around the corner! Observed on the 24 October, the theme for 2020 is "A win against polio is a win for global health." Mark your calendar to tune in for [Rotary International's World Polio Day Online Global Update](#), streamed in multiple languages around the world.

:: On 19 September 2019, a polio outbreak was declared in the Philippines after a 3-year-old child and several environmental samples tested positive for polioviruses. Fifteen other children have been paralyzed by polio since the outbreak started. As we approach World Polio Day this year, we are celebrating the heroes who have been working tirelessly to combat polio in the Philippines.

Summary of new WPV and cVDPV viruses this week (AFP cases and environmental samples):

:: Afghanistan: one WPV1 case, one WPV1 positive environmental sample, 14 cVDPV2 cases and 2 cVDPV2 positive environmental samples

:: Pakistan: two WPV1 cases and one WPV1 positive environmental sample

:: Benin: one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample

:: Burkina Faso: 21 cVDPV2 cases

:: Côte d'Ivoire: 15 cVDPV2 cases

:: Ethiopia: four cVDPV2 cases
:: Mali: six cVDPV2 case
:: Nigeria: one cVDPV2 case
:: Somalia: five cVDPV2 cases and one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample
:: Sudan: 16 cVDPV2 cases
:: Yemen: two cVDPV1 cases

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Statement of the Twenty-Sixth Polio IHR Emergency Committee

22 October 2020 Statement

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) on the international spread of poliovirus was convened and opened by the WHO Deputy Director-General on 14 October 2020 with committee members attending via video conference, supported by the WHO Secretariat. Dr Zsuzsana Jakab in opening remarks on behalf of Dr Tedros congratulated all those involved in eliminating wild polioviruses from the WHO African Region despite some very challenging obstacles. The COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing spread of cVDPV2 were both growing major challenges, which would require strenuous efforts to overcome in order to restart progress toward global polio eradication.

The Emergency Committee reviewed the data on wild poliovirus (WPV1) and circulating vaccine derived polioviruses (cVDPV). The following IHR States Parties provided an update at the video conference or in writing on the current situation in their respective countries: Afghanistan, Chad, Egypt, Guinea, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.

Wild poliovirus

The higher incidence of global WPV1 cases seen during 2020 continues, with 121 cases reported between 1 January – 5 October 2020 compared to 85 for the same period in 2019, a 42% increase. Last year there were 176 WPV1 cases, the highest number reported since the PHEIC was declared in 2014, when there were 359 cases in nine countries. The lowest number of WPV1 cases was reported in 2017, when only 22 cases were found. No wild polio cases have been detected outside of Pakistan and Afghanistan since the last cases in Nigeria in 2016 four years ago. The number of positive environmental samples has increased 70% to 375 compared to 221 for the same time last year. Since the last meeting, exportation of WPV1 from Pakistan to Afghanistan has been documented.

The Committee noted that based on results from sequencing of WPV1 since the last committee meeting in June, there were further instances of international spread of viruses from Pakistan to Afghanistan. The ongoing frequency of WPV1 international spread between the two countries and the increased vulnerability in other countries where routine immunization and polio prevention activities have both been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are two major factors that suggest the risk of international spread may be at the highest level since 2014. While border closures and lockdowns may mitigate the risk in the short term while in force, this would be outweighed in the longer term by falling population immunity through disruption of vaccination and the resumption of normal population movements.

On the other hand the certification of the WHO African Region as wild polio free in August 2020 indicated a lessening of the global risk from this previous source.

Vaccine derived poliovirus (VDPV)

The committee was very concerned that the international spread of cVDPV2 continues, causing new outbreaks in Guinea, South Sudan and Sudan, the latter two due to importation of a cVDPV2 lineage that emerged in Chad in 2019. The same virus has also been detected in sewage in Cairo, Egypt but with no evidence of local circulation. The number of cases in 2020 is 409 as at 5 October 2020, already exceeding the 378 cases reported for the whole of 2019. As in all other years after 2016 when OPV2 was withdrawn, the number of cVDPV2 cases has been greater than the number of WPV1 cases in 2020. However, the number of sub-types / lineages detected so far in 2020 is 27, compared to 42 for the whole of 2019, and the number of newly emerged viruses is only seven so far this year, compared to 38 during 2019.

Cross border spread of cVDPV2 is now occurring regularly. Based on analysis by the US CDC of isolates, in the three months from April to June 2020, there has been evidence of exportation of cVDPV2 from:

- Pakistan to Afghanistan
- Côte d'Ivoire to Mali
- Guinea to Mali
- Côte d'Ivoire to Ghana, and Ghana to Côte d'Ivoire
- CAR to Cameroon
- Chad to Sudan and South Sudan
- Ghana to Burkina Faso

COVID-19

The committee heard that nearly all countries (90%) have experienced disruption to health services especially in low and middle income countries, according to a survey of 105 countries conducted March – June 2020. Routine immunization particularly outreach services was the area most frequently reported as disrupted.

The committee was very concerned that most of the current outbreak countries have had to delay immunization responses in recent months, meaning that transmission is likely continuing unchecked. Furthermore, there appear to be significant falls in surveillance indicators in many of the outbreak countries, such as drops in AFP reporting rates, and lesser drops in environmental sampling. Vaccine management and supply has been significantly impacted. More than 60 campaigns in 28 countries have been postponed since late February and early March. Vaccine supplies have been disrupted in many ways, with some quantities already in-country at risk of exceeding their expiry data and therefore unusable. Some suppliers are reaching storage capacity and may well be forced to stop production.

Although the resumption of Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs) is now occurring, the waves of the pandemic are expected to fluctuate considerably from country to country and across the WHO Regions, so the program will need to adjust according to the COVID-19 situation for the foreseeable future.

Although in general surveillance processes are continuing, there are clear signs of a significant drop in AFP case reporting, including in endemic countries, some outbreak countries and some other non-infected high risk countries.

The committee noted that GPEI modeling indicated there is a risk of an exponential rise in the number of cVDPV2 infected districts in the African Region, leading to a 200% increase if response SIAs had not resumed. In addition to the risk of WPV1 geographical spread and intensification, cVDPV2 cases could rise exponentially in Pakistan and Afghanistan potentially reaching more the 3,500 cases without a resumption of immunization response. Consequently, both Pakistan and Afghanistan are now implementing large scale mOPV2 campaigns and will continue with tOPV/mOPV2 until controlled. While there has been rapid spread, particularly in Afghanistan, expected exponential rise has been curtailed by the resumption of campaigns in July.

Conclusion

The Committee unanimously agreed that the risk of international spread of poliovirus remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and recommended the extension of Temporary Recommendations for a further three months. The Committee recognizes the concerns regarding the lengthy duration of the polio PHEIC, but concludes that the current situation is extraordinary, with clear ongoing and increasing risk of international spread and ongoing need for coordinated international response...

...Based on the current situation regarding WPV1 and cVDPV, and the reports provided by affected countries, the Director-General accepted the Committee's assessment and on 19 October 2020 determined that the situation relating to poliovirus continues to constitute a PHEIC, with respect to WPV1 and cVDPV. The Director-General endorsed the Committee's recommendations for countries meeting the definition for 'States infected with WPV1, cVDPV1 or cVDPV3 with potential risk for international spread', 'States infected with cVDPV2 with potential risk for international spread' and for 'States no longer infected by WPV1 or cVDPV, but which remain vulnerable to re-infection by WPV or cVDPV' and extended the Temporary Recommendations under the IHR to reduce the risk of the international spread of poliovirus, effective 19 October 2020.

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WHO Grade 3 Emergencies [to 24 Oct 2020]

Democratic Republic of the Congo - *No new digest announcements identified*

Mozambique floods - *No new digest announcements identified*

Nigeria - *No new digest announcements identified*

Somalia - *No new digest announcements identified*

South Sudan - *No new digest announcements identified*

Syrian Arab Republic - *No new digest announcements identified*

Yemen - *No new digest announcements identified*

.....

WHO Grade 2 Emergencies [to 24 Oct 2020]

Burkina Faso

:: Burkina Faso : les tradipraticiens de santé de la région du Sud-Ouest à l'école de ...

21 octobre 2020

Afghanistan - *No new digest announcements identified*
Angola - *No new digest announcements identified*
Burundi - *No new digest announcements identified*
Cameroon - *No new digest announcements identified*
Central African Republic - *No new digest announcements identified*
Ethiopia - *No new digest announcements identified*
Iran floods 2019 - *No new digest announcements identified*
Iraq - *No new digest announcements identified*
Libya - *No new digest announcements identified*
Malawi Floods - *No new digest announcements identified*
Measles in Europe - *No new digest announcements identified*
MERS-CoV - *No new digest announcements identified*
Mozambique - *No new digest announcements identified*
Myanmar - *No new digest announcements identified*
Niger - *No new digest announcements identified*
occupied Palestinian territory - *No new digest announcements identified*
HIV in Pakistan - *No new digest announcements identified*
Sao Tome and Principe Necrotizing Cellulitis (2017) - *No new digest announcements identified*
Sudan - *No new digest announcements identified*
Ukraine - *No new digest announcements identified*
Zimbabwe - *No new digest announcements identified*

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WHO Grade 1 Emergencies [to 24 Oct 2020]

Chad - *No new digest announcements identified*
Djibouti - *Page not responding at inquiry*
Kenya - *No new digest announcements identified*
Mali - *No new digest announcements identified*
Namibia - viral hepatitis - *No new digest announcements identified*
Tanzania - *No new digest announcements identified*

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UN OCHA – L3 Emergencies

The UN and its humanitarian partners are currently responding to three 'L3' emergencies. This is the global humanitarian system's classification for the response to the most severe, large-scale humanitarian crises.

Syrian Arab Republic

:: Recent Developments in Northwest Syria - Situation Report No. 21 - As of 20 October 2020

Yemen - *No new digest announcements identified*

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UN OCHA – Corporate Emergencies

When the USG/ERC declares a Corporate Emergency Response, all OCHA offices, branches and sections provide their full support to response activities both at HQ and in the field.

COVID-19

:: [Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Situation Report 49: occupied Palestinian territory, issued 22 October 2020, information for period: 5 March - 22 October 2020](#)

East Africa Locust Infestation

:: [Desert Locust situation update - 19 October 2020](#)

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WHO & Regional Offices [to 24 Oct 2020]

23 October 2020 *Departmental news*

[**New book calls on world leaders to unite in response to health threats**](#)

23 October 2020 *News release*

[**Steroids boost survival of preterm babies in low-resource settings, new study finds**](#)

22 October 2020 *News release*

[**The World Health Organization and Wikimedia Foundation expand access to trusted information about COVID-19 on Wikipedia**](#)

22 October 2020 *Statement*

[**Statement of the Twenty-Sixth Polio IHR Emergency Committee**](#)

22 October 2020 *Departmental news*

[**New Study 31/A5349 on the treatment of drug-susceptible TB**](#)

21 October 2020 *Departmental news*

[**INFOSAN Quarterly Summary, 2020 #3**](#)

21 October 2020 *News release*

[**Call for entries: 2nd WHO Health for All Film Festival**](#)

20 October 2020 *Departmental news*

[**WHO 2020 Global TB Report app – now available in English, French and Russian**](#)

19 October 2020 *News release*

[**Kim Sledge and the World We Want partner with WHO Foundation to re-record unity anthem “We Are Family” in response to COVID-19 and to focus on global public health needs**](#)

16 October 2020 *Departmental news*

[**Strategic exchange with representatives from civil society and communities**](#)

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WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization (SAGE) : Request for nominations

16 October 2020

WHO is soliciting proposals for nominations of two new experts to serve on its Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on immunization. Deadline for applications: 22 November 2020

The new SAGE members' appointment, for an initial period of three years, is scheduled for the first quarter of 2021.

