



Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review
13 February 2021 :: Issue 594
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 [U.S.] 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 21,000 entries.***

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Milestones :: Perspectives :: Research

Editor's Note:

As is obvious to all, the sheer volume of strategic announcements, regulatory actions, country program decisions, commentary, and, indeed, misinformation around COVID response continues at extraordinary levels. Our weekly digest strives to present a coherent and comprehensive snapshot, but cannot be exhaustive. If you recognize a missed strategic development, a new source of rigorous analysis, or an insight/commentary that would benefit our common understanding, please advise me...we will review suggestions and consider inclusion in a subsequent edition:

david.r.curry@ge2p2global.org

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In the COVID-19 vaccine race, we either win together or lose together

Joint statement by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore and WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

10 February 2021 Joint News Release
New York/Geneva

Of the 128 million vaccine doses administered so far, more than three quarters of those vaccinations are in just 10 countries that account for 60% of global GDP.

As of today, almost 130 countries, with 2.5 billion people, are yet to administer a single dose. This self-defeating strategy will cost lives and livelihoods, give the virus further opportunity to mutate and evade vaccines and will undermine a global economic recovery.

Today, UNICEF and WHO – partners for more than 70 years – call on leaders to look beyond their borders and employ a vaccine strategy that can actually end the pandemic and limit variants.

Health workers have been on the frontlines of the pandemic in lower- and middle-income settings and should be protected first so they can protect us.

COVAX participating countries are preparing to receive and use vaccines. Health workers have been trained, cold chain systems primed. What's missing is the equitable supply of vaccines.

To ensure that vaccine rollouts begin in all countries in the first 100 days of 2021, it is imperative that:

:: Governments that have vaccinated their own health workers and populations at highest risk of severe disease share vaccines through COVAX so other countries can do the same.

:: The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, and its vaccines pillar COVAX, is fully funded so that financing and technical support is available to lower- and middle-income countries for deploying and administering vaccines. If fully funded, the ACT Accelerator could return up to US\$ 166 for every dollar invested.

:: Vaccine manufacturers allocate the limited vaccine supply equitably; share safety, efficacy and manufacturing data as a priority with WHO for regulatory and policy review; step up and maximize production; and transfer technology to other manufacturers who can help scale the global supply.

We need global leadership to scale up vaccine production and achieve vaccine equity.

COVID-19 has shown that our fates are inextricably linked. Whether we win or lose, we will do so together.”

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Extraordinary meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) - 8 February 2021

Meeting materials

:: Final Agenda

Background documents

:: Background document on the Astra Zeneca – Oxford University AZD1222 vaccine against COVID-19 (Draft)

Presentations

:: Update on recent developments including on COVAX

K. O'Brien, pdf, 4.4Mb

:: AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine Update

J. Vekemans. pdf, 4.6Mb

:: Assessment of the critical evidence, including data and draft recommendations related to vaccine use in older adults

SAGE Working Group. pdf, 3.2Mb

:: Emerging data on the use of AZD1222 in the context of new virus variants

A. Pollard & S. Madhi. pdf, 370Kb

Interim WHO recommendations

Interim recommendations for use of the AZD1222 (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant]) vaccine against COVID19 developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca: interim guidance, 10 February 2021

World Health Organization. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/339477>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO :: 7 pages

...These interim recommendations apply to AZD1222 (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant]) vaccine against COVID-19 developed by Oxford University (United Kingdom) and AstraZeneca as well as to ChAdOx1-S [recombinant] vaccines against COVID-19 produced by other manufacturers that rely on the AstraZeneca core clinical data, following demonstrated equivalence in their regulatory review and once emergency use listing (EUL) has been obtained from WHO. The guidance is based on the evidence summarized in the Background document on AZD1222 vaccine against COVID-19 developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca and the Background paper on COVID-19 disease and vaccines. Both these documents are available on the SAGE COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.who.int/groups/strategic-advisory-group-of-experts-on-immunization/covid-19-materials> ...

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Editor's Note:

The statement below was issued on 8 February, and references the WHO SAGE Extraordinary Meeting recommendations released as above.

COVAX Statement on New Variants of SARS-CoV-2

[Apparent Joint Statement: The logos of CEPI, Gavi, UNICEF and WHO appeared with the text at the title link above]

Geneva / New York / Oslo, 8 February 2020 – The emergence of variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, serve as a powerful reminder that viruses by their very nature mutate, and that the scientific response may need to adapt to remain effective against them.

In light of recent news stories regarding the preliminary data on minimal effectiveness of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine at preventing mild to moderate COVID-19 disease caused by the viral variant B.1.351, **it is important to note that primary analysis of data from Phase III trials has so far shown – in the context of viral settings without this variant – that the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine offers protection against severe disease, hospitalisation and death. This means it is vitally important now to determine the vaccine's effectiveness when it comes to preventing more severe illness caused by the B.1.351 variant.**

Additional studies will also allow us to confirm the optimal vaccination schedule and its impact on vaccine efficacy. CEPI has announced funding for additional clinical research to optimize and extend the use of existing vaccines, which could include "mix-and-match" studies of different vaccines used in combinations that may improve the quality and strength of the immune response. Such studies could be useful in optimizing the use of available vaccines, including the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine.

The WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) convened today to review evidence on the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine, including emerging evidence on performance against viral variants, and to consider the demonstrated impact of the product and the risk-benefit assessment for use cases with limited data. These recommendations for use of the AstraZeneca product are being finalised and will be presented to the WHO Director-General on 9 Feb 2021.

Even though this recent news on effectiveness of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine against the B.1.351 variant is based on a limited study size which focused on low-risk participants and used interval doses that were not optimized for immunogenicity, these results confirm we must do everything possible to reduce the circulation of the virus, prevent infections and reduce the opportunities for the SARS-CoV-2 to evolve resulting in mutations that may reduce the efficacy of existing vaccines. This means that additionally:

:: Manufacturers must be prepared to adjust to the SARS-CoV-2 viral evolution, including potentially providing future booster shots and adapted vaccines, if found to be scientifically necessary.

:: Trials must be designed and maintained to allow any changes in efficacy to be assessed, and to be of sufficient scale and diversity to enable clear interpretation of results.

:: Enhanced genomic surveillance must be backed by rapid sharing of genetic and meta-data to allow for global coordination and response.

:: Priority should be given to vaccinating high-risk groups everywhere in order to ensure maximum global protection against new strains and minimize the risk of transmission.

:: Governments and donors, as well as development banks, should further support COVAX in order to ensure equitable access and delivery, as well as meet ongoing research and development costs for next-generation vaccines.

:: WHO is enhancing an existing mechanism for tracking and evaluating variants that may affect vaccine composition and expanding that mechanism to provide guidance to manufacturers and countries on changes that may be needed for vaccines.

COVAX was set up to ensure global equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines. With the world's largest actively managed portfolio of COVID-19 vaccine candidates, the COVAX Facility offers its self-financing participants and those eligible for support through the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment access to a diverse range of vaccine candidates, suitable for a broad range of contexts and settings. The ability to deploy vaccines globally to address the evolving pandemic is more critical than ever, as is the importance of coordination to ensure we do not put the impact and value of vaccines at risk. If new vaccines are required, ensuring global access to these is even more essential, as we continue to see that we are all safe only if everyone is safe.

With regards to the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine, COVAX has signed advance purchase agreements with AstraZeneca and Serum Institute of India and has published plans to distribute nearly 350 million doses in the first half of the year. We expect a decision this month from WHO on whether the vaccines will be granted emergency use listing (EUL) as well as a SAGE recommendation on its optimal use. Should EUL be forthcoming, we expect the vaccine to play a key role in our effort to protect high risk persons and to help end the acute phase of the pandemic.

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Coronavirus [COVID-19] - WHO

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Weekly Epidemiological and Operational updates

Last update: 23 January 2021

Confirmed cases :: 107 838 255 [week ago: 104 956 439] [two weeks ago: 101 561 219]

Confirmed deaths :: 2 373 398 [week ago: 2 290 488] [two weeks ago: 2 196 9440]

Countries, areas or territories with cases :: 223

Weekly operational update on COVID-19 - 13 February 2021

Key Figures

:: WHO-led UN Crisis-Management Team coordinating 23 UN entities across nine areas of work

:: 150 GOARN deployments conducted to support COVID-19 pandemic response

:: 8 582 631 face shields shipped globally

:: 6 835 379 gowns shipped globally

:: 36 600 900 gloves shipped globally

:: 197 343 426 medical masks shipped globally

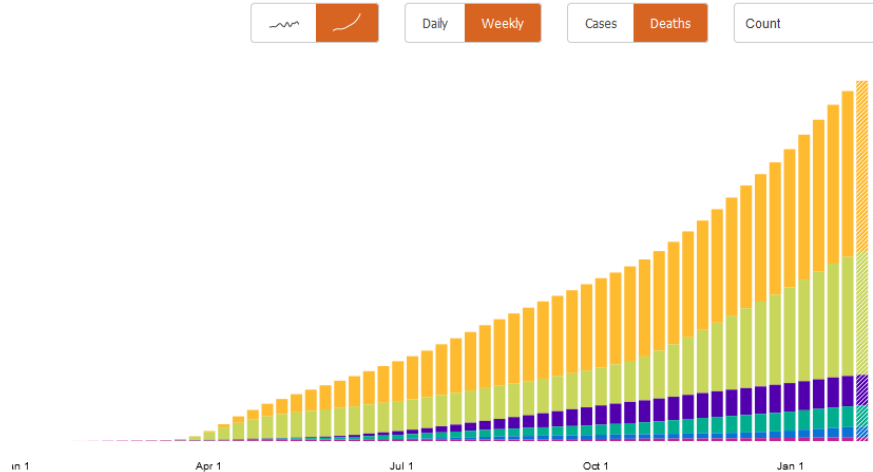
:: 19 951 965 respirators shipped globally