WHO is seeking nominations particularly from the WHO South-East Asia and Western-Pacific Regions. Nominations of women and persons from low- and middle-income countries are specifically encouraged. A track record of achievements on implementation research and social sciences would be of particular relevance...

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Weekly Epidemiological Record, 23 October 2020, vol. 95, 43 (pp. 509–524)

Global programme to eliminate lymphatic filariasis: progress report, 2019

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WHO Regional Offices

Selected Press Releases, Announcements

WHO African Region AFRO

:: Benin boosts COVID-19 response with increased testing 23 October 2020

:: Testing at the core of Gabon's COVID-19 battle 23 October 2020

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

No new digest content identified

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: 19 October 2020 *News release*

Need to continue extreme caution against COVID-19: WHO

The World Health Organization today cautioned against any relaxation of response actions following the recent slight decline in COVID-19 cases in South-East Asia Region...

WHO European Region EURO

:: Epidemiologist Sergiu Singeorzan: "COVID-19 has taught people to wash their hands" 23-10-2020

:: United Nations at 75: bringing humanity together for a better tomorrow 23-10-2020

:: World Polio Day: walking the last mile together towards polio eradication 23-10-2020

:: Obesity significantly increases chances of severe outcomes for COVID-19 patients 22-10-2020

:: Statement by the WHO Regional Director for Europe on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict 22-10-2020

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: Dr Farima is unstoppable 22 October 2020

WHO Western Pacific Region

:: 20 October 2020 | *Feature story*

WHO: COVID-19 must not derail tobacco cessation efforts

Many smokers in the Western Pacific Region have been prompted by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) to kick the habit, but the pandemic has also brought fresh challenges for the fight against tobacco.

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CDC/ACIP [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

Webcast October 28-30, 2020

Meeting is a virtual meeting. No registration is required.

Meeting time, 10:00am – 5:30pm EDT (times subject to change).

Webcast Linkexternal icon

Meeting Agendapdf icon [No COVID agenda items]

Latest News Releases, Announcements

CDC Media Telebriefing Transcript on Operation Warp Speed

Friday, October 23, 2020

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Selected Resources

:: Excess Deaths Associated with COVID-19, by Age and Race and Ethnicity - United States, January 26-October 3, 2020 Thursday, October 22, 2020

:: COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing among Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant (RIM) Populations: Important Considerations for Health Departments Thursday, October 22, 2020

:: Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities Wednesday, October 21, 2020

:: Interim Operational Considerations for Public Health Management of Healthcare Workers Exposed to or Infected with COVID-19: non-US Healthcare Settings Wednesday, October 21, 2020

:: Interim Considerations for K-12 School Administrators for SARS-CoV-2 Testing Wednesday, October 21, 2020

:: Travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic Wednesday, October 21, 2020

:: Considerations for Monitoring and Evaluation of Mitigation Strategies Implemented in K-12 Schools Wednesday, October 21, 2020

MMWR News Synopsis Friday, October 23, 2020

:: Vaccination Coverage by Age 24 Months Among Children Born in 2016 and 2017 – National Immunization Survey-Child, United States, 2017-2019

:: Valley Fever (Coccidioidomycosis) Awareness — California, 2016–2017
:: Excess Deaths Associated with COVID-19, by Age and Race and Ethnicity — United States, January 26–October 3, 2020 (Early release October 20)
:: Association Between Social Vulnerability and a County's Risk for Becoming a COVID-19 Hotspot — United States, June 1–July 25, 2020
:: Mitigating a COVID-19 Outbreak Among Major League Baseball Players — United States, 2020
:: First 100 persons with COVID-19 in Zambia, March 18–April 28, 2020
:: Rapid Adaptation of HIV Treatment Programs in Response to COVID-19 — Namibia, 2020

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Africa CDC [to 24 Oct 2020]
<http://www.africacdc.org/>
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

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China CDC
<http://www.chinacdc.cn/en/>
No new digest content identified.

National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China
<http://en.nhc.gov.cn/>
News

Oct 24: Daily briefing on novel coronavirus cases in China

On Oct 23, 31 provincial-level regions and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps on the Chinese mainland reported 28 new cases of confirmed infections.

China joining COVAX for equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines: FM spokesperson
2020-10-22

BEIJING -- China's joining of COVAX is an important measure to uphold the concept of a shared community of health for all and fulfill its commitment on turning COVID-19 vaccines into a global public good, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Oct 21.

"China is the largest economy supporting COVAX," Zhao Lijian said at a daily press briefing, expressing the hope that China's joining will motivate enterprises to increase their production capacity, ensure the output of vaccines, and promote the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries.

A total of 184 countries and economies have now joined COVAX, an international initiative aimed at ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines across the world, according to the World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. China signed an agreement with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, officially joining COVAX on Oct. 8...

Trials of China's vaccines make major progress

2020-10-21

No severe adverse effects reported in 60,000 recipients, science official says

No recipient of China's COVID-19 vaccine approved for emergency use has reported severe adverse effects, and no vaccine recipient who went to work in countries where the pandemic is still ongoing has been infected, officials said on Oct 20.

China currently has 13 vaccine candidates in clinical trials, of which three inactivated vaccines and one adenovirus vector vaccine are in phase three trials overseas, said Tian Baoguo, deputy head of the Department of Science and Technology for Social Development of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

About 60,000 volunteers have been inoculated with the four vaccine candidates currently in phase three trials, Tian said at a news briefing held by the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council...

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Announcements

Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://alleninstitute.org/what-we-do/frontiers-group/news-press/>

News

Mouse study uncovers links between unsung brain cells and Huntington's disease — and possible path for human therapies

October 21, 2020

Astrocytes, once thought of as inert 'brain glue,' may turn out to be key players in Huntington's and other neurodegenerative diseases.

News

New cell line lets researchers use CRISPR to reversibly switch off genes

October 20, 2020

'CRISPR interference' technique enables study of basic cell biology and disease in human stem cells

BARDA – U.S. Department of HHS [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.phe.gov/about/barda/Pages/default.aspx>

BARDA News

No new digest content identified.

BMGF - Gates Foundation [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/Media-Center/Press-Releases>

Press Releases and Statements

OCTOBER 19, 2020

At 2020 Grand Challenges Annual Meeting, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Grand Challenges Partners Announce New Initiatives to Advance Global Health Innovation

Researchers and scientists from around the world convene to accelerate R&D to address COVID-19 and other global health challenges

Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.gatesmri.org/>

The Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute is a non-profit biotech organization. Our mission is to develop products to fight malaria, tuberculosis, and diarrheal diseases—three major causes of mortality, poverty, and inequality in developing countries. The world has unprecedented scientific tools at its disposal; now is the time to use them to save the lives of the world's poorest people

No new digest content identified.

CARB-X [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://carb-x.org/>

News

10.21.2020 |

CARB-X is funding Cellics Therapeutics to develop a novel macrophage nanosponge to prevent and treat sepsis

CARB-X is awarding up to US\$3.94 million to Cellics Therapeutics, based in San Diego, CA, USA, to develop a new treatment for sepsis caused by drug-resistant Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria.

10.20.2020 |

CARB-X 2019-20 Annual Report: Record high awards and funding during its fiscal year in the race against drug-resistant bacteria

CARB-X closed out its 2019-20 fiscal year with a record number of awards and a list of solid achievements, ramping up its efforts to accelerate innovation to combat the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria. During the fiscal year which ended July 31, 2020, CARB-X granted \$127.5 million to product developers and issued 23 new awards to support the early development of novel antibacterial products – the highest number of new awards in any single year since CARB-X was launched in 2016. The achievement is just one of the highlights in CARB-X's 2019-2020 Annual Report published today.

CEPI – Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://cepi.net/>

Latest News

USA joins CEPI to support the development of epidemic vaccines

A total of US\$20 million will be provided to CEPI through USAID to support programmes advancing vaccines against emerging infectious diseases

Blog 23 Oct 2020

CEPI expands global manufacturing network, reserving manufacturing capacity for more than 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines

CEPI has signed agreements with Biofabri (Spain) and GC Pharma (Republic of Korea) to reserve vaccine manufacturing capacity for more than 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines designated by CEPI.

COVAX 21 Oct 2020

Two more laboratories join CEPI's centralised network to standardise assessment of COVID-19 vaccines

The NIBSC and Q2 Solutions will work alongside five other laboratories, using the same testing reagents and following common protocols, for uniform evaluation and direct comparisons of COVID-19...

Blog 20 Oct 2020

EDCTP [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.edctp.org/>

The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) aims to accelerate the development of new or improved drugs, vaccines, microbicides and diagnostics against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as well as other poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on phase II and III clinical trials

Latest news

No new digest content identified.

Emory Vaccine Center [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.vaccines.emory.edu/>

Vaccine Center News

No new digest content identified.

European Medicines Agency [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/>

News & Press Releases

News: Strengthening global collaboration on COVID-19 real-world evidence and observational studies

Last updated: 23/10/2020

Medicines regulators from around the world discussed their experiences with supporting and assessing real-world evidence to facilitate regulatory decision-making on COVID-19 treatments and vaccines during a workshop convened under the umbrella of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA). The workshop was co-chaired by Health Canada and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and took place on 13 October 2020. Participants discussed the progress made in building international patient cohorts, pregnancy research, and vaccines surveillance and vigilance during the pandemic. The outcomes of the discussions are highlighted in the summary report, which has been published today.

Observational research can complement the knowledge gained through clinical trials to support the evaluation of potential therapeutics and vaccines against COVID-19. Real-world evidence generated by observational studies is fundamental to understanding the benefits and risks of medicines when used in clinical practice for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. Workshop participants shared their lessons learnt from ongoing COVID-19 observational studies based on real-world data in various countries and regions around the world. Studies derived from such data can provide information that is critical to understanding the benefits and risks of medicines in real-life use by patients and healthcare professionals. Closer collaboration between international regulators and information sharing in this area will benefit patients globally...

European Vaccine Initiative [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.euvaccine.eu/>

Latest News

No new digest content identified.

FDA [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/default.htm>

Press Announcements / Selected Details

October 23, 2020 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Daily Roundup October 23, 2020

:: On Thursday, the FDA approved Veklury (remdesivir), the first drug approved to treat COVID-19, for use in adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older and weighing at least 40 kg) for the treatment of COVID-19 requiring hospitalization.

:: The FDA consolidated existing resources for stakeholders to easily access information about drug and biologics development and manufacturing, including for products to diagnose, cure, mitigate, treat or prevent COVID-19 and for other critically needed products to treat symptoms of COVID-19 or to provide supportive care to those with COVID-19.

:: The FDA issued an updated FDA COVID-19 Response At-A-Glance Summary which provides a quick look at facts, figures and highlights of the agency's response efforts.

October 22, 2020 - FDA Approves First Treatment for COVID-19

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the antiviral drug Veklury (remdesivir) for use in adult and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 40 kilograms (about 88 pounds) for the treatment of COVID-19 requiring hospitalization. Veklury should only be administered in a hospital or in a healthcare setting capable of providing acute care comparable to inpatient hospital care. Veklury is the first treatment for COVID-19 to receive FDA approval...

October 20, 2020 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Daily Roundup October 20, 2020

October 19, 2020 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Daily Roundup October 19, 2020

FDA - COVID-19 Vaccines [to 24 Oct 2020]

www.fda.gov/covid19vaccines

Upcoming Events

10/22/2020

Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee

The Committee will meet in open session, to discuss, in general, the development, authorization and/or licensure of vaccines to prevent COVID-19. No specific application will be discussed at this meeting. [View webcast](#)

10/20/2020

Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Vaccines

Dr. Peter Marks provides an update on COVID-19 vaccines and discusses the upcoming Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee meeting.

Fondation Merieux [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.fondation-merieux.org/>

News, Events

No new digest content identified.

Gavi [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.gavi.org/>

News releases

No new digest content identified.

GHIT Fund [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.ghitfund.org/newsroom/press>

GHIT was set up in 2012 with the aim of developing new tools to tackle infectious diseases that

No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/>

News/Updates

No new digest content identified.

Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness [GloPID-R] [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.glopid-r.org/news/>

News

UKCDR seeks supplier for online, mixed-media platform to support COVID-19 researchers in low resource settings

21/10/2020

The UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR) is seeking to commission a supplier to develop an online, mixed-media platform which will support coordination of researchers funded by the COVID-19 Research Coordination and Learning Initiative (COVID CIRCLE) partners, undertaking COVID-19 research relevant to low resource settings.

The platform will enable researchers to connect, identify synergies and opportunities for collaboration, facilitate information sharing and host an online resource hub.

This platform will support COVID CIRCLE's broader ambitions to improve coordination and efficiency of research funding and practice, to increase the impact of research response to COVID-19 with a focus on low and middle-income countries. GloPID-R is partnering UKCDR for COVID CIRCLE.

The deadline for electronic copies of proposals is 23:30 GMT on November 1, 2020.

Hilleman Laboratories [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.hillemanlabs.org/>

No new digest content identified.

Human Vaccines Project [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.humanvaccinesproject.org/media/press-releases/>

Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

IAVI [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.iavi.org/newsroom>

October 22, 2020

IAVI, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and Serum Institute of India Join Forces to Develop Monoclonal Antibodies for COVID-19 and Ensure Prompt and Equitable Global Access

:: Promising COVID-19 treatment being developed with equitable global access as a central goal.

:: Approach that is complementary to future COVID-19 vaccines.

:: Leverages each partner's significant expertise, geographic footprint, and infrastructure.

:: Unique among ongoing partnerships for COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies, aims to ensure access to a class of innovative therapies that have, to date, been out of reach in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

PUNE, INDIA, and NEW YORK — OCTOBER 22, 2020 — Today, IAVI, a nonprofit scientific research organization dedicated to addressing urgent, unmet global health challenges, and Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd., a leading manufacturer of vaccines and biologics, announced an agreement with Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, to develop SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) co-invented by IAVI and Scripps Research as innovative interventions to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

The agreement builds on the advanced antibody discovery and optimization expertise of IAVI and Scripps Research, gained from years of experience in HIV broadly neutralizing antibody research and development, and on Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany's and Serum Institute's significant capabilities in design and scale up of accelerated manufacturing processes for mAb production. The global development plan is being led by the three organizations in partnership.

The two companies have broad networks across complementary geographic areas that will be crucial to reach given the worldwide spread of COVID-19. If the highly potent and broadly cross-reactive SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibody candidates being advanced through this partnership are shown to be efficacious in clinical trials, either as a single antibody or a potential combination of both candidates, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany will lead commercialization in developed countries. Serum Institute has a proven track record of more than 50 years in developing affordable medicines and is the world's largest producer of vaccines. Serum Institute will lead global manufacturing as well as commercialization in low- and middle-low-income countries, including India...

International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities [ICMRA]

<http://www.icmra.info/drupal/en/news>

Selected Statements, Press Releases, Research

No new digest content identified.

International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association [IGBA]

<https://www.igbamedicines.org/>

News

Global Roadmap for Tailored Clinical Biosimilar Development: Instrumental for Sustainable Access to Biologics (24 September 2020)

Following its first peer-reviewed scientific paper on biosimilar medicines development: the Path Towards Tailored Clinical Biosimilar Development (Biodrugs), the International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA), which represents global manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines, today released a new policy...

IFFIm

<http://www.iffim.org/>

Announcements

No new digest content identified.

IFRC [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/news/press-releases/>

Selected Press Releases, Announcements

Europe

Red Cross warns: Vigilance needed as Europe's intensive care beds fill up

IFRC has warned people not to take their foot off the brake as hospital intensive care units in many cities across Europe near capacity.

22 October 2020

Vietnam

Five million swamped by catastrophic floods in Vietnam

Kuala Lumpur/Hanoi/Geneva, October 20, 2020 – Red Cross is ramping up relief as catastrophic floods have affected five million people in central Vietnam. At least 178,000 homes have been submerged in floodwaters that h ...

20 October 2020

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.rescue.org/press-release-index>

Media highlights [Selected]

Press Release

As COVID-19 increases global food insecurity, less children are receiving nutrition support across conflict-affected states

October 22, 2020

Press Release

Civilian deaths in Sahel states increase 1,870 percent as military response fails to stop violence and humanitarian needs spike, warns IRC

October 20, 2020

IVAC [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/ivac/index.html>

Updates; Events

World Pneumonia Day Panel Discussion

October 2020

On November 13th from 10am to 11:30am EST, join us for a panel discussion on "Maintaining Progress on Childhood Pneumonia in the COVID-19 Era." Pneumonia claims the lives of more young children than any other disease – over 800,000 children under 5 each year worldwide are lost to this largely preventable infectious disease. The COVID-19 [...]

IVI [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.ivi.int/>

Selected IVI News, Announcements, Events

No new digest content identified.

JEE Alliance [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.jeealliance.org/>

Selected News and Events

No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.msf.org/>

Latest [Selected Announcements]

Mediterranean migration

Lives on the line as legal appeal lodged to free the Sea-Watch 4

Press Release 23 Oct 2020

South Sudan

Worsening flooding increases health risks

Project Update 22 Oct 2020

Iraq

Humanitarians behind the scenes in Iraq

Voices from the Field 20 Oct 2020

National Vaccine Program Office - U.S. HHS [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.hhs.gov/vaccines/about/index.html>

No new digest content identified.

NIH [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases>

Selected News Releases

No new digest content identified.

PATH [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.path.org/media-center/>

Press Releases

[PATH at the 51st Union World Conference on Lung Health](#)

October 20, 2020 by PATH

Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be the [leading cause of death](#) from an infectious agent, more than 25 years after the World Health Organization [declared](#) it a global emergency. COVID-19 has rightly drawn the world's attention, but the pandemic will likely increase the number of deaths from TB due to interruptions in services, particularly detection and treatment.

Join PATH at this year's virtual [Union Conference](#) as we discuss our work in TB control and our vision for reimagining TB care to be more patient-centered and resilient, even amidst a pandemic.

Sabin Vaccine Institute [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.sabin.org/updates/pressreleases>

Statements and Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

UNAIDS [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.unaids.org/en>

Selected Press Releases/Reports/Statements

21 October 2020

[Community-led campaign encourages people living with HIV to start treatment](#)

A new community-led public information campaign, It is in Your Power to, aimed at encouraging people living with HIV to start antiretroviral therapy has been launched in the four largest areas of the Russian Federation.

20 October 2020

[51st Union World Conference on Lung Health opens today as gains in reducing TB deaths risk being set back by COVID-19](#)

The 51st Union World Conference on Lung Health opened today under the theme "Advancing Prevention". In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference is taking place virtually for the first time in its 100-year history

UNICEF [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.unicef.org/media/press-releases>

Selected Press releases, Statements

Press release

10/22/2020

Over 1.5 million children at risk due to floods in central Viet Nam – UNICEF

The children's agency is allocating an immediate \$100,000 for emergency relief

Statement

10/22/2020

UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore's remarks at the Conference on Sustaining Support for the Rohingya Refugee Response

Checked against delivery

Statement

10/20/2020

'Toxic brew' of instability, armed violence, extreme poverty, hunger and COVID-19 putting the future of an entire generation of children and young people in the Central Sahel at risk

UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore's remarks at the Ministerial Roundtable Meeting on the humanitarian situation in the Central Sahel Region

Press release

10/19/2020

1 in 6 children lives in extreme poverty, World Bank-UNICEF analysis shows

The pre-COVID-19 analysis reveals that 356 million children struggle to survive on less than \$1.90 a day, two-thirds of them in sub-Saharan Africa

Press release

10/19/2020

UNICEF to stockpile over half a billion syringes by year end, as part of efforts to prepare for eventual COVID-19 vaccinations

Initial preparatory work – in partnership with Gavi and WHO – will include purchasing boxes for the safe disposal of syringes and mapping out cold chain equipment to ensure delivery of effective vaccines

NEW YORK, 19 October 2020 – As the world awaits a COVID-19 vaccine, UNICEF has begun laying the groundwork for the rapid, safe and efficient delivery of the eventual vaccine by purchasing and pre-positioning syringes and other necessary equipment.

As soon as COVID-19 vaccines successfully emerge from trials and are licensed and recommended for use, the world will need as many syringes as doses of vaccine. To begin preparations, this year, UNICEF will stockpile 520 million syringes in its warehouses, part of a larger plan of 1 billion syringes by 2021, to guarantee initial supply and help ensure that syringes arrive in countries before the COVID-19 vaccines.

During 2021, assuming there are enough doses of COVID-19 vaccines, UNICEF anticipates delivering over 1 billion syringes to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts on top of the 620 million syringes that UNICEF will purchase for other vaccination programmes against other diseases such as measles, typhoid and more.