:: More than 4.9 million people registered on OpenWHO and able to access 25 topical courses in 44 languages

Situation by WHO Region

Americas	1,127,620
Europe	809,441
South-East Asia	202,222
Eastern Mediterranean	139,129
Africa	68,043
Western Pacific	26,930

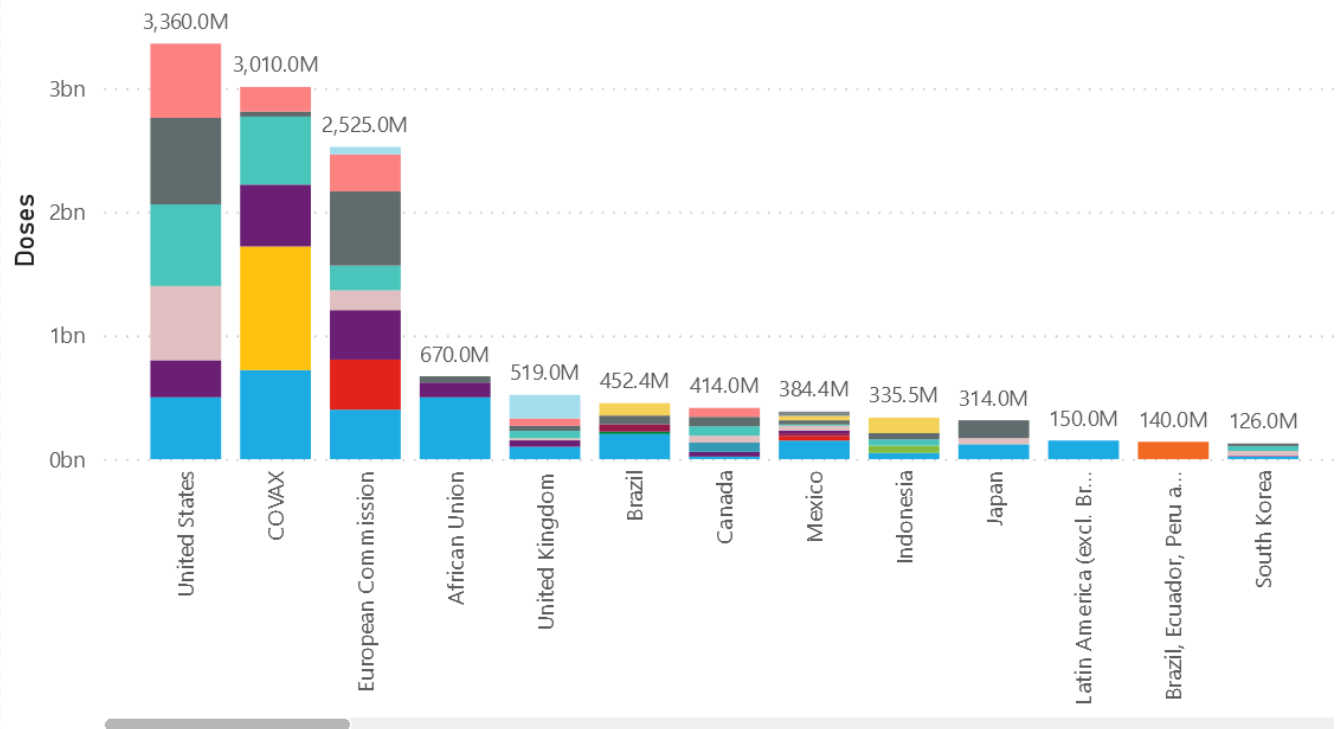
Source: World Health Organization
Data may be incomplete for the current day or week.

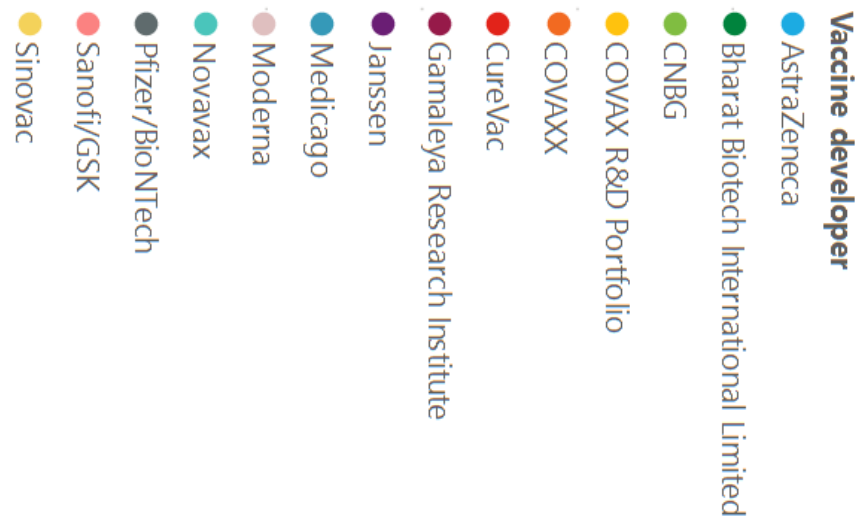


[UNICEF COVID-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard :: Agreements Table Accessed 13 Feb 2021](#)

An overview of information collected from publicly announced bilateral and multilateral supply agreement [Agreements view from 2021-02-03 to date]

COVID-19 vaccine supply agreements (doses) by recipient country/group





Number of vaccines approved for use

10

Reported global vaccine production volumes in 2021

20bn

Number of secured vaccine doses

10.4bn

Number of doses secured and optioned for the COVAX facility

3.01bn*

Range of reported vaccine price per dose

\$2.19 - \$44

Deal date	Recipient	Deal type	Vaccine name	Vaccine developer	Manufacturer
2021-02-03	Switzerland	Government purchase	CVnCoV	CureVac	CureVac
2021-02-03	Brazil	Government purchase	Sputnik V	Gamaleya Research Institute	Gamaleya Research Institute
2021-02-03	Switzerland	Government purchase	NVX-CoV2373	Novavax	Novavax
2021-02-03	Uganda	Government purchase	Covishield	AstraZeneca	Serum Institute of India
2021-02-04	Panama	Government purchase	Sputnik V	Gamaleya Research Institute	Gamaleya Research Institute
2021-02-04	Paraguay	Government purchase	Sputnik V	Gamaleya Research Institute	Gamaleya Research Institute
2021-02-05	Serbia	Shared	AZD1222	AstraZeneca	AstraZeneca
2021-02-05	Ukraine	Government purchase	Covavax	Novavax	Serum Institute of India
2021-02-05	Ukraine	Government purchase	Covishield	AstraZeneca	Serum Institute of India
2021-02-06	Macao	Government purchase	BBIBP-CorV	CNBG	CNBG
2021-02-09	Pakistan	Government purchase	BBIBP-CorV	CNBG	CNBG
2021-02-09	Iran	Government purchase	Sputnik V	Gamaleya Research Institute	Gamaleya Research Institute
2021-02-10	Ukraine	Shared	AZD1222	AstraZeneca	AstraZeneca



Our World in Data

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccinations

Our World in Data and the SDG-Tracker are collaborative efforts between researchers at the University of Oxford, who are the scientific editors of the website content; and the non-profit organization [Global Change Data Lab](#), who publishes and maintains the website and the data tools that make our work possible. At the University of Oxford we are based at the [Oxford Martin Programme on Global Development](#).

Research and data: Hannah Ritchie, Esteban Ortiz-Ospina, Diana Beltekian, Edouard Mathieu, Joe Hasell, Bobbie Macdonald, Charlie Giattino, and Max Roser

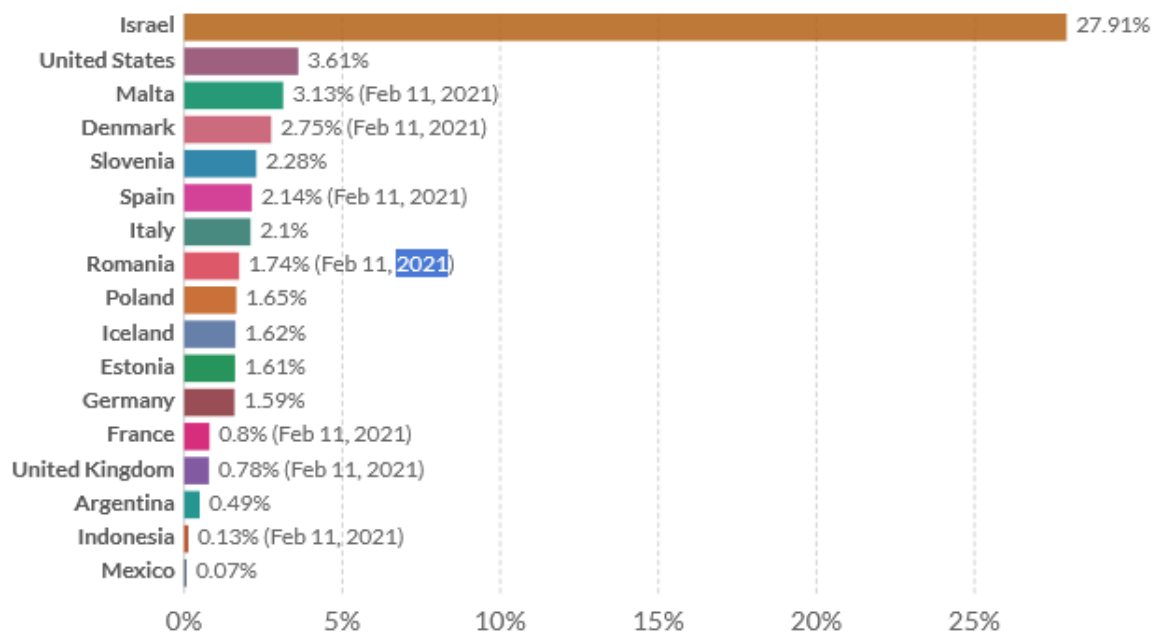
Web development: Breck Yunits, Ernst van Woerden, Daniel Gavrilov, Matthieu Bergel, Shahid Ahmad, Jason Crawford, and Marcel Gerber

Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19, Feb 12, 2021



Share of the total population that have received all doses prescribed by the vaccination protocol. This data is only available for countries which report the breakdown of doses administered by first and second doses.