“Vaccinating the world against COVID-19 will be one of the largest mass undertakings in human history, and we will need to move as quickly as the vaccines can be produced,” said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director. “In order to move fast later, we must move fast now. By the end of the year, we will already

have over half a billion syringes pre-positioned where they can be deployed quickly and cost effectively. That's enough syringes to wrap around the world one and a half times."

In line with the longstanding collaboration between the two partners, Gavi will reimburse UNICEF for the procurement of the syringes and safety boxes, which shall then be used for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX Facility) and for other Gavi-funded immunization programmes if necessary...

Unitaid [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://unitaid.org/>

Featured News

No new digest content identified.

Vaccination Acceptance Research Network (VARN) [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://vaccineacceptance.org/news.html#header1-2r>

Announcements

No new digest content identified.

Vaccine Confidence Project [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.vaccineconfidence.org/>

Research and Reports

No new digest content identified.

Vaccine Education Center – Children's Hospital of Philadelphia [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center>

Vaccine Update for Providers

October 2020

:: December 2020 event Registration is now open for the Dec. 9, 2020, Current Issues in Vaccines webinar. Dr. Offit's presentation will be an **Update on SARS-CoV-2 vaccines**

The event will start at noon ET, and free continuing education credits will be offered for the live and archived event (CME, CEU, and CPE).

Wellcome Trust [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://wellcome.ac.uk/news>

Opinion | 20 October 2020

Wellcome's bold ambitions to improve health through our new strategy

Jeremy Farrar, Director, Wellcome

Today, I'm delighted to introduce a new vision and strategy for Wellcome that I hope will have significant positive impacts on the course of human health over the next two decades.

The Wistar Institute [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.wistar.org/news/press-releases>

Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

WFPHA: World Federation of Public Health Associations [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.wfpha.org/>

Latest News

No new digest content identified.

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/press-releases/2020/>

Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

::::::

ARM [Alliance for Regenerative Medicine] [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://alliancerm.org/press-releases/>

Press Releases

[**The Alliance for Regenerative Medicine Announces Election of 2021 Officers, Executive Committee, and Board of Directors**](#)

October 21, 2020

BIO [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.bio.org/press-releases>

Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

DCVMN – Developing Country Vaccine Manufacturers Network [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.dcvmn.org/>

News; Upcoming events

No new digest content identified.

ICBA – International Council of Biotechnology Associations [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://internationalbiotech.org/>

News

No new digest content identified.

IFPMA [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.ifpma.org/resources/news-releases/>

Selected Press Releases, Statements, Publications

[**IFPMA launches Note for Guidance to help those acting on behalf of biopharmaceutical companies live**](#)

GENEVA, 22 October 2020: The International Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) published today a Note for Guidance on how to foster ethical relationships with third party intermediaries in the biopharmaceutical sector. IFPMA's mission rests on the establishment and promotion of ethical principles for the industry as a whole and anyone acting on its behalf, in line with societal expectations.

Third party intermediaries play an important role in supporting the activity of biopharmaceutical companies and in improving ongoing access for patients and healthcare professionals to innovative, reliable and effective medicines and vaccines. They can operate as clinical research organizations, distributors, wholesalers, distribution or sales agents, consultants, brokers, commission agents, and/or independent sales representatives. They serve an integral role in the biopharmaceutical sector and health systems and therefore hold a critical mission to act with fairness and foster patient trust.

The Note for Guidance aims to complement the 2019 IFPMA Code of Practice and provides best practices for companies when working with third party intermediaries, such as adopting a dedicated risk management program as part of their overall compliance program and code of ethics. This would include, among others, identifying whether there is a particular risk profile for corruption, based on a review of the intermediary's internal policies and controls for bribery or all types of corruption. This should cover common business activities such as travel/accommodation, gifts, hospitality, sponsorship or grants, sales and marketing, procurement processes, and many more...

Position Paper - Best Practices for In-Country Testing and Sample Management

22 October 2020

PhRMA [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.phrma.org/>

Selected Press Releases, Statements

Press Release

Pharmaceutical Supply and Payment Chain Coalition Announces Guiding Principles for Safe, Efficacious Access to COVID-19 Vaccine

October 22, 2020

[See COVID-19 Vaccines above for detail]

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Journal Watch

Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review continues its weekly scanning of key peer-reviewed journals to identify and cite articles, commentary and editorials, books reviews and other content supporting our focus on vaccine ethics and policy. Journal Watch is not intended to be exhaustive, but indicative of themes and issues the Center is actively tracking. We selectively provide full text of some editorial and comment articles that are specifically relevant to our work. Successful access to some of the links provided may require subscription or other access arrangement unique to the publisher.

If you would like to suggest other journal titles to include in this service, please contact David Curry at: david.r.curry@centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.org

AJOB Empirical Bioethics

Volume 11, 2020 Issue 4

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uabr21/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

AMA Journal of Ethics

Volume 22, Number 10: E831-905 October 2020

<https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/issue/caring-native-americans>

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Infection Control

October 2020 Volume 48, Issue 10, p1133-1286

<http://www.ajicjournal.org/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

October 2020 Volume 59, Issue 4, p469-620

<http://www.ajpmonline.org/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

October 2020 110(S3) Supplement 3 2020

<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/toc/ajph/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Volume 103, Issue 4, October 2020

<http://www.ajtmh.org/content/journals/14761645/103/4>

Editorial

oa [**It Ain't Over Till It's Over: The Triple Threat of COVID-19, TB, and HIV**](#)

Alexander W. Kay, Tara E. Ness, Leonardo Martinez and Anna M. Mandalakas

Pages: 1348–1349

Perspective Piece

oa [**Accelerating Clinical Evaluation of Repurposed Combination Therapies for COVID-19**](#)

Craig R. Rayner, Louis Dron, Jay J. H. Park, Eric H. Decloedt, Mark F. Cotton, Vis Niranjan, Patrick F. Smith, Michael G. Dodds, Fran Brown, Gilmar Reis, David Wesche and Edward J. Mills

Pages: 1364–1366

<https://doi.org/10.4269/ajtmh.20-0995>

oa [**Polio in Afghanistan: The Current Situation amid COVID-19**](#)

Attaullah Ahmadi, Mohammad Yasir Essar, Xu Lin, Yusuff Adebayo Adebisi and Don Eliseo Lucero-Prisno III

Pages: 1367–1369

<https://doi.org/10.4269/ajtmh.20-1010>

oa [**How Do We Combat Bogus Medicines in the Age of the COVID-19 Pandemic?**](#)

Wubshet Tesfaye, Solomon Abrha, Mahipal Sinnollareddy, Bruce Arnold, Andrew Brown, Cynthia Matthew, Victor M. Oguoma, Gregory M. Peterson and Jackson Thomas

Pages: 1360–1363

<https://doi.org/10.4269/ajtmh.20-0903>

Annals of Internal Medicine

20 October 2020 Volume 173, Issue 8

<http://annals.org/aim/issue>

Original Research

[**Maternal Influenza A\(H1N1\) Immunization During Pregnancy and Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder in Offspring - A Cohort Study**](#)

Jonas F. Ludvigsson, MD, PhD, Henric Winell, MSc, Sven Sandin, PhD, Sven Cnattingius, MD, hD, ... et al.

Influenza vaccination during pregnancy benefits maternal health. This analysis of Swedish national health registry data examined the risks for autism spectrum disorder among offspring of mothers who received influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 vaccination during pregnancy.

Research and Reporting Methods

[**How to Quantify and Interpret Treatment Effects in Comparative Clinical Studies of COVID-19**](#)

FREE

Zachary R. McCaw, PhD, Lu Tian, ScD, Jason L. Vassy, MD, MPH, Christine Seel Ritchie, MD, MSPH, ... et al.

Trials evaluating treatments for COVID-19 often use the time to a positive outcome as a key end point. In the presence of death as a competing risk, commonly used survival analysis techniques may not be appropriate. This article discusses issues with the current practice and presents alternative, more clinically interpretable approaches.

Ideas and Opinions

[**COVID-19 Clinical Trials: A Teachable Moment for Improving Our Research Infrastructure and Relevance**](#)

FREE

Stephen E. Kimmel, MD, MSCE, Robert M. Califf, MD, MACC, Natalie E. Dean, PhD, ... et al.

This commentary posits the need for rapid evaluation of COVID-19 therapies as an inflection point spurring a much-needed rethinking of our research enterprise.

Editorials

Vaccine Safety in Pregnancy: Going Beyond the Perinatal Period

Anders Hviid, MSc, DrMedSci

Ludvigsson and colleagues looked for an association between influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 vaccination during pregnancy and autism in offspring. The editorialist discusses how this study contributes to vaccine safety evaluation.

Influenza Vaccine: Routine Secondary Prevention for Patients With Cardiovascular Disease?

Chandini Raina MacIntyre, MBBS Hons 1, PhD

Chow and colleagues confirmed that cardiovascular events contribute to influenza-associated morbidity and mortality. The editorialist discusses why clinicians should consider influenza vaccination routine secondary prevention for cardiovascular morbidity and mortality.

Artificial Intelligence – An International Journal

Volume 288 November 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/artificial-intelligence/vol/288/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

<http://resource-allocation.biomedcentral.com/>

(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMJ Global Health

October 2020 - Volume 5 - 10

<https://gh.bmj.com/content/5/10>

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmchealthservres/content>

(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Infectious Diseases

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcinfectdis/content>

(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmedethics/content>

(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Medicine

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmed/content>

(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcpregnancychildbirth/content>

(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Public Health

<http://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles>

(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)

[Pneumococcal vaccine coverage among individuals aged 18 to 64 years old with underlying medical conditions in the UK: a retrospective database analysis](#)

In the UK certain groups with pre-disposing conditions are eligible for vaccination with the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23). Uptake of the vaccine in these individuals has not been reported for 10...

Authors: Ian Matthews, Xiaoyan Lu, Qian Xia, Wynona Black and Bayad Nozad

Citation: BMC Public Health 2020 20:1584

Content type: Research article

Published on: 21 October 2020

[Identifying interventions with Gypsies, Roma and Travellers to promote immunisation uptake: methodological approach and findings](#)

In the UK, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities are generally considered to be at risk of low or variable immunisation uptake. Many strategies to increase uptake for the general population are relevant ...

Authors: Lisa Dyson, Helen Bedford, Louise Condon, Carol Emslie, Lana Ireland, Julie Mytton, Karen Overend, Sarah Redsell, Zoe Richardson and Cath Jackson

Citation: BMC Public Health 2020 20:1574

Content type: Research article

Published on: 20 October 2020

[Parental concerns and uptake of childhood vaccines in rural Tanzania – a mixed methods study](#)

Vaccine hesitancy has been recognized as an important barrier to timely vaccinations around the world, including in sub-Saharan Africa. In Tanzania, 1 in 4 children is not fully vaccinated. The objective of th...