[+ Add country](#)



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data – Last updated 13 February, 11:40 (London time)

CC BY

▶ Jan 3, 2021 ○ Feb 12, 2021



COVID Vaccine Developer Announcements

[Canada Purchases Additional 4 Million Doses of Moderna's COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

February 12, 2021

[U.S. Government Purchases Additional 100 Million Doses of Moderna's COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

February 11, 2021

[Qatar Ministry of Public Health Issues Emergency Use Authorization for COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna](#)

February 11, 2021

[Moderna Announces COVID-19 Vaccine Supply Agreements with the Government of Taiwan for 5 Million Doses and the Government of Colombia for 10 Million Doses](#)

February 09, 2021

[Sinovac Receives Conditional Marketing Authorization in China for its COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

February 08, 2021

BEIJING--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Sinovac Biotech Ltd. (NASDAQ:SVA) ("Sinovac" or the "Company"), a leading provider of biopharmaceutical products in China, today announced that the China National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) has granted a conditional marketing authorization (CMA) to Sinovac for CoronaVac, Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine in individuals aged 18 and above...

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U.S.: COVID-19 Vaccines – Announcements/Regulatory Actions/Deployment

CDC

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - Latest Updates

[:: Overall US COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Update as of Fri, 12 Feb 2021 06:00:00 EST](#)

FDA

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Announces Advisory Committee Meeting to Discuss Janssen Biotech Inc.'s COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate](#)

02/04/2021

The FDA has scheduled a meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) on Feb. 26, 2021, to discuss the request for emergency use authorization (EUA) for a COVID-19 vaccine from Janssen Biotech Inc.

White House [U.S.]

Briefing Room

[Statement of President Joe Biden on Safely Reopening Schools](#)

February 12, 2021 • Statements and Releases

[Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials](#)

February 10, 2021 • Press Briefings

[President Biden Announces Members of the Biden-Harris Administration COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force](#)

February 10, 2021 • Press Briefings

[Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials](#)

February 09, 2021 • Press Briefings

[FACT SHEET: President Biden Announces Community Health Centers Vaccination Program to Launch Next Week and Another Increase in States, Tribes, & Territories' Vaccine Supply](#)

February 09, 2021 • Statements and Releases

[Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials](#)

February 08, 2021 • Press Briefings

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Europe: COVID-19 Vaccines – Announcements/Regulatory Actions/Deployment

European Medicines Agency

[News: EMA starts rolling review of CureVac's COVID-19 vaccine \(CVnCoV\)](#)

Last updated: 12/02/2021

EMA's human medicines committee ([CHMP](#)) has started a rolling review of CVnCoV, a COVID-19 vaccine being developed by CureVac AG.

The [CHMP](#)'s decision to start the rolling review is based on preliminary results from laboratory studies (non-clinical data) and early clinical studies in adults. These studies suggest that the vaccine triggers the production of antibodies and immune cells that target SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

The company is currently conducting trials in people to assess the vaccine's safety, immunogenicity (how well it triggers a response against the virus) and effectiveness against COVID-19. EMA will evaluate data from these and other [clinical trials](#) as they become available.

The rolling review will continue until enough evidence is available for a formal [marketing authorisation application](#)....

[News: EMA preparing guidance to tackle COVID-19 variants](#)

Last updated: 10/02/2021

EMA is developing guidance for manufacturers planning changes to the existing COVID-19 vaccines to tackle the new virus variants. In order to consider options for additional testing and development of vaccines that are effective against new virus mutations, the Agency has requested all vaccine developers to investigate if their vaccine can offer protection against any new variants, e.g. those identified in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil, and submit relevant data.

EMA will shortly publish a [reflection paper](#) that will set out the data and studies needed to support adaptations of the existing vaccines to current or future mutations of SARS-CoV-2 in the European Union (EU). The questions that will be addressed as part of this [reflection paper](#) include:

:: Which are the options for introducing a new strain into an existing approved vaccine?

:: What will be the minimal regulatory requirements to demonstrate the quality, safety and [efficacy](#)?

:: Which bridging studies will be required to provide adequate reassurance of a vaccine's efficacy against a new strain, either as first vaccination or as booster...

News: Clarification on Sputnik V vaccine in the EU approval process

Last updated: 10/02/2021

The European Medicines Agency has to date not received an application for a rolling review or a marketing authorisation for the vaccine developed by the Gamaleya National Centre of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Russia, the Sputnik V vaccine (Gam-COVID-Vac), despite reports stating the opposite.

The developers have received scientific advice from EMA providing them with the latest regulatory and scientific guidance for the development of their vaccine. In line with the Agency's transparency policy, the vaccine is included in the list of COVID-19 medicines and vaccines that have received scientific advice from the Agency.

EMA is in dialogue and collaborating with the company to define the next steps. The developers have expressed their interest that the vaccine be considered for a rolling review...

News: International regulators working together to enhance collaboration on COVID-19 observational research

Last updated: 08/02/2021

In a dedicated COVID-19 workshop, convened under the umbrella of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA), medicine regulators from around the world emphasised the importance of international collaboration and sharing expertise and best practices on observational studies of real-world data to facilitate regulatory decision-making on COVID-19 treatments and vaccines. The workshop was co-chaired by Health Canada and EMA and took place on 25 January 2021. The main findings of the workshop are summarised in a report, which has been published today...

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Africa: COVID-19 Vaccines – Announcements/Regulatory Actions/Deployment

Statement on the Efficacy of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1 nCoV-19) against the SARS-CoV-2 Variants

10 February 2021

Dr Nicaise Ndembu, Senior Science Advisor, Africa CDC

[Excerpt]

... Africa CDC recommendations to Member States and health authorities

On the 9 February 2021, Africa CDC convened a special session of the Africa Task Force for COVID-19 to review existing data and evidence and recommend the following:

[1] For countries that have NOT reported the circulation of the SARS-CoV-2 N501Y.V2 (or B.1.351), we recommend proceeding with the rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

[2] For countries that HAVE reported the circulation of the SARS-CoV-2 N501Y.V2 (or B.1.351), we recommend the acceleration of their preparedness to introduce all COVID-19 vaccines that have received emergency use authorization or approval by regulatory authorities. Consideration should be given to the effectiveness of the vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 N501Y.V2 or any other circulating SARS-CoV-2 variant in the country.

[3] All countries should expand their genomic surveillance testing capacity, or liaise with the Africa CDC/WHO continental COVID-19 genome sequencing laboratory network. The Africa CDC Pathogen Genomics Initiative aims to enhance disease surveillance on the continent.

[4] All countries should strengthen their clinical trials research capacity to generate data on the safety and efficacy of vaccine candidates in African populations as recommended by the Africa CDC Consortium for COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials (CONCVACT).

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Russia: COVID-19 Vaccines – Announcements/Regulatory Actions/Deployment

Russia: Sputnik V – “the first registered COVID-19 vaccine”

<https://sputnikvaccine.com/newsroom/pressreleases/>

Press Releases

Sputnik V authorized in 26 countries

Press release, 12.02.2021

:: Montenegro and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have approved Sputnik V.

:: Sputnik V is among top 3 coronavirus vaccines with most authorizations granted globally.

...The vaccine had been approved earlier in Russia, Belarus, Argentina, Bolivia, Serbia, Algeria, Palestine, Venezuela, Paraguay, Turkmenistan, Hungary, UAE, Iran, Republic of Guinea, Tunisia, Armenia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Republika Srpska (entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina), Lebanon, Myanmar, Pakistan, Mongolia and Bahrain...

Sputnik V authorized in the Kingdom of Bahrain

Press release, 10.02.2021

...The vaccine was approved under the emergency use authorization procedure without additional clinical trials in the country...

Mongolia approves the use of Sputnik V

Press release, 09.02.2021

...The vaccine was approved under the emergency use authorization procedure without additional clinical trials in the country...

Sputnik V vaccine authorized for use in Pakistan

Press release, 09.02.2021

...The vaccine was approved under the emergency use authorization procedure based on the results of the clinical trials of Sputnik V in Russia...

Azerbaijan issues permit to conduct world’s first clinical trials of vaccine combination - Sputnik V and the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

Press release, 09.02.2021

:: Clinical trials of the combination of Sputnik V and AstraZeneca vaccines will begin in February 2021.

:: The studies will assess the immunogenicity and safety of combined vaccine usage.

:: The joint research is important in developing an approach to combat future mutations.

...The study will allow evaluating the immunogenicity and safety of the combined use of Sputnik V and the vaccine jointly developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University. The research will be carried out over the course of six months in several countries with 100 volunteers recruited in each...

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China: COVID-19 Vaccines – Announcements/Regulatory Actions/Deployment

China providing vaccine aid to 53 developing countries: FM spokesperson

2021-02-09

BEIJING -- China is providing vaccine aid to 53 developing countries including Pakistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Feb 8.

China has exported or is in the process of exporting vaccines to 22 countries, the spokesperson told a routine press briefing.

China has taken concrete steps to honor its pledge to make vaccines global public goods, once available, with greater affordability and accessibility in developing countries, Wang said.

China has joined COVAX and decided to offer 10 million vaccines to COVAX, mainly to help meet the needs of developing countries, he added.