Authors: Lavanya Vasudevan, Joy Noel Baumgartner, Sara Moses, Esther Ngadaya, Sayoki Godfrey Mfinanga and Jan Ostermann

Citation: BMC Public Health 2020 20:1573

Content type: Research article

Published on: 20 October 2020

BMC Research Notes

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcresnotes/content>

(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMJ Open

October 2020 - Volume 10 - 10

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/10/10>

[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 98, Number 10, October 2020, 645-724

<https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/98/10/en/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Child Care, Health and Development

Volume 46, Issue 6 Pages: 651-750 November 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13652214/current>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics

Volume 108, Issue 4 Pages: 681-895 October 2020

<https://ascpt.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15326535/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Clinical Therapeutics

September 2020 Volume 42 Issue 9 p1625-1846, e161-e208

[Reviewed earlier]

Clinical Trials

Volume 17 Issue 5, October 2020

<https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ctja/17/5>

[Reviewed earlier]

Conflict and Health

<http://www.conflictandhealth.com/>

[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

Contemporary Clinical Trials

Volume 96 September 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/contemporary-clinical-trials/vol/96/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

The CRISPR Journal

Volume 3, Issue 5 / October 2020

<https://www.liebertpub.com/toc/crispr/3/5>

Editorials

Commissions, Consensus, and CRISPR

Rodolphe Barrangou

Pages:316–317

Published Online:20 October 2020

Nobel Dreams Come True for Doudna and Charpentier

Rodolphe Barrangou

Pages:317–318

Published Online:20 October 2020

Perspective

Reactions to the National Academies/Royal Society Report on Heritable Human Genome Editing

Misha Angrist, et al.... See all authors

Pages:332–349

Published Online:20 October 2020

<https://doi.org/10.1089/crispr.2020.29106.man>

In September 2020, a detailed report on Heritable Human Genome Editing was published. The report offers a translational pathway for the limited approval of germline editing under limited circumstances and assuming various criteria have been met.

Research Articles

Human Germ Line and Heritable Genome Editing: The Global Policy Landscape

Françoise Baylis, Marcy Darnovsky, Katie Hasson, and Timothy M. Krahn

Pages:365–377

Published Online:20 October 2020

<https://doi.org/10.1089/crispr.2020.0082>

Discussions and debates about the governance of human germline and heritable genome editing should be informed by a clear and accurate understanding of the global policy landscape. This policy survey of 106 countries yields significant new data. A large ...

Current Genetic Medicine Reports

Volume 8, issue 3, September 2020

<https://link.springer.com/journal/40142/volumes-and-issues/8-3>

[Reviewed earlier]

Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases

October 2020 - Volume 33 - Issue 5

<https://journals.lww.com/co-infectiousdiseases/pages/currenttoc.aspx>

[Reviewed earlier]

Developing World Bioethics

Volume 20, Issue 3 Pages: 115-171 September 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14718847/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice

Volume 30, Issue 6, 2020

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cdip20/current>

New sectoral perspectives on international NGOs: scale, dynamics and influences.
Guest Editors: Nicola Banks, Lau Schulpen, and Dan Brockington

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 14 - Issue 2 - April 2020

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/disaster-medicine-and-public-health-preparedness/latest-issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

Volume 44, Issue 4 Pages: 619-752 October 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14677717/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

EMBO Reports

Volume 21 Issue 10 5 October 2020

<https://www.embopress.org/toc/14693178/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Emerging Infectious Diseases

Volume 26, Number 10—October 2020

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 32 September 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/epidemics/vol/32/suppl/C>
[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemiology and Infection

Volume 148 - 2020

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/epidemiology-and-infection/latest-issue>
[Reviewed earlier]

Ethics & Human Research

Volume 42, Issue 5 Pages: 1-40 September–October 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/25782363/current>

Participants with autism :: Big data and pragmatic trials :: Covid-19 research

[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 30, Issue Supplement_4, September 2020

https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/issue/30/Supplement_4

[Reviewed earlier]

Expert Review of Vaccines

Vol 19 (8) 2020

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ierv20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Gates Open Research

<https://gatesopenresearch.org/browse/articles>

[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]

Research Article metrics

Revised

[Estimating the power to detect a change caused by a vaccine from time series data](#)

[version 2; peer review: 2 approved]

Daniel M. Weinberger, Joshua L. Warren

Peer Reviewers Christian Bottomley; Naim Ouldali and Corinne Levy

Funders: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

LATEST VERSION PUBLISHED 19 Oct 2020

Genome Medicine

<https://genomemedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles>

[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

Global Health Action

Volume 12, 2019 Issue 1

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/zgha20/12/sup1?nav=tocList>

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

Vol. 8, No. 3 October 01, 2020

<http://www.ghspjournal.org/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Public Health

Volume 15, 2020 Issue 11

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgph20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health

<http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Health Affairs

Vol. 39, No. 10 October 2020

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/toc/hlthaff/current>

Children's Health

Health and Human Rights

Volume 22, Issue 1, June 2020

<https://www.hhrjournal.org/volume-22-issue-1-june-2020/>

Special Section: Mental Health and Human Rights

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 15 - Issue 4 - October 2020

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/health-economics-policy-and-law/latest-issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 35, Issue 8, October 2020

<https://academic.oup.com/heapol/issue/35/8>

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Research Policy and Systems

<http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content>

[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

Human Gene Therapy

Volume 31, Issue 19-20 / October 2020

<https://www.liebertpub.com/toc/hum/31/19-20>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Humanitarian Exchange Magazine

Number 78, October 2020

<https://odihpn.org/magazine/inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-humanitarian-action-what-now/>

Disability inclusion in humanitarian action

by HPN October 2020

The theme of this edition of Humanitarian Exchange, co-edited with Sherin Alsheikh Ahmed from Islamic Relief Worldwide, is disability inclusion in humanitarian action. Persons with disabilities are not only disproportionately impacted by conflicts, disasters and other emergencies, but also face barriers to accessing humanitarian assistance. At the same time, global commitments and standards and the IASC Guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action all emphasise how persons with disabilities are also active agents of change. Disability and age-focused organisations have led on testing and demonstrating how inclusion can be done better. Yet despite this progress, challenges to effective inclusion remain.

As Kirstin Lange notes in the lead article, chief among these challenges is humanitarian agencies' lack of engagement with organisations of persons with disabilities. Simone Bula, Elizabeth Morgan and Teresa Thomson look at disability inclusion in humanitarian response in the Pacific, and Kathy Al Jubeh and Alradi Abdalla argue for a 'participation revolution', building on learning from the gender movement. Tchaurea Fleury and Sulayman AbdulMumuni Ujah outline how the Bridge Article 11 training initiative is encouraging constructive exchange between humanitarian and disability actors. The lack of good, disaggregated data is highlighted by Sarah Collinson; Frances Hill, Jim Cranshaw and Carys Hughes emphasise the need for training resources in local languages and accessible formats; and Sophie Van Eetvelt and colleagues report on a review of the evidence on inclusion of people with disabilities and older people.

Rebecca Molyneux and co-authors analyse the findings of a review of a DFID programme in north-east Nigeria, while Carolin Funke highlights the importance of strategic partnerships between disability-focused organisations, drawing on her research in Cox's Bazar. Sherin Alsheikh Ahmed describes Islamic Relief Worldwide's approach to mainstreaming protection and inclusion, while Pauline Thivillier and Valentina Shafina outline IRC's Client Responsive Programming. The edition ends with reflections by Mirela Turcanu and Yves Ngunzi Kahashi on CAFOD's SADI approach.

Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics (formerly Human Vaccines)

Volume 16, Issue 9, 2020

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/khvi20/current>

Article

[Vaccines from the Spanish Influenza as a firm foundation for new developments](#)

John S. Oxford & Douglas Gill

Pages: 2051-2055

Published online: 12 Aug 2020

Article

[How health care providers should address vaccine hesitancy in the clinical setting: Evidence for presumptive language in making a strong recommendation](#)

Robert M. Jacobson, Jennifer L. St. Sauver, Joan M. Griffin, Kathy L. MacLaughlin & Lila J. Finney Rutten

Pages: 2131-2135

Published online: 03 Apr 2020

Article

[Vaccination coverage of recommended vaccines and determinants of vaccination in at-risk groups](#)

Lise Boey, Eline Bosmans, Liane Braz Ferreira, Nathalie Heyvaert, Melissa Nelen, Lisa Smans, Hanne Tuerlinckx, Mathieu Roelants, Kathleen Claes, Inge Derdelinckx, Wim Janssens, Chantal Mathieu, Johan Van Cleemput, Robin Vos & Corinne Vandermeulen

Pages: 2136-2143

Published online: 02 Jul 2020

Article

[The use of the health belief model to assess predictors of intent to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and willingness to pay](#)

Li Ping Wong, Haridah Alias, Pooi-Fong Wong, Hai Yen Lee & Sazaly AbuBakar

Pages: 2204-2214

Published online: 30 Jul 2020

Infectious Agents and Cancer

<http://www.infectagentscancer.com/content>

[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty

<http://www.idpjournals.com/content>

[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

International Health

Volume 12, Issue 5, September 2020

<https://academic.oup.com/inthealth/issue/12/5>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health

Vol 7, No 10 (2020) October 2020

<https://www.ijcmph.com/index.php/ijcmph/issue/view/67>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Epidemiology

Volume 49, Issue 3, June 2020

<https://academic.oup.com/ije/issue/49/3>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare

Volume 13 Issue 4 2020

<https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2056-4902/vol/13/iss/4>

Table of Contents

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

September 2020 Volume 98, p1-502

[https://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712\(20\)X0010-5](https://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712(20)X0010-5)

[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

October 20, 2020, Vol 324, No. 15, Pages 1483-1580

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/currentissue>

Original Investigation

[Lifetime Prevalence of Cervical Cancer Screening in 55 Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)

Julia M. Lemp, MSc; Jan-Walter De Neve, ScD; Hermann Bussmann, MD; et al.

has active quiz

JAMA. 2020;324(15):1532-1542. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.16244

This cancer epidemiology study characterizes lifetime cervical cancer screening prevalence in low- and middle-income countries overall and by region; per capita gross domestic product; and patient rurality, education, and household wealth.

Viewpoint

[The COVID-19 Pandemic and the \\$16 Trillion Virus](#)

David M. Cutler, PhD; Lawrence H. Summers, PhD

free access has active quiz has multimedia has audio

JAMA. 2020;324(15):1495-1496. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.19759

In this Viewpoint, 2 Harvard economists estimate the cumulative financial costs of the COVID-19 pandemic in the US to date from lost domestic output and health reduction at more than \$16 trillion, as a way to put the lesser costs of public health measures, such as population testing, contact tracing, and isolation, in perspective.

The 2020 Lasker Awards and the COVID-19 Pandemic

Joseph L. Goldstein, MD

free access

JAMA. 2020;324(15):1497-1498. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.17056

In this Viewpoint, the chair of the 2020 Lasker Medical Research Awards reflects on the history of the award program and its recipients as a stand-in for the 2020 awards, which are not being given because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and anticipates the most important research leading to COVID-19 treatment and control will be candidates for future recognition.