Reiterating China's support for domestic companies in promoting vaccine research, development and manufacturing with their foreign counterparts, Wang said China supports relevant companies to export vaccines to countries that are in urgent need, accept and have authorized the emergency use of Chinese vaccines.

"Pakistan was the first country to receive Chinese vaccine aid. Cambodia received China's vaccine aid yesterday and Laos did today. Vaccine aid to Equatorial Guinea will be shipped tomorrow. Meanwhile, the first batch of vaccines exported by China to Peru arrived today," the spokesperson said.

"China will continue its vaccine cooperation with relevant countries, offer support within its capability and make concrete contributions to securing a victory against the pandemic as soon as possible and to building a global community of health for all," he added.

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Selected Country Announcements: COVID-19 Vaccines – Announcements/Regulatory Actions/Deployment

President of Honduras and his Cabinet relinquished their right for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine as a prioritized group

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, Feb. 9, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Honduras President and members of his Cabinet announced that they have relinquished their right granted by Honduras laws which mandates that State's officials, both elected and appointed, are a priority group in national vaccination programs. This decision responds to Hernandez's administration policy of granting access to the most vulnerable groups to COVID-19, including the elderly with pre-existing diseases and to the front-liner workers...

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Emergencies

POLIO

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Polio this week as of 10 February 2021

:: The Polio Oversight Board (POB) held its last meeting of 2020 taking stock of programme epidemiology, finances, and strategy and management revision, and make decisions on next steps to achieve the polio eradication goal. The minutes of the meeting are available [here](#).

Summary of new WPV and cVDPV viruses this week (AFP cases and ES positives):

- :: **Afghanistan:** 34 cVDPV2 cases
- :: **Pakistan:** four WPV1 and three cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
- :: **Chad:** one cVDPV2 case
- :: **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (DR Congo): one cVDPV2 case
- :: **Kenya:** one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample
- :: **Tajikistan:** one cVDPV2 case
- :: **South Sudan:** two cVDPV2 cases
- :: **Yemen:** one cVDPV1 case

Meeting of the Polio Oversight Board (POB) - Teleconference 18 December 2020

[Excerpt; text formatting from original text]
[p.13-14]

ANNEX: Donor Statement at the December 18, 2020 POB meeting

Presented by H.E. Leslie Norton, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in Geneva

...Specifically, we would like to register five points of concern with the POB:

First, we expect to see the **Independent Monitoring Board's (IMB) analysis and recommendations** considered and fully implemented. We expect to see a **clear and direct link between the analysis of the IMB and the future work of GPEI**.

Second, we would like to again underscore how the **Governance Review** process is crucial to achieving progress on eradication, integration and transition. The formal role of Donors, governments and NGOs/civil society in the decision-making of GPEI urgently needs to be addressed in order to reverse the current trend and overcome chronic barriers to eradication. We recommend **a rapid and full implementation of the recommendations over the next six months** as well as improved leadership and accountability by the GPEI partners in this next year. This includes a **clear and transparent communications** on the process.

Third, we welcome the engagement of partners and donors in the **strategy review process**. Greater involvement and leadership from government and civil society partners, particularly in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the most at-risk countries, is critical for strong country commitment and ownership especially when it comes to implementing the revised strategy. Please note, Donors expect to review and provide input into a draft of the strategy before it is finalized.

Fourth, we believe that programmatic and financial decisions must be better aligned. GPEI has completed important work in reviewing the budget and funding gaps for 2021. As a next step, we ask the GPEI to develop a **robust approach to managing risks** that clearly outlines **key budget assumptions**. This also includes regular revision of the budget to allow for immediate reactions.

Fifth, as the Finance and Accountability Committee highlighted last week, **intense and diverse resource mobilisation**, including through innovative financing, is needed in order to have the resources available to reach eradication. Given the global economic downturn we do not see any more space for complacency. Making progress on integration, cost sharing, and maximizing synergies between related programs are likely to be essential for donor investments...

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Editor's Note:

Continuing with this edition, we include information about the last apparent update evident on the WHO emergency country webpages, recognizing almost universal and significant interims since last update regardless of the level of the emergency listed.

WHO Grade 3 Emergencies [to 13 Feb 2021]

Democratic Republic of the Congo - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 12 Jan 2021]*

Mozambique floods - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 3 November 2020]*

Nigeria - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 29 Jun 2020]*

Somalia - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 17 July 2020]*

South Sudan - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 4 February 2020]*

Syrian Arab Republic - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 24 October 2020]*

Yemen - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 30 June 2020]*

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WHO Grade 2 Emergencies [to 13 Feb 2021]

Niger - Le ministre de la Santé du Niger sur le maintien des cas de COVID-19 à un faible niveau 11 février 2021

Afghanistan - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 5 July 2020]*

Angola - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 03 December 2020]*

Burkina Faso - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update 04 février 2021]*

Burundi - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 04 July 2019]*

Cameroon - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 22 August 2019]*

Central African Republic - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 12 June 2018]*

Ethiopia - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 22 August 2019]*

Iran floods 2019 - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 12 March 2020]*

Iraq - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 16 December 2020]*

Libya - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 7 October 2019]*

Malawi Floods - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 09 October 2019]*

Measles in Europe - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 16-12-2020]*

MERS-CoV - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 8 July 2019]*

Mozambique - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 03 November 2020]*

Myanmar - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: :: 3 January 2021]*

occupied Palestinian territory - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 4 September 2019]*

HIV in Pakistan - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 27 August 2019]*

Sao Tome and Principe Necrotizing Cellulitis (2017) - *No new digest announcements*

Sudan - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 24 June 2020]*

Ukraine - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 1 May 2019]*

Zimbabwe - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 10 May 2019]*

.....

WHO Grade 1 Emergencies [to 13 Feb 2021]

Chad - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 30 June 2018]*

Djibouti - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 25 novembre 2020]*

Kenya - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 11 December 2020]*

Mali - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 3 May 2017]*

Namibia - viral hepatitis - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 20 July 2018]*

Tanzania - *No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 21 October 2020]*

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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 - *No new digest announcements identified*

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.

East Africa Locust Infestation

:: Desert Locust situation update 9 February 2021

COVID-19 - *No new digest announcements identified*

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WHO & Regional Offices [to 13 Feb 2021]

12 February 2021 *Joint News Release*

Acute malnutrition threatens half of children under five in Yemen in 2021: UN

11 February 2021 *Feature story*

WHO Executive Board stresses need for improved response to mental health impact of public health emergencies

10 February 2021 *Departmental news*

WHO Publishes Quality Criteria for Health National Adaptation Plans

10 February 2021 *Joint News Release*

In the COVID-19 vaccine race, we either win together or lose together

[See full statement above]

10 February 2021 *Statement*

ILO joins the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All

8 February 2021 *Departmental news*

France and WHO: a strategic partnership for global health security

8 February 2021 *Statement*

COVAX Statement on New Variants of SARS-CoV-2

[See full statement above]

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WHO Regional Offices

Selected Press Releases, Announcements

WHO African Region AFRO

:: Minister of Health of Niger on keeping COVID-19 cases low 11 February 2021

Niger has witnessed a decline in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks following a surge. Public Health Minister Hon. Botto Ahmet explains what it took to cut back infections and the efforts being strengthened to curb the spread of the virus.

:: Minister of Health of Mauritania speaks about efforts to curb COVID-19 11 February 2021

With COVID-19 cases declining after a second wave of the pandemic in Mauritania saw an acute, fast rise, Minister of Health Minister Hon. Dr Mohamed Nedhirou Hamed shares what it took to limit the spread of the virus and the lessons learned that can be applied to an eventual COVID-19 vaccination.

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

No new digest content identified

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

No new digest content identified

WHO European Region EURO

:: New WHO report reveals urgency of confronting tobacco use among women 12-02-2021

:: Getting resources to projects that matter – how WHO/Europe helped countries raise almost US\$ 3 million from the Global Fund 11-02-2021

:: Update on COVID-19: cautious optimism 11-02-2021

:: EU and WHO Regional Office for Europe join forces to ensure deployment of COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination in six European countries, their largest collaboration in the European Region to date 11-02-2021

:: Countries strengthen health supply chains with support from UNICEF and WHO 08-02-2021

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: Glimmer of hope: COVID-19 vaccines roll out in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region

8 February 2021 – While 2020 was a unique and challenging year for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 2021 has provided a glimmer of hope as vaccines for COVID-19 are rolled out. As part of the COVAX Facility – a global mechanism led by WHO, Gavi and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovations (CEPI), for fair and equitable distribution of vaccines...

WHO Western Pacific Region

No new digest content identified

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CDC/ACIP [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

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

Latest News Releases, Announcements

Transcript: CDC Update on COVID-19 [Guidance on School Opening in COVID context]]

Friday, February 12, 2021 Audio: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/t0212-COVID-19-telebrief.mp3>

ACIP Meeting - February 24-25, 2021

Virtual meeting. No registration is required.

Meeting time, 9:30am – 5:30pm EST

Webcast link: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/VWBXKBR8af4>

Draft Agenda

Agenda references:

- :: Rabies Vaccines
- :: Dengue Vaccine
- :: Ebola Vaccine
- :: Hepatitis Vaccine
- :: Pneumococcal Vaccines
- :: Zoster Vaccines
- :: Influenza Vaccines
- :: Cholera Vaccine
- :: Orthopoxviruses Vaccines

MMWR News Synopsis Friday, February 12, 2021

:: Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger — United States, 2021

:: Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Adults Aged 19 Years or Older — United States, 2021

:: Observed Face Mask Use at Six Universities — United States, September–November 2020 (Early Release February 5, 2021)

:: Decline in COVID-19 Hospitalization Growth Rates Associated with Statewide Mask Mandates — 10 States, March–October 2020 (Early Release February 5, 2021)

:: COVID-19 Vaccination Intent, Perceptions, and Reasons for Not Vaccinating Among Groups Prioritized for Early Vaccination — United States, September and December 2020 (Early Release February 9, 2021)

:: COVID-19 Stats: Percentage of Middle and High School Students Aged 13–21 Years Attending In-Person Classes Who Reported Observing Fellow Students Wearing a Mask All the Time, by School Setting and Activity — United States, October 2020

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Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)- CDC

Selected Resources

:: Overall US COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Update as of Fri, 12 Feb 2021 06:00:00 EST Friday, February 12, 2021

:: COVID-19 Vaccination Intent, Perceptions, and Reasons for Not Vaccinating Among Groups Prioritized for Early Vaccination - United States, September and December 2020 Thursday, February 11, 2021

:: Operational Considerations for Immunization Services during COVID-19 in Non-US Settings Focusing on Low-Middle Income Countries Wednesday, February 10, 2021

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Africa CDC [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

News

Statement on the Efficacy of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1 nCoV-19) against the SARS-CoV-2 Variants

10 February 2021

[See COVID coverage above for detail]

Press Releases

African Union supports response to 12th Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 9 FEBRUARY 2021. The African Union Commission, through the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), has started discussions with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on how to support response to the 12th Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in North Kivu. This follows the declaration by the DRC of a new outbreak of EVD on 7 February 2021 in Butembo Area of North Kivu Province after the wife of an EVD survivor tested positive for the virus...

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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 [to 13 Feb 2021]

<http://en.nhc.gov.cn/>

News

Feb 13: Daily briefing on novel coronavirus cases in China

On Feb 12, 31 provincial-level regions and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps on the Chinese mainland reported 8 new cases of confirmed infections.

Outcomes of WHO-China joint study in Wuhan released

2021-02-10

China providing vaccine aid to 53 developing countries: FM spokesperson

2021-02-09

[See COVID coverage above for detail]

National Medical Products Administration – PRC [to 13 Feb 2021]

<http://english.nmpa.gov.cn/news.html>

News

2 Chinese vaccines in advanced stage of assessment: WHO

2021-02-07

Two Chinese vaccines are "in very advanced stage" of the World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Use Listing Procedure (EUL) assessment, an official from the WHO said on Feb 5.

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Organization Announcements

Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

News

No new digest content identified.

BARDA – U.S. Department of HHS [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

BARDA News

February 11, 2021

Biden Administration purchases additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DOD) have purchased an additional 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines from both Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc. to help meet demand for COVID-19 vaccines in the United States.

The orders placed today bring the vaccine purchased by the U.S. government from these two companies to a total of 600 million doses, enough to vaccinate 300 million people. Each company is delivering 300 million doses in regular increments through the end of July 2021. Each company will leverage U.S.-based manufacturing capacity to fill, finish and ship vials as the bulk material is produced.

"As the President directed, we are expanding our supply of COVID vaccines to protect people as quickly as possible," said Acting HHS Secretary Norris Cochran. "These purchases will allow us to accelerate our vaccination efforts to get shots into the arms of the American people. While we rapidly ramp up the pace of vaccinations, I encourage everyone to take actions now to protect themselves and their families: wear a mask, wash your hands often, and practice physical distancing."...

BMGF - Gates Foundation [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Press Releases and Statements

No new digest content identified.

Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute [to 13 Feb 2021]

<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 13 Feb 2021]

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

News

No new digest content identified.

Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy – GE2P2 Global Foundation [to 13 Feb 2021]

<https://centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.net/>

News/Analysis/Statements

Past weekly editions of *Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review* are [available here](#).

CEPI – Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations [to 13 Feb 2021]

<http://cepi.net/>

Latest News

08 Feb 2021

[COVAX Statement on New Variants of SARS-CoV-2](#)

The emergence of variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, serve as a powerful reminder that viruses by their very nature mutate, and that the scientific response may need to adapt if they are to remain effective against them.

[See COVID above for detail]

DARPA – Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency [to 13 Feb 2021]

<https://www.darpa.mil/>

News

DARPA Program to Offer Near Immediate Doses of Vaccine, Therapeutics for Infectious Diseases

Nucleic acids On-demand Worldwide (NOW) will allow for rapid and distributed manufacturing of nucleic acid-based medical countermeasures

outreach@darpa.mil

2/4/2021

The U.S. military routinely deploys throughout the world where warfighters can potentially be exposed to regional endemic diseases as well as chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) threats. Rapid access to medical countermeasures (MCMs) against these threats is critical to protect Defense Department (DoD) personnel and local populations; however, manufacturing, stockpiling, and distribution issues remain.

To address these challenges, DARPA has established the Nucleic acids On-demand Worldwide (NOW) program to develop a mobile MCM manufacturing platform to rapidly produce, formulate, and package hundreds of doses of nucleic acid therapeutics in days – rather than months or years. The system promises to provide significant advancement over current cell-based methods, and the resulting product could allow for end-to-end synthesis of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) quality material, even in austere environments. The mobile nature of the NOW platform aims to provide immediate threat response anywhere the military operates, mitigate surprise from infectious disease threats, and ensure a resilient, readily accessible nucleic acid MCM manufacturing pipeline.

“This mobile manufacturing system is designed to fit into a CONEX box and taken ‘on the go’ for stabilization and humanitarian missions in addition to traditional military operations,” noted Dr. Amy Jenkins, NOW program manager. “The ability to manufacture therapeutics on-site is a huge advantage in time to produce a product and reduction in logistical burden.”

The NOW program will be organized into three phases. In the 36-month Phase 1, performers will investigate new bio/chemical methods to synthesize nucleic acids (Technical Area 1), and explore downstream purification, analysis, and formulation of newly synthesized material (Technical Area 2). A 12-month Phase 2 will focus on system integration to finalize a contained, end-to-end mobile manufacturing platform. In coordination with the U.S. FDA, the 12-month Phase 3 will focus on a human clinical study that directly compares a NOW-derived product with traditionally-manufactured material. This will demonstrate full platform functionality while producing an MCM targeting a DoD relevant disease indication.

Contracts have been awarded to Moderna, Inc. and GE Research to advance the goals of the program. “These teams are well positioned to combine the novel approaches to nucleic acid cell free synthesis and the required system engineering approaches for a distributed manufacturing system to ensure the NOW program requirements are met,” noted Jenkins. “Upon program completion, the NOW platform could have important commercial applications by providing increased MCM production and manufacturing during periods of high demand.”

Additional details of the program schedule and metrics are available in the 2019 broad agency announcement at <https://beta.sam.gov/opp/012d635117004012a37295c2b10ff78f/view#general>.

Duke Global Health Innovation Center [to 13 Feb 2021]

<https://dukeghic.org/>

Launch and Scale Speedometer

No new digest content identified.

EDCTP [to 13 Feb 2021]

<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

11 February 2021

[A suitcase-sized laboratory for rapid detection of SARS-COV-2 in Africa](#)

The PCR test is the most accurate tool to identify SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19. However, valid results are often available only after days. Moreover, the laboratory must be well equipped, have trained personnel and sufficient financial resources. In cooperation with several African universities, a study led by virologist Dr Ahmed Abd El Wahed, Leipzig University, found that a small, mobile laboratory fitting in a suitcase delivers test results that are almost as good as a PCR test and are delivered almost in real-time. EDCTP supported the clinical evaluation with a COVID-19 Emergency grant of €500,000...

Emory Vaccine Center [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Vaccine Center News

No new digest content identified.

European Commission [to 13 Feb 2021]

<http://europa.eu/rapid/search-result.htm?query=18&locale=en&page=1>

Press release 11 February 2021

[New EU programme to support readiness for vaccination efforts in Eastern Partnership countries with WHO](#)

Today, the EU in partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched a new regional programme worth over €40 million to provide critical assistance to ensure local readiness and preparedness for safe and effective vaccination of the population in the six Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

Speech 10 February 2021

[Remarks by Commissioner Stella Kyriakides in the Plenary of the European Parliament on the EU Vaccine Strategy](#)

Remarks by Commissioner Stella Kyriakides in the Plenary of the European Parliament on the EU Vaccine Strategy

Speech 10 February 2021

[Speech by President von der Leyen at the European Parliament Plenary on the state of play of the EU's COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy](#)

The President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, gave a speech at the European Parliament Plenary debate on the state of play of the EU's COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy.

European Medicines Agency [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

News & Press Releases

[News: Meeting highlights from the Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee \(PRAC\) 8-11 February 2021](#)

PRAC, Last updated: 12/02/2021

[News: EMA starts rolling review of CureVac's COVID-19 vaccine \(CVnCoV\)](#)

Last updated: 12/02/2021

[See COVID coverage above for detail]

[News: EMA preparing guidance to tackle COVID-19 variants](#)

Last updated: 10/02/2021

[See COVID coverage above for detail]

[News: Clarification on Sputnik V vaccine in the EU approval process](#)

Last updated: 10/02/2021

[See COVID coverage above for detail]

[News: International regulators working together to enhance collaboration on COVID-19 observational research](#)

Last updated: 08/02/2021

[See COVID coverage above for detail]

European Vaccine Initiative [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Latest News

EVI

11 Feb 2021

[International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2021](#)

FDA [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Press Announcements / Selected Details

[:: February 12, 2021 - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: February 12, 2021](#)

...This week, the FDA posted the webpage, [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Surveillance](#), which provides an overview of our active and passive systems used to monitor the safety of authorized COVID-19 vaccines. The FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research is conducting these surveillance efforts in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other academic and large non-government healthcare data systems...

:: February 9, 2021 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Authorizes Monoclonal Antibodies for Treatment of COVID-19

:: February 9, 2021 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: February 9, 2021

FDA - COVID-19 Vaccines [to 13 Feb 2021]

www.fda.gov/covid19vaccines

News and Updates; Upcoming Events

02/12/2021

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients and also revised its guidance, Investigational COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma.