JAMA Network

COVID-19 Update October 24, 2020

These articles on COVID-19 were published across the JAMA Network in the last week.

JAMA Pediatrics

October 2020, Vol 174, No. 10, Pages 919-1012

<http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx>

[Reviewed earlier]

JBIR Database of Systematic Review and Implementation Reports

October 2020 - Volume 18 - Issue 10

<https://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/Pages/currenttoc.aspx>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Adolescent Health

October 2020 Volume 67, Issue 4, p461-622

[https://www.jahonline.org/issue/S1054-139X\(20\)X0008-5](https://www.jahonline.org/issue/S1054-139X(20)X0008-5)

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research

Vol. 69 (2020)

<https://www.jair.org/index.php/jair>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health

Volume 45, issue 5, October 2020

<https://link.springer.com/journal/10900/volumes-and-issues/45-5>

Articles

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Development Economics

Volume 147 November 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-development-economics/vol/147/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics

Volume 15 Issue 4, October 2020

<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/jre/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

October 2020 - Volume 74 - 10

<https://jech.bmj.com/content/74/10>

Child health

[**Effect of vaccination on children's learning achievements: findings from the India Human Development Survey**](#) (25 June, 2020)

Beyond the prevention of illness and death, vaccination may provide additional benefits such as improved educational outcomes. However, there is currently little evidence on this question. Our objective was to estimate the effect of childhood vaccination on learning achievements among primary school children in India.

Catherine Arseneault, Sam Harper, Arijit Nandi

Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine

Volume 13, Issue 3 Pages: 179-249 August 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/17565391/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Ethics

Volume 16, Issue 2, 2020

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved (JHCPU)

Volume 31, Number 3, August 2020

<https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/42831>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 22, issue 5, October 2020

<https://link.springer.com/journal/10903/volumes-and-issues/22-5>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 18, 2020_ Issue 4

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wimm20/current>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 222, Issue 3, 1 August 2020

<https://academic.oup.com/jid/issue/222/3>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics

October 2020 - Volume 46 - 10

<http://jme.bmj.com/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews

Volume 7, Issue 4 (2020)

<https://digitalrepository.aurorahealthcare.org/jpcrr/>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Journal of Pediatrics

October 2020 Volume 225, p1-288

<http://www.jpeds.com/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice

<https://joppp.biomedcentral.com/>

[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]

[Prevention, Detection and Response to incidences of substandard and falsified medical products in the Member States of the Southern African Development Community](#)

Authors: Stanislav Kniazkov, Sakhile Dube-Mwedzi and Jean-Baptiste Nikiema

Content type: Review

20 October 2020

Journal of Public Health Management & Practice

September/October 2020 - Volume 26 - Issue 5
<https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/pages/currenttoc.aspx>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Public Health Policy

Volume 41, Issue 3, September 2020
<https://link.springer.com/journal/41271/41/3>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Refugee & Global Health

Volume 3, Issue 1 (2020)
<https://ir.library.louisville.edu/rgh/>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Royal Society – Interface

October 2020 Volume 17 Issue 171
<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/toc/rsif/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Travel Medicine

Volume 27, Issue 6, August 2020
<https://academic.oup.com/jtm/issue/27/6>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Virology

November 2020; Volume 94, Issue 21
<http://jvi.asm.org/content/current>
[New issue; No digest content identified]

The Lancet

Oct 24, 2020 Volume 396 Number 10259 p1307-1372, e57-e63
<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current>
[New issue; No digest content identified]

The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health

Oct 2020 Volume 4 Number 10 p709-794, e36-e39
<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Digital Health

Oct 2020 Volume 2 Number 10 e493-e560
<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landig/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Global Health

Oct 2020 Volume 8 Number 10 e1242-e1351
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Infectious Diseases

Oct 2020, Volume 20 Number 10 p1101-1216, e250-e283
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Public Health

Oct 2020 Volume 5 Number 10 e512-e567
<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Respiratory Medicine

Oct 2020 Volume 8 Number 10 p935-1060, e73-e77
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 24, issue 10, October 2020
<https://link.springer.com/journal/10995/volumes-and-issues/24-10>
[Reviewed earlier]

Medical Decision Making (MDM)

Volume 40 Issue 7, October 2020
<http://mdm.sagepub.com/content/current>
[New issue; No digest content identified]

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy
Volume 98, Issue 3 Pages: 619-1020 September 2020
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14680009/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Nature

Volume 586 Issue 7830, 22 October 2020

http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html

Vaccine design

The cover image draws on aspects of Bauhaus artist Paul Klee's famous notebooks to reimagine the quest for a vaccine against SARS-CoV-2. The drive to create an effective vaccine to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic has seen researchers move from genetic sequence of the virus to clinical trials at unprecedented speed. This week's issue features a number of papers that probe design strategies and [clinical trial results](#) for [vaccine candidates](#) to combat the virus. In addition, [a Review](#) presents a round-up of vaccines in development, noting that signs so far suggest that a safe and effective vaccine could be realized on a timescale of months rather than years.



Editorial | 21 October 2020

Why decoding the immune response to COVID matters for vaccines

Nature's second progress report on the pandemic looks at the key factors to making vaccines safe, effective and welcomed by the public.

... Trust and verify

COVID-19 vaccines will be considered for approval by the World Health Organization (WHO) under its emergency-use listing — in which a vaccine is approved for use while trials are still taking place. The WHO and national regulators are working under tremendous pressure from governments and the pharmaceutical industry, but all sides must realize that there can be no short cuts to regulatory approval. Public trust in vaccines is essential, which is why regulators must be allowed to complete their work without interference.

Vaccine hesitancy presents further challenges. Any new vaccine must be carefully monitored for adverse effects, especially in vulnerable populations. As we have written before, overcoming vaccine hesitancy will also require radical transparency from drug companies and their academic partners.

Much of the coronavirus vaccine effort is an example of just what can be achieved when researchers, clinicians, funders, regulators, corporations — in short, people — come together to act in the common good. A working vaccine is essential, but it must be safe and effective, and it needs to be distributed equitably and to those who need it most. Until it arrives, and probably for a long time afterwards, people must stick to solutions that work — rigorous testing, tracing and isolating — and change their behaviour to help curb the virus's spread.

World View | 20 October 2020

[COVID-19 vaccines: time to talk about the uncertainties](#)

Plan now for decisions on which vaccines should go to whom, when and how often.

Kanta Subbarao

Review Article | 23 September 2020

[SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in development](#)

The development of vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 is reviewed, including an overview of the development process, the different types of vaccine candidate, and data from animal studies as well as phase I and II clinical trials in humans.

Florian Krammer

Article | 05 August 2020

[SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccine design enabled by prototype pathogen preparedness](#)

mRNA-1273, an mRNA vaccine that encodes a stabilized prefusion-state severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) spike protein, elicits robust immune responses and protects mice against replication of SARS-CoV-2 in the upper and lower airways.

Kizzmekia S. Corbett, Darin K. Edwards[...] & Barney S. Graham

Article | 29 July 2020

[A vaccine targeting the RBD of the S protein of SARS-CoV-2 induces protective immunity](#)

A recombinant vaccine that targets the receptor-binding domain of the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 induces a potent antibody response in immunized mice, rabbits and non-human primates, and protects primates from infection with the virus.

Jingyun Yang, Wei Wang[...] & Xiawei Wei

Nature Biotechnology

Volume 38 Issue 10, October 2020

<https://www.nature.com/nbt/volumes/38/issues/10>

SARS-CoV-2 detection

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Communications

<https://www.nature.com/subjects/health-sciences/ncomms>

(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

Nature Genetics

Volume 52 Issue 10, October 2020

<https://www.nature.com/ng/volumes/52/issues/10>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Medicine

Volume 26 Issue 10, October 2020

<https://www.nature.com/nm/volumes/26/issues/10>

Patient-partnered clinical research

The path to productive collaboration between researchers and patients is not always easy, with language differences, knowledge gaps and power dynamics setting considerable barriers along the way. In this issue, we explore how patient- and community-led research is achievable if both sides make it a priority. The cover, designed by illustrator Sarah Lippett, a person living with a rare disease who explores her diagnostic odyssey in her work, shows how effective and equitable patient–researcher collaboration can be transformative to research.

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Reviews Genetics

Volume 21 Issue 10, October 2020

<https://www.nature.com/nrg/volumes/21/issues/9>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Reviews Immunology

Volume 20 Issue 10, October 2020

<https://www.nature.com/nri/volumes/20/issues/10>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Reviews Drug Discovery

Volume 19 Issue 10, October 2020

<https://www.nature.com/nrd/volumes/19/issues/10>

[Reviewed earlier]

New England Journal of Medicine

October 22, 2020 Vol. 383 No. 17

<http://www.nejm.org/toc/nejm/medical-journal>

Medicine and Society

[Tribal Truce — How Can We Bridge the Partisan Divide and Conquer Covid?](#)

Lisa Rosenbaum, M.D.

Pediatrics

Vol. 146, Issue 4 1 Oct 2020

<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Pharmaceutics

Volume 12, Issue 7 (July 2020) – 97 articles

<https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4923/12/7>

[Reviewed earlier]

PharmacoEconomics

Volume 38, issue 10, October 2020

<https://link.springer.com/journal/40273/volumes-and-issues/38-10>

[Reviewed earlier]

PLoS Genetics

<https://journals.plos.org/plosgenetics/>

(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

PLoS Medicine

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/>

(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)

Research Article

[Effectiveness of the 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine against vaccine serotype pneumococcal pneumonia in adults: A case-control test-negative design study](#)

Hannah Lawrence, Harry Pick, Vadsala Baskaran, Priya Daniel, Chamira Rodrigo, Deborah Ashton, Rochelle C. Edwards-Pritchard, Carmen Sheppard, Seyi D. Eletu, David Litt, Norman K. Fry, Samuel Rose, Caroline Trotter, Tricia M. McKeever, Wei Shen Lim

Research Article | published 23 Oct 2020 PLOS Medicine

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1003326>

[Tuberculosis, human rights, and law reform: Addressing the lack of progress in the global tuberculosis response](#)

Matthew M. Kavanagh, Lawrence O. Gostin, John Stephens

Policy Forum | published 23 Oct 2020 PLOS Medicine

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1003324>

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

<http://www.plosntds.org/>

(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)

[The economic impact and cost-effectiveness of combined vector-control and dengue vaccination strategies in Thailand: results from a dynamic transmission model](#)

Gerhart Knerer, Christine S. M. Currie, Sally C. Brailsford

Research Article | published 23 Oct 2020 PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0008805>

[The neglected challenge: Vaccination against rickettsiae](#)

Anke Osterloh

Review | published 22 Oct 2020 PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0008704>

PLoS One

<http://www.plosone.org/>

Research Article

Global impact of environmental temperature and BCG vaccination coverage on the transmissibility and fatality rate of COVID-19