Fondation Merieux [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

News, Events

Mérieux Foundation co-organized event

MERACON: Returning to rabies elimination in 2021 webinar

February 26, 2021 - 9:00am -12:00pm (CET)

Context

The COVID-19 pandemic has hampered global travel and has placed a strain on public health systems globally. Because of this, many rabies activities were postponed or cancelled in 2020. Similarly, the planned in-person regional MERACON workshop that was initially scheduled for mid-2020 was postponed to 2021. As a means to continue remote support, foster collaboration and continue to drive progress towards rabies elimination in the MERACON countries, the MERACON steering committee has scheduled a digital meeting in webinar format. This webinar will act as a precursor to a more detailed workshop later in the year which we hope to host in-person (COVID-19 restrictions permitting).

Gavi [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

News Releases

COVAX Statement on New Variants of SARS-CoV-2

8 February 2021

[See COVID above for detail]

GHIT Fund [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

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

Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

News & Stories

Safely Reopening Requires Testing, Tracing and Isolation, Not Just Vaccines

11 February 2021

by Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund & Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator

Protecting the most vulnerable in Latin America and the Caribbean during times of COVID-19

11 February 2021

Latin America and the Caribbean have made significant progress in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria in the last few decades. But the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the region hard, and its indirect effects could allow infectious diseases to resurge.

Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness [GloPID-R] [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

News

GloPID-R and partners UKCDR & ISARIC further COVID-19 response

08/02/2021

... The public website UKCDR–GloPID-R COVID CIRCLE Researcher Coordination Platform was launched to facilitate information sharing on COVID-19 research and bring together the global research community working on COVID-19 research, in and for low resource settings.

Key features of the platform are:

:: COVID-19 Resource hub: including the UKCDR & GloPID-R COVID-19 Research Projects Tracker, COVID-19 research reports, papers, guidance, tools and webinars collected from key organisations

:: Map of global and regional networks relevant to epidemics research

:: COVID-19 events from around the world including webinars, workshops and more...

Hilleman Laboratories [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

No new digest content identified.

Human Vaccines Project [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Press Releases

HVP COVID REPORT – Issue 26

One Shot or Two?

Akiko Iwasaki, Ph.D.

Professor of Immunobiology and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Yale School of Medicine

In response to the still limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines, governments, health departments, and scientists are evaluating various ways to stretch existing doses and vaccinate more of the global population as quickly as possible. This effort is particularly urgent given the concern over SARS-CoV-2 variants that are increasingly prevalent throughout the world. In some cases, this has meant delaying the second vaccine dose. But for individuals who have already had COVID, data suggest it may be

possible to forego the second dose altogether. HVP Editor Kristen Jill Abboud recently spoke with Akiko Iwasaki, Professor of Immunobiology and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at Yale School of Medicine, about establishing effective immunity in individuals who have recovered from COVID-19.

IAVI [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

PRESS RELEASES/FEATURES

Features

February 12, 2021

[Explainer videos: Understanding concepts of HIV vaccine development](#)

February 9, 2021

[Prevention revolution or miles away from our targets? A look back at HIV Research for Prevention](#)

February 8, 2021

[How can COVID-19 pave the way for global access pathways for monoclonal antibodies?](#)

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*

Press Releases/Announcements

No new digest content identified.

IFFIm

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

Press Releases/Announcements

No new digest content identified.

IFRC [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Selected Press Releases, Announcements

No new digest content identified.

Institut Pasteur [to 13 Feb 2021]

<https://www.pasteur.fr/en/press-area>

Press release 12.02.2021

Heat islands and lack of running water promote dengue fever in Delhi, India

What if more inclusive urban planning for poor populations was key to fighting dengue fever? This is what researchers...

Press Info 12.02.2021

Comment: The tortuous path to ending the Covid-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated health-care systems, shut down schools and communities, and plunged the world into an economic recession. While 2020 was a challenging year, 2021 looks to be difficult with the emergence of multiple variants of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The race to vaccinate the world will need to respond to the pathogen's constant evolution to evade immunity. What marks the path to the end of this pandemic?

Read the full comment in The Lancet - published on February 11, 2021

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Media highlights [Selected]

No new digest content identified.

IVAC [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Updates; Events

No new digest content identified.

IVI [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Selected IVI News, Announcements, Events

No new digest content identified.

JEE Alliance [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Selected News and Events

No new digest content identified.

Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security [to 13 Feb 2021]

<https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/news/center-news/>

Center News

Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security Launches a New Comprehensive Toolkit on COVID-19 Testing and Testing Services

February 11, 2021

New Report: Equity in Vaccination: A Plan to Work with Communities of Color Toward COVID-19 Recovery and Beyond

February 9, 2021

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Latest [Selected Announcements]

Afghanistan

Keeping an eye on COVID-19 cases in Herat, Afghanistan

Project Update 12 Feb 2021

Due to an increase in the number of people with severe COVID-19 in Herat, western Afghanistan, the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) COVID-19 treatment centre in Gazer Ga reopened on 2 December 2020...

National Vaccine Program Office - U.S. HHS [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Upcoming Meetings/Latest Updates

No new digest content identified.

NIH [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

News Releases

Researchers propose that humidity from masks may lessen severity of COVID-19

February 12, 2021 — NIH study compares how different face masks affect humidity inside the mask.

Study Identifies Risk Factors for Elevated Anxiety in Young Adults During COVID-19 Pandemic

February 12, 2021 — Findings on impact of childhood temperament could help with anxiety prevention efforts.

NIH experts discuss SARS-CoV-2 viral variants

February 12, 2021 — Editorial emphasizes need for global response.

Four potential COVID-19 therapeutics enter Phase 2/3 testing in NIH ACTIV-2 trial

February 12, 2021 — The added sub-studies will test four interventions for safety and efficacy.

NIH calls for greater inclusion of pregnant and lactating people in COVID-19 vaccine research

February 10, 2021 — Longstanding obstacles to include pregnant and lactating people in clinical research have led to this population now deciding whether or not to receive a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine without the benefit of scientific evidence, writes Diana W. Bianchi, M.D., director of the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), part of the National Institutes of Health, and colleagues. Their viewpoint article appears online in JAMA...

Clinical trial in hospitalized COVID-19 patients evaluates long-acting antibody therapy

February 8, 2021 — NIH trial has begun enrolling participants.

PATH [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Press Release

No new digest content identified.

Sabin Vaccine Institute [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Statements and Press Releases

[Learning to Prevent the Next Pandemic: VaxHunt Game Earns STEM.org Educational Trustmark](#)

Monday, February 8, 2021

UNAIDS [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Selected Press Releases/Reports/Statements

12 February 2021

[People living with HIV in Kyrgyzstan have won the right to adopt](#)

10 February 2021

[Making a mark on the COVID-19 pandemic: joint efforts to meet the needs of young key populations in Asia and the Pacific](#)

9 February 2021

[How was a COVID-19 vaccine found so quickly?](#)

8 February 2021

[Provision of services for domestic violence uneven](#)

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 13 Feb 2021]

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/media-centre.html>

Selected Announcements

[UNHCR and IOM welcome Colombia's decision to regularize Venezuelan refugees and migrants](#)

UNHCR–IOM Joint Press Release

8 Feb 2021

BOGOTA/GENEVA – UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and IOM, the International Organization for Migration, today praised Colombia's initiative to provide ten-year temporary protection status to Venezuelans in the country...

...The Temporary Protection Status will also provide access to basic services including the national health system and COVID-19 vaccination plans...

UNICEF [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Selected Press releases, Statements

Press release 02/07/2021

[UNICEF deploys staff, medical equipment and supplies in response to new Ebola case in eastern DRC](#)

UNICEF working with Government and partners in North Kivu province following announcement by the Ministry of Health of the death of a 42 year-old-mother

Unitaid [to 13 Feb 2021]

<https://unitaid.org/>

Featured News

No new digest content identified.

Vaccination Acceptance Research Network (VARN) [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Announcements

No new digest content identified.

Vaccine Confidence Project [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

News, Research and Reports

No new digest content identified.

Vaccine Education Center – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

News

No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

News

Opinion

[Why we should involve more young people in health research](#)

It is crucial to empower and support young people to shape health research, and this is why.

Anita Krishnamurthi, Head of Education and Learning

11 February 2021

Opinion

[Why we need a scientific approach to mental health at work](#)

With businesses looking to support the mental health of their staff more than ever, Wellcome is urging them to take a science-based approach. Miranda Wolpert shares what we’ve learned so far about what works for supporting mental health at work.

Miranda Wolpert, Head of Mental Health
9 February 2021

The Wistar Institute [to 13 Feb 2021]
<https://www.wistar.org/news/press-releases>
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

WFPHA: World Federation of Public Health Associations [to 13 Feb 2021]
<https://www.wfpha.org/>
Latest News
No new digest content identified.

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) [to 13 Feb 2021]
<https://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/press-releases/2021/>
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

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ARM [Alliance for Regenerative Medicine] [to 13 Feb 2021]
[Press Releases - Alliance for Regenerative Medicine \(alliancerm.org\)](https://alliancerm.org/)
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

BIO [to 13 Feb 2021]
<https://www.bio.org/press-releases>
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

DCVMN – Developing Country Vaccine Manufacturers Network [to 13 Feb 2021]
<http://www.dcvmn.org/>
News; Upcoming events
No new digest content identified.

ICBA – International Council of Biotechnology Associations [to 13 Feb 2021]
<https://internationalbiotech.org/news/>
News
No new digest content identified.

IFPMA [to 13 Feb 2021]

<http://www.ifpma.org/resources/news-releases/>
Selected Press Releases, Statements, Publications
No new digest content identified.

PhRMA [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Selected Press Releases, Statements

Lessons learned from COVID-19: The way we develop new medicines is changing

February 10, 2021

Richard Moscicki, M.D. serves as executive vice president, Science and Regulatory Advocacy and chief medical officer at PhRMA.

Early on in the pandemic, social distancing measures forced a rapid and widespread adoption of digital technologies to support safer communication between patients and providers. Researchers from Health Affairs studying data have found “during the pandemic, 30.1% of all visits were provided via telemedicine” and that weekly visits occurring for telemedicine rose exponentially from pre-COVID-19 levels.

Blog Post

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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 12, 2020 Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

AMA Journal of Ethics

Volume 23, Number 2: E83-211 Feb 2021

<https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/issue/racial-and-ethnic-health-equity-us-part-1>

Racial and Ethnic Health Equity in the US: Part 1

Health equity is defined by the World Health Organization as the “absence of unfair and avoidable or remediable differences in health among social groups.” Domestically and globally, health inequity is not a historical accident. Inequity today is not *unfortunate*—that is, not a product of a mere turn of the proverbial cosmic wheel—but *unjust*—that is, generated by colonial, White supremacist policies and practices structured and maintained over time, forged to persist in hierarchies that serve some of us,

our ancestors, and our descendants well and some of us, our ancestors, and our descendants ill. This first of a 2-part theme issue focuses specifically on racial and ethnic inequity in morbidity, mortality, and access to services that are endemic to American life. We investigate health inequity as a product of transgenerational patterns of oppression that must be remediated by all of us compassionately and more deliberately and quickly than they were created.

American Journal of Infection Control

February 2021 Volume 49 Issue 2 p137-280

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

February 2021 Volume 60 Issue 2 p151-310

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

February 2021 111(2)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Volume 104, Issue 1, January 2021

<http://www.ajtmh.org/content/journals/14761645/104/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Annals of Internal Medicine

January 2021 Volume 174, Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Artificial Intelligence – An International Journal

Volume 292 March 2021

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/artificial-intelligence/vol/292/suppl/C>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 13 Feb 2021)

[No new digest content identified]

BMJ Global Health

February 2021 - Volume 6 - 2

<https://gh.bmj.com/content/6/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 13 Feb 2021)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 13 Feb 2021)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 13 Feb 2021)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Medicine

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

(Accessed 13 Feb 2021)

[Who should be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination in China? A descriptive study](#)

All countries are facing decisions about which population groups to prioritize for access to COVID-19 vaccination after the first vaccine products have been licensed, at which time supply shortages are inevita...

Authors: Juan Yang, Wen Zheng, Huilin Shi, Xuemei Yan, Kaige Dong, Qian You, Guangjie Zhong, Hui Gong, Zhiyuan Chen, Mark Jit, Cecile Viboud, Marco Ajelli and Hongjie Yu

Citation: BMC Medicine 2021 19:45

Content type: Research article

Published on: 10 February 2021

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 13 Feb 2021)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Public Health

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

Research

Characterization of immunization secondary analyses using demographic and health surveys (DHS) and multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS), 2006–2018

Infant immunization coverage worldwide has plateaued at about 85%. Using existing survey data to conduct analyses beyond estimating coverage may help immunization programmes better tailor strategies to reach u...

Authors: Yue Huang and M. Carolina Danovaro-Holliday

Citation: BMC Public Health 2021 21:351

Content type: Research article

Published on: 12 February 2021

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 13 Feb 2021)

[No new digest content identified]

BMJ Open

February 2021 - Volume 11 - 2

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/11/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 99, Number 2, February 2021, 77-168

<https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/99/2/en/>

EDITORIALS

COVID-19 response and mitigation: a call for action

— Viroj Tangcharoensathien, Poonam Singh & Anne Mills

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.20.285322>

RESEARCH

Community perspectives on the COVID-19 response, Zimbabwe

— Constance RS Mackworth-Young, Rudo Chingono, Constancia Mavodza, Grace McHugh, Mandikudza Tembo, Chido Dziva Chikwari, Helen A Weiss, Simbarashe Rusakaniko, Sithembile Ruzario, Sarah Bernays & Rashida A Ferrand

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.20.260224>

Government trust, perceptions of COVID-19 and behaviour change: cohort surveys, Singapore

— Vanessa W Lim, Rachel L Lim, Yi Roe Tan, Alexius SE Soh, Mei Xuan Tan, Norhudah Bte Othman, Sue Borame Dickens, Tun-Linn Thein, May O Lwin, Rick Twee-Hee Ong, Yee-Sin Leo, Vernon J Lee & Mark IC Chen

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.20.269142>

Economic burden of COVID-19, China, January–March, 2020: a cost-of-illness study

— Huajie Jin, Haiyin Wang, Xiao Li, Weiwei Zheng, Shanke Ye, Sheng Zhang, Jiahui Zhou & Mark

Pennington

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.20.267112>

A survey of national ethics and bioethics committees

— Johannes Köhler, Andreas Alois Reis & Abha Saxena

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.19.243907>

Abstract

Objective

To assess the current state of national ethics committees and the challenges they face.

Methods

We surveyed national ethics committees between 30 January and 21 February 2018.

Findings

In total, representatives of 87 of 146 national ethics committees (59.6%) participated. The 84 countries covered were in all World Bank income categories and all World Health Organization regions. Many national ethics committees lack resources and face challenges in several domains, like independence, funding or efficacy. Only 40.2% (35/87) of committees expressed no concerns about independence. Almost a quarter (21/87) of committees did not make any ethics recommendations to their governments in 2017, and the median number of reports, opinions or recommendations issued was only two per committee. Seventy-two (82.7%) national ethics committees included a philosopher or a bioethicist.

Conclusion

National ethics (or bioethics) committees provide recommendations and guidance to governments and the public, thereby ensuring that public policies are informed by ethical concerns. Although the task is seemingly straightforward, implementation reveals numerous difficulties. Particularly in times of great uncertainty, such as during the current coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, governments would be well advised to base their actions not only on technical considerations but also on the ethical guidance provided by a national ethics committee. We found that, if the advice of national ethics committees is to matter, they must be legally mandated, independent, diverse in membership, transparent and sufficiently funded to be effective and visible.

POLICY & PRACTICE

Immunity certification for COVID-19: ethical considerations

— Teck Chuan Voo, Andreas A Reis, Beatriz Thomé, Calvin WL Ho, Clarence C Tam, Cassandra Kelly-Cirino, Ezekiel Emanuel, Juan P Beca, Katherine Littler, Maxwell J Smith, Michael Parker, Nancy Kass, Nina Gobat, Ruipeng Lei, Ross Upshur, Samia Hurst & Sody Munsaka

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.20.280701>

Abstract

Restrictive measures imposed because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic have resulted in severe social, economic and health effects. Some countries have considered the use of immunity certification as a strategy to relax these measures for people who have recovered from the infection by issuing these individuals a document, commonly called an immunity passport. This document certifies them as having protective immunity against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes COVID-19. The World Health Organization has advised against the implementation of immunity certification at present because of uncertainty about whether long-term immunity truly exists for those who have recovered from COVID-19 and concerns over the reliability of the proposed serological test method for determining immunity. Immunity certification can only be considered if scientific thresholds for assuring immunity are met, whether based on antibodies or other criteria. However, even if immunity certification became well supported by

science, it has many ethical issues in terms of different restrictions on individual liberties and its implementation process. We examine the main considerations for the ethical acceptability of immunity certification to exempt individuals from restrictive measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. As well as needing to meet robust scientific criteria, the ethical acceptability of immunity certification depends on its uses and policy objectives and the measures in place to reduce potential harms, and prevent disproportionate burdens on non-certified individuals and violation of individual liberties and rights.

PERSPECTIVES

Present value of future health data: ethics of data collection and use

— Ann Dulhanty

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.19.237248>

Child Care, Health and Development

Volume 47, Issue 2 Pages: 143-296 March 2021

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics

Volume 109, Issue 2 Pages: 271-546 February 2021

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Clinical Therapeutics

December 2020 Volume 42 Issue 12 p2239-2340, e259-e274

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Clinical Trials

Volume 18 Issue 1, February 2021

<https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ctja/18/1>

Articles

A survey of the feasibility of developing osteoporosis clinical trials in Duchenne muscular dystrophy: Survey of the opinion of young people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, families and clinicians

Sze Choong Wong, Shuko Joseph, Nadia Capaldi, Marina Di Marco, Jennifer Dunne, Michela Guglieri, Iain Horrocks, Volker Straub, S Faisal Ahmed, the UK NorthStar Clinical Network

First Published October 4, 2020; pp. 39–50 Abstract

Abstract

Background/aims

Given the extent of osteoporosis in people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy treated with glucocorticoids and the limited evidence of bone-protective therapies, clinical trials are needed. We conducted surveys to obtain the opinion of young people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, parents/guardians and neuromuscular clinicians on the feasibility of osteoporosis clinical trials in this population.

Methods

Online surveys were sent to three groups: (a) people with a confirmed diagnosis of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (≥ 14 years), (b) parents and guardians and (c) neuromuscular clinicians in the UK NorthStar Clinical Network. Surveys (a) and (b) were distributed via the UK Duchenne muscular dystrophy Registry.