Amit Kumar, Shubham Misra, Vivek Verma, Ramesh K. Vishwakarma, Vineet Kumar Kamal, Manabesh Nath, Kiran Prakash, Ashish Datt Upadhyay, Jitendra Kumar Sahu

Research Article | published 22 Oct 2020 PLOS ONE

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0240710>

Psychological impact of mass quarantine on population during pandemics—The COVID-19 Lock-Down (COLD) study

Deeksha Pandey, Suvrati Bansal, Shubham Goyal, Akanksha Garg, Nikita Sethi, Dan Isaac Pothiyil, Edavana Santhosh Sreelakshmi, Mehmood Gulab Sayyad, Rishi Sethi

Research Article | published 22 Oct 2020 PLOS ONE

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0240501>

Evaluation of the acceptability in France of the vaccine against papillomavirus (HPV) among middle and high school students and their parents

Jean-François Huon, Antoine Grégoire, Anita Meireles, Maëva Lefebvre, Morgane Péré, Julie Couterut, Charlotte Biron, François Raffi, Valérie Briand-Godet

Research Article | published 22 Oct 2020 PLOS ONE

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0234693>

Measles vaccination among children in border areas of Yunnan Province, Southwest China

Jiangrong Li, Wenzhou Yu, Zhixian Zhao, Lei Zhang, Qiongyu Gong

Research Article | published 21 Oct 2020 PLOS ONE

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0240733>

PLoS Pathogens

<http://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/>

[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

PNAS - Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/>

Front Matter

Core Concept: The pandemic is prompting widespread use—and misuse—of real-world data

Elie Dolgin

PNAS first published October 21, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2020930117>

... But harnessing this type of real-world data is a tricky business. It requires high-quality data collection and proper methodological considerations. There are established guidelines on how best to plan, execute, and report observational studies in a way that ensures the validity and relevance of the evidence gathered ([1](#)). Yet researchers and clinicians can sometimes neglect those guidelines, especially during a health crisis in which the rush to publish has spawned some suspect research practices, according to some observers.

The pandemic thus presents an unprecedented opportunity to leverage diverse, real-world data sources to inform medical and regulatory responses to the public health emergency. Yet, at the same time, says Almut Winterstein, a pharmacoepidemiologist from the University of Florida in Gainesville, the need for speed should not come at the expense of methodological rigor and detail.

"That's [the] balance that needs to be maintained," says Winterstein, who served as president of the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology until this past August. "On the one hand, you need real-world data in order to have complete evidence for decision making. But at the same token, you have to follow proper epidemiological methods and consider and address the biases in the data before making any causal inferences."...

Opinion: A risk–benefit framework for human research during the COVID-19 pandemic

Front Matter

Julie C. Lumeng, Tabbye M. Chavous, Anna S. Lok, Srijan Sen, Nicholas S. Wigginton, and Rebecca M. Cunningham

PNAS first published October 21, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2020507>

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 35 - Issue 5 - October 2020

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/prehospital-and-disaster-medicine/latest-issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Preventive Medicine

Volume 139 October 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/preventive-medicine/vol/139/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Proceedings of the Royal Society B

14 October 2020 Volume 287 Issue 1936

<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/toc/rspb/current>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Public Health

Volume 187 Pages A1-A2, 1-190 (October 2020)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/public-health/vol/187/suppl/C>

Research article Open access

Identifying research questions for HIV, tuberculosis, tuberculosis-HIV, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases through the World Health Organization guideline development process: a retrospective analysis, 2008–2018

S. Hargreaves, J. Himmels, L.B. Nellums, G. Biswas, ... D. Maher

Pages 19-23

Public Health Ethics

IN PROGRESS

Volume 13, Issue 1, April 2020

<http://phe.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Reports

Volume 135 Issue 5, September/October 2020

<https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/phrg/135/5>

[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

Volume 30 Issue 12, October 2020

<http://qhr.sagepub.com/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Research Ethics

Volume 16 Issue 3-4, July-October 2020

<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/reab/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Reproductive Health

<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content>

[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública/Pan American Journal of Public Health (RPSP/PAJPH)

<https://www.paho.org/journal/en>

Latest articles

20 Oct 2020

A renewed framework for the essential public health functions in the Americas

Special report | English | <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/52801>

This report presents the results of a consensus decision making process conducted to elaborate a renewed conceptual framework of the essential public health functions for the Americas. The emerging framework consists of four pillars encompassing action-oriented

components relating to the new scope and concerns of public health. The four pillars call for adopting a human rights approach to public health, addressing the social determinants of health, ensuring access to both individuals and population-based services, and expanding the stewardship role of health authorities through a collaborative implementation of public health functions. Public health functions were conceptualized as a set of capacities that are part of an integrated policy cycle that encompasses four stages: assessment, policy development, allocation of resources, and access. The framework provides a road map for evaluation and development by health authorities of integrated enabling public health policies through intersectoral collaboration. The application of the framework would require engaging countries working to improve public health through national assessments and systematic incorporation of these findings into quality improvement efforts and sectoral and intersectoral decision-making processes around policy and investments priorities promoted by governments. Work is ongoing in the definition of a list of public health functions that gives operational clarity to each dimension of this framework and guides performance evaluation.

Risk Analysis

Volume 40, Issue 9 Pages: 1691-1886 September 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15396924/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Management and Healthcare Policy

<https://www.dovepress.com/risk-management-and-healthcare-policy-archive56>

[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]

Original Research

[Pharmacists' Perspectives on Providing the Influenza Vaccine in Community](#)

[Pharmacies: A Qualitative Study](#)

Nusair MB, Arabyat R, Mukattash TL, Alhamad H, Abu Ghaida MT, Momani MY

Risk Management and Healthcare Policy 2020, 13:2179-2187

Published Date: 16 October 2020

Science

23 October 2020 Vol 370, Issue 6515

<http://www.sciencemag.org/current.dtl>

Editorial

[Saving the poor and vulnerable](#)

By Ian L. Boyd

Science 23 Oct 2020 : 383

Summary

Right now, warm surface water is moving into the western Pacific Ocean in the form of a "La Niña." It is a sentinel for a complex set of connections that drive weather patterns from the Horn of Africa to Botswana and normally presages drought in East Africa. This event soon will be ringing alarm bells within the World Food Programme (WFP). Even as this United Nations–led agency celebrates its well-deserved award of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize, the relentless challenge of preventing hunger marches on.

Science, politics, and public health

By William Roper

Science23 Oct 2020 : 385

Summary

There is an idea on the part of scientists that politics is dirty, and a companion idea on the part of politicians that science, by its continual qualifications and revisions, is, if not irrelevant, then at least out of touch with the constraints of a democracy: What seems optimal from the perspective of science may be impossible to implement in the political arena.

Feature

Undermining CDC

By Charles Piller

Science23 Oct 2020 : 394-399 Restricted Access

Deborah Birx, President Donald Trump's COVID-19 coordinator, helped shake the foundation of a premier public health agency.

Summary

When Deborah Birx, a physician with a background in HIV/AIDS research, was named coordinator of the White House Coronavirus Task Force in February, she was widely praised as a tough, indefatigable manager and a voice of data-driven reason. But a Science investigation found that some of her actions have undermined the effectiveness of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Interviews with nine current CDC employees, including senior agency leaders, and 20 former agency leaders and public health experts—and a review of more than 100 official emails, memos, and other documents—suggest Birx's privatization of CDC's system for gathering COVID-19 hospital data fits a pattern in which she sometimes promoted President Donald Trump's policies or views against scientific consensus. In the process, she helped create an existential crisis at the world's preeminent public health agency

How CDC foundered

By Charles Piller

Science23 Oct 2020 : 396 Restricted Access

The agency's missteps were multiplied by political interference.

Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created some of its own problems during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as issuing flawed tests in February and confusing guidance on aerosol transmission. But the agency's compromised standing derives mostly from attacks by President Donald Trump and his surrogates, often including Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House Coronavirus Task Force. Trump and his appointees have prevented CDC leaders from speaking basic truths and replaced its widely praised guidelines for reopening schools and the economy with weaker ones. The result has been an agency that has lost its moorings during a public health crisis.

Science Translational Medicine

21 October 2020 Vol 12, Issue 566

<https://stm.sciencemag.org/>

Editorial

Achieving healthy human longevity: A global grand challenge

By Victor J. Dzau, Elizabeth M. Finkelman, Celynn A. Balatbat, Eric M. Verdin, Roderic I. Pettigrew

Science Translational Medicine 21 Oct 2020 Full Access

With continued advances in science and technology, there is great potential to extend our healthspan as we age.

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 262 October 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/social-science-and-medicine/vol/262/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Systematic Reviews

<https://systematicreviewsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles>

[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]

[A systematic literature review of researchers' and healthcare professionals' attitudes towards the secondary use and sharing of health administrative and clinical trial data](#)

Authors: Elizabeth Hutchings, Max Loomes, Phyllis Butow and Frances M. Boyle

Citation: Systematic Reviews 2020 9:240

Content type: Research

Published on: 12 October 2020

Abstract

A systematic literature review of researchers and healthcare professionals' attitudes towards the secondary use and sharing of health administrative and clinical trial data was conducted using electronic data searching. Eligible articles included those reporting qualitative or quantitative original research and published in English. No restrictions were placed on publication dates, study design, or disease setting. Two authors were involved in all stages of the review process; conflicts were resolved by consensus. Data was extracted independently using a pre-piloted data extraction template. Quality and bias were assessed using the QualSyst criteria for qualitative studies. Eighteen eligible articles were identified, and articles were categorised into four key themes: barriers, facilitators, access, and ownership; 14 subthemes were identified. While respondents were generally supportive of data sharing, concerns were expressed about access to data, data storage infrastructure, and consent. Perceptions of data ownership and acknowledgement, trust, and policy frameworks influenced sharing practice, as did age, discipline, professional focus, and world region. Young researchers were less willing to share data; they were willing to share in circumstances where they were acknowledged. While there is a general consensus that increased data sharing in health is beneficial to the wider scientific community, substantial barriers remain.

Travel Medicine and Infectious Diseases

Volume 37 September–October 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/travel-medicine-and-infectious-disease/vol/37/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

Volume 25, Issue 10 Pages: i-iv, 1167-1305 October 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13653156/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Vaccine

Volume 38, Issue 46 Pages 7183-7408 (27 October 2020)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/vaccine/vol/38/issue/46>

[Reviewed earlier]

Vaccines — Open Access Journal

<http://www.mdpi.com/journal/vaccines>

(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)

Open Access Perspective

The Strange Case of BCG and COVID-19: The Verdict Is Still up in the Air

by Radha Gopalaswamy, Natarajan Ganesan, Kalamani Velmurugan, Vivekanandhan Aravindhan and Selvakumar Subbian

Vaccines 2020, 8(4), 612; <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines8040612> - 16 Oct 2020

Abstract

COVID-19, caused by a novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, contributes significantly to the morbidity and mortality in humans worldwide. In the absence of specific vaccines or therapeutics available, COVID-19 cases are managed empirically with the passive immunity approach and repurposing of drugs used for other [...] [Read more.](#)

Value in Health

October 2020 Volume 23, Issue 10, p1281-1402

[https://www.valueinhealthjournal.com/issue/S1098-3015\(20\)X0012-X](https://www.valueinhealthjournal.com/issue/S1098-3015(20)X0012-X)

[Reviewed earlier]

* * * *

Media/Policy Watch

This watch section is intended to alert readers to substantive news, analysis and opinion from the general media and selected think tanks and similar organizations on vaccines, immunization, global public health and related themes. *Media Watch* is not intended to be exhaustive, but indicative of themes and issues CVEP is actively tracking. This section will grow from an initial base of newspapers, magazines and blog sources, and is segregated from *Journal Watch* above which scans the peer-reviewed journal ecology.

We acknowledge the Western/Northern bias in this initial selection of titles and invite suggestions for expanded coverage. We are conservative in our outlook in adding news sources which largely report on primary content we are already covering above. Many electronic media sources have tiered, fee-based subscription models for access. We will provide full-text where content is published without restriction, but most publications require registration and some subscription level.

The Atlantic

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/>

Accessed 24 Oct 2020

[No new, unique, relevant content]

BBC

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Accessed 24 Oct 2020

[No new, unique, relevant content]

The Economist

<http://www.economist.com/>

Accessed 24 Oct 2020

Controlling the pandemic

[Should covid be left to spread among the young and healthy](#)

Two petitions by scientists clash on the matter

Oct 21st 2020 edition

Financial Times

<https://www.ft.com/>

Accessed 24 Oct 2020

[Coronavirus treatment](#)

Vaccine deal allows AstraZeneca to take up to 20% on top of costs

Drugmaker says non-manufacturing expenses will exceed \$1bn in Oxford virus project

23 Oct 2020

AstraZeneca's confidential coronavirus vaccine deal with Oxford university allows it to make as much as 20 per cent on top of the cost of goods for manufacturing the jab, according to people with knowledge of the contract.

UK-headquartered AstraZeneca has pledged to sell the vaccine "at cost" during the pandemic, eschewing profits. It has declined to say how much the vaccine costs to make.

Observers have expressed fears over a lack of transparency around the global deals involving the supply of potential vaccines.

AstraZeneca insisted it treated the development of a vaccine as a public health emergency and not a profitmaking opportunity, saying more than \$1bn of its costs incurred in the project, for example regulatory submissions and distribution, were not related to manufacturing...

Forbes

<http://www.forbes.com/>

Accessed 24 Oct 2020

Breaking | Oct 23, 2020

[Trump Hasn't Shown Up To Covid Task Force In Months, Fauci Says](#)

Controversial advisor Dr. Scott Atlas apparently has the president's ear more than Dr. Anthony Fauci.

By [Joe Walsh](#) Forbes Staff

Coronavirus | Oct 23, 2020

[Three Takeaways From Major FDA Advisory Meeting On Covid-19 Vaccines](#)

One thing became clear over the course of the seven-hour meeting — that a hastily expedited vaccine might benefit some people, but fail those who need protection most.

By [William A. Haseltine](#) Contributor

Coronavirus | Oct 22, 2020

[Vaccine Transporters Feel Unprepared For The Distributive Effort Ahead](#)

As pharmaceutical companies conduct phase 3 vaccine trials, air cargo transporters are cautious about the logistics involved in the mass distribution of a Covid-19 vaccine.

By [William A. Haseltine](#) Contributor

Breaking | Oct 21, 2020

[Bolsonaro Clashes With His Own Government Over Chinese Coronavirus Vaccine](#)

"For sure, we will not buy the Chinese vaccine," Bolsonaro said.

By [Carlie Porterfield](#) Forbes Staff

Foreign Affairs

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/>

Accessed 24 Oct 2020

[Fighting a Pandemic Requires Trust](#)

Governments Have to Earn It

Thomas J. Bollyky, Sawyer Crosby, and Samantha Kiernan

October 23, 2020

Foreign Policy

<http://foreignpolicy.com/>

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The Guardian

<http://www.guardiannews.com/>

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New Yorker

<http://www.newyorker.com/>

Accessed 24 Oct 2020

Medical Dispatch

[How Trump Became the Pro-Infection Candidate](#)

By embracing the Great Barrington Declaration—a fringe document advocating mass transmission of the coronavirus—the White House has achieved a new, lunatic level of denial.

By [Dhruv Khullar](#)

October 23, 2020

New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/>

Accessed 24 Oct 2020

World

After pausing for safety concerns, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson have resumed their U.S. vaccine trials.

Oct. 23 By Katherine J. Wu and Carl Zimmer

Health

The Trump Administration Shut a Vaccine Safety Office Last Year. What's the Plan Now?

The office was dedicated to the long-term safety of vaccines. Experts say plans to track coronavirus vaccines are fragmented and "behind the eight ball."

Oct. 23 By Carl Zimmer

Washington Post

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Accessed 24 Oct 2020

Stressing freedom, vaccine opponents rebranding in virus era

Oct 22, 2020

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Think Tanks et al

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<http://www.brookings.edu/>

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Center for Global Development [to 24 Oct 2020]

<http://www.cgdev.org/page/press-center>

[No new relevant content]

Chatham House [to 24 Oct 2020]

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/>

Expert Comment

A Dose of Realism on a COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy

A targeted immunisation programme may offer some protection, but it will not deliver 'life as normal'.

Professor David Salisbury

Associate Fellow, Global Health Programme

22 October 2020

For those holding on to hope of an imminent COVID-19 vaccine, news this weekend that the first could be rolled-out as early as 'just after Christmas' will have likely lifted spirits.

UK deputy chief medical officer Professor Jonathan Van-Tam reportedly told MPs a vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca could be ready for deployment in January, while Sir Jeremy Farrar, Sage scientific advisory group member and a director of the Wellcome Trust, has said at least one of a portfolio of UK vaccines could be ready by spring.

Much has been written and said about how the world will return to normal when a vaccine is widely available. But that really won't be true. It is important that we are realistic about what vaccines can and can't do.

Vaccines protect individuals against disease and hopefully also against infection, but no vaccine is 100% effective.

To know what proportion of a community would be immune after a vaccination programme is a numbers game – we must multiply the proportion of a population vaccinated by how effective the vaccine is.

The UK currently has amongst the highest national coverage of flu vaccine in the world, vaccinating around 75 per cent of the over 65s against flu every year; most countries either do worse or have no vaccination programmes for older people. It is reasonable to expect that this level of coverage could be achieved for COVID-19 vaccine in that age group in the UK.

If the COVID-19 vaccine is 75 per cent effective – meaning 75 per cent of those vaccinated become immune – then we would actually only protect 56% of that target population (75 per cent x 75 per cent). This would not be enough to stop the virus circulating.

Half of our highest risk group would remain susceptible, and we won't know who they are. Relaxing social distancing rules when facing those risks seems a bit like Russian roulette.

Now let's look at people younger than 65 in medical risk groups. In a good year, the UK vaccinates 50 per cent of them against flu. That means just over a third of them are going to be protected (50 per cent x 75 per cent).

Just to make matters worse, regulators such as the US Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency have said that they would accept a 50 per cent lower level for efficacy for candidate COVID-19 vaccines. If that efficacy level is fulfilled, we have to multiply coverage by 50 per cent efficacy, not 75 per cent, and suddenly it all gets more concerning.

As well as protecting individuals, vaccines can protect communities, through the interruption of transmission. One of the best examples comes from the UK meningitis C vaccination campaign of the late 1990s.

There was a 67 per cent reduction in the number of cases in the unvaccinated children and young people because they were being protected by their contacts who had been vaccinated and were no longer transmitting infection.

If we want to see population protection from COVID-19 vaccination, we are going to need high levels of protection (coverage x efficacy) across all ages, vaccinating not just the at-risk groups, as is being planned.

To stop transmission, we must vaccinate anyone who can transmit infection. Anything less means that our goal is only individual protection and not the interruption of transmission.

A recent announcement from the head of the UK Vaccine Task Force that the strategy will be targeted vaccination makes it abundantly clear that the UK vaccine strategy at the moment is not to try to interrupt transmission, despite having hundreds of millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses on contract. With less than 10 per cent of the population showing evidence of having been infected, targeted vaccination will not allow 'life as previously usual' to come about.

If countries do decide to switch from a personal protection policy to a transmission-interruption strategy, obstacles remain. Much will depend on the successful vaccination (probably with two doses) of people who have not previously seen themselves to be at elevated risk. The challenge will be persuading the young, for example, to be vaccinated, not for their own benefit, but for others.

The situation for developing countries will be even further away from achieving population immunity. The COVAX initiative (a global risk sharing and pooling vaccine arrangement) – proposes vaccines for just 3 per cent of population initially (for essential workers); followed by up to 20 per cent for the older and vulnerable.

Again, these quantities of vaccine will be seriously insufficient to have impacts on transmission. Even as industrialised nations struggle to interrupt transmission - ongoing transmission in any country threatens all countries.

Adherence to recommendations for any COVID-19 interventions – social distancing, lockdowns, home working, cancelled holidays or vaccinations, depend on trust. If politicians are telling us that the present impositions in our lives are only going to last until we have vaccines, then the reality is that a false hope is being promulgated.

Vaccines are probably the most powerful public health intervention available to us. But unless their benefits are communicated with realism, confidence in all recommendations will be put at risk.

While hope and optimism are much needed in these dark times, it is important to be transparent. We need to communicate the clear message that although targeted vaccination may offer some protection, it will not simply deliver 'life as we used to know.'

This is a version of an article originally published in [The Guardian](#).

CSIS

<https://www.csis.org/>

Accessed 24 Oct 2020

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Council on Foreign Relations

<http://www.cfr.org/>

Accessed 24 Oct 2020

Pharmaceuticals and Vaccines

[COVID-19: Why Vaccine Coverage Is Important](#)

Vaccines are a major public health success story, but the COVID-19 pandemic underscores the many challenges involved in getting a vaccine to everyone who needs it.
In Brief by [Claire Felter](#)

Kaiser Family Foundation

https://www.kff.org/search/?post_type=press-release

Accessed 24 Oct 2020

October 20, 2020 News Release

Distributing a COVID-19 Vaccine Across the U.S. – A Look at Key Issues

Government officials hope to identify one or more safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines over the next few months as part of a multi-agency effort known as Operation Warp Speed. If and when they succeed, their focus will shift to making sure people across the country can access the vaccine.

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Support for this service is provided by the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#); [PATH](#), and industry resource members Janssen/J&J, Pfizer, Sanofi Pasteur U.S., Takeda, Moderna Therapeutics (list in formation).

Support is also provided by a growing list of individuals who use this membership service to support their roles in public health, clinical practice, government, NGOs and other international institutions, academia and research organizations, and industry.

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