Results

Survey respondents included 52 people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy with a median age of 17 years (range: 14, 40) and 183 parents/guardians. Fourteen out of 23 (61%) NorthStar centres responded. Of the 52 people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, 13 (25%) were very concerned about their bone health and 21 (40%) were slightly concerned. Of the 183 parents/guardians, 75 (41%) were very concerned about their son's bone health and 90 (49%) were slightly concerned. Fractures and quality of life were the top two main outcome measures identified by people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Fractures and bone density were the top two main outcome measures identified by parents/guardians and neuromuscular clinicians. Thirty percent of people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy and 40% of parents/guardians would not take part if an osteoporosis trial involved a placebo that was administered parenterally. Only 2 of the 14 NorthStar centres (14%) would enrol people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy if a parenteral placebo was used in an osteoporosis trial in Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Conclusion

There is great awareness of bone health and the need for bone-protective trials among people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy and their carers. However, a proportion of people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy and parents are reluctant to participate in a placebo-controlled osteoporosis trial that included a parenteral therapy. A larger proportion of health care experts are unwilling to enrol their patients in such a trial. Our finding is relevant for the design of bone-protective studies in Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Ethics

Details of risk–benefit communication in informed consent documents for phase I/II trials

Hannes Kahrass, Sabine Bossert, Christopher Schürmann, Daniel Strech

First Published November 24, 2020; pp. 71–80

Abstract

Background:

Informed consent documents for clinical studies should disclose all reasonably foreseeable risks and benefits. Little guidance exists on how to navigate the complexities of risk–benefit communication, especially in early clinical research. Practice-oriented development of such guidance should be informed by evidence on what and how details of risks and benefits are currently communicated.

Method:

We surveyed the responsible parties of phase I/II trials registered in ClinicalTrials.gov that started 2007 or later and completed between 2012 and 2016 to sample informed consent documents from a broad spectrum of early phase clinical trials. Based on an assessment matrix, we qualitatively and quantitatively assessed the informed consent documents for details of risk–benefit communication.

Results:

The risk–benefit communication in the 172 informed consent documents differed substantially in several regards. The outcome, extent, and likelihood of health risks, for example, were described in 83%, 32%, and 63% of the informed consent documents. Only 45% of informed consent documents specified the outcome of mentioned health benefits, and the extent and likelihood of health benefits were never specified. From those informed consent documents reporting risk likelihoods, only 57% added frequency numbers to words such as “common” or “rare,” and even in these cases, we found

strong variations for presented frequency ranges. Substantial heterogeneity also exists for how informed consent documents communicate other risk and benefit types and related safeguards.

Conclusion:

Our study points to several shortcomings and heterogeneities in how informed consent documents communicate risks and benefits to potential research participants. Health risks, for example, should be specified with frequency numbers, and health benefits should be specified at least by mentioning their outcomes. Further demand for research and policy development is needed to harmonize risk–benefit communication and to clarify ways to specify the likelihood of health benefits.

Conflict and Health

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

[Accessed 13 Feb 2021]

[The effect of the ongoing civil strife on key immunisation outcomes in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon](#)

Civil strife has long been recognized as a significant barrier in the fight against vaccine preventable diseases in several parts of the world. However, little is known about the impact of the ongoing civil strife on the immunisation system in the Northwest (NW) and Southwest (SW) regions of Cameroon, which erupted in late 2016. In this paper, we assessed the effect of the conflict on key immunisation outcomes in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon.

Authors: Yauba Saidu, Marius Vouking, Andreas Ateke Njoh, Hassan Ben Bachire, Calvin Tonga, Roberts Mofor, Christain Bayiha, Leonard Ewane, Chebo Cornelius, Ndi Daniel Daddy Mbida, Messang Blandine Abizou, Victor Mbome Njie and Divine Nzuobontane

Content type: Research

10 February 2021

Contemporary Clinical Trials

Volume 100 January 2021

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/contemporary-clinical-trials/vol/100/suppl/C>

Research article Abstract only

[Using digital technologies in clinical trials: Current and future applications](#)

Carmen Rosa, Lisa A. Marsch, Erin L. Winstanley, Meg Brunner, Aimee N.C. Campbell

Article 106219

Abstract

In 2015, we provided an overview of the use of digital technologies in clinical trials, both as a methodological tool and as a mechanism to deliver interventions. At that time, there was limited guidance and limited use of digital technologies in clinical research. However, since then smartphones have become ubiquitous and digital health technologies have exploded. This paper provides an update to our earlier publication and an overview of how technology has been used in the past five years in clinical trials, providing examples with varying levels of technological integration and across different health conditions. Digital technology integration ranges from the incorporation of artificial intelligence in diagnostic devices to the use of real-world data (e.g., electronic health records) for study recruitment. Clinical trials can now be conducted entirely virtually, eliminating the need for in-person interaction. Much of the published research demonstrates how digital approaches can improve the design and implementation of clinical trials. While challenges remain, progress over the last five years is encouraging, and barriers can be overcome with careful planning.

Research article Full text access

Innovative trial designs and analyses for vaccine clinical development

Mengya Liu, Qing Li, Jianchang Lin, Yunzhi Lin, Elaine Hoffman

Article 106225

Abstract

In the past decades, the world has experienced several major virus outbreaks, e.g. West African Ebola outbreak, Zika virus in South America and most recently global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Many vaccines have been developed to prevent a variety of infectious diseases successfully. However, several infections have not been preventable so far, like COVID-19, which induces an immediate urgent need for effective vaccines. These emerging infectious diseases often pose unprecedented challenges for the global health community as well as the conventional vaccine development paradigm. With a long and costly traditional vaccine development process, there are extensive needs in innovative vaccine trial designs and analyses, which aim to design more efficient vaccines trials. Featured with reduced development timeline, less resource consuming or improved estimate for the endpoints of interests, these more efficient trials bring effective medicine to target population in a faster and less costly way. In this paper, we will review a few vaccine trials equipped with adaptive design features, Bayesian designs that accommodate historical data borrowing, the master protocol strategy emerging during COVID-19 vaccine development, Real-World-Data (RWD) embedded trials and the correlate of protection framework and relevant research works. We will also discuss some statistical methodologies that improve the vaccine efficacy, safety and immunogenicity analyses. Innovative clinical trial designs and analyses, together with advanced research technologies and deeper understanding of the human immune system, are paving the way for the efficient development of new vaccines in the future.

The CRISPR Journal

Volume 3, Issue 6 / December 2020

<https://www.liebertpub.com/toc/crispr/3/6>

[Reviewed earlier]

Current Genetic Medicine Reports

Volume 8, issue 4, December 2020

<https://link.springer.com/journal/40142/volumes-and-issues/8-4>

[Reviewed earlier]

Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases

February 2021 - Volume 34 - Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Current Protocols in Human Genetics

Volume 108, Issue 1 December 2020

<https://currentprotocols.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/19348258/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Developing World Bioethics

Volume 20, Issue 4 Pages: 173-230 December 2020

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice

Volume 30, Issue 8, 2020

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 14 - Issue 5 - October 2020

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

Volume 45, Issue 1 Pages: 1-252 January 2021

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

[Reviewed earlier]

EMBO Reports

Volume 22 Issue 2 3 February 2021

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Emerging Infectious Diseases

Volume 27, Number 2—February 2021

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 33 December 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/epidemics/vol/33/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemiology and Infection

Volume 149 - 2021

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Ethics & Human Research

Volume 43, Issue 1 January–February 2021

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

When disadvantaged by research • Privacy and medical records • Research misconduct

[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 31, Issue 1, February 2021

<https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/issue/31/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Expert Review of Vaccines

Vol 19 (11) 2020

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Gates Open Research

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

[Accessed 13 Feb 2021]

[No new digest content identified]

Genome Medicine

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

[Accessed 13 Feb 2021]

[No new digest content identified]

Global Health Action

Volume 14, Issue 1 (2021)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

Vol. 8, No. 4 December 23, 2020

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Public Health

Volume 16, Issue 2 (2021)

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

Special Issue: Understanding the health systems impacts of "Test and Treat" in sub-Saharan Africa: Findings from the SHAPE study; Guest Editors: Jenny Renju, Janet Seeley, Mosa Moshabela, and Alison Wrin
[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health

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

[Accessed 13 Feb 2021]

Research

[Who suffered most after deaths due to COVID-19? Prevalence and correlates of prolonged grief disorder in COVID-19 related bereaved adults](#)

Authors: Suqin Tang and Zhendong Xiang

11 February 2021

Health Affairs

Vol. 40, No. 1 January 2021

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

COVID-19 Response, Medicaid & More

[Reviewed earlier]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 22, Issue 2, December 2020

<https://www.hhrjournal.org/volume-22-issue-2-december-2020/>

Special Section: Big Data, Technology, Artificial Intelligence and the Right to Health

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 16 - Special Issue 1 - January 2021

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

SPECIAL ISSUE: The future of EU health law and policy

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 35, Issue Supplement_2, November 2020

https://academic.oup.com/heapol/issue/35/Supplement_2

SUPPLEMENT

Innovations in Implementation Research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 13 Feb 2021]

[No new digest content identified]

Human Gene Therapy

Volume 32, Issue 1-2 / January 2021

<https://www.liebertpub.com/toc/hum/32/1-2>

Special Issue: Gene and Cell Therapy for Inherited and Acquired Immune Deficiency

Guest Editor: Adrian J. Thrasher, PhD

[Reviewed earlier]

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 17, Issue 1, 2021

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

Research Paper

Article

[The intentions to get vaccinated against influenza and actual vaccine uptake among diabetic patients in Ningbo, China: identifying motivators and barriers](#)

Lixia Ye, Ting Fang, Jun Cui, Guanghui Zhu, Rui Ma, Yexiang Sun, Pingping Li, Hui Li, Hongjun Dong & Guozhang Xu

Pages: 106-118

Published online: 27 May 2020

Article

[Analysis of protective immune responses to seasonal influenza vaccination in HIV-infected individuals](#)

Ying Xia, Fuli Mi, Guoqiang Du & Shenghui Qin

Pages: 124-132

Published online: 15 May 2020

Article

[Incomplete vaccination and associated factors among children aged 12–23 months in South Africa: an analysis of the South African demographic and health survey 2016](#)

Duduzile Ndwandwe, Chukwudi A. Nnaji, Thandiwe Mashunye, Olalekan A. Uthman & Charles S. Wiysonge

Pages: 247-254

Published online: 23 Jul 2020

Article

[Chinese mothers' intention to vaccinate daughters against human papillomavirus \(HPV\), and their vaccine preferences: a study in Fujian Province](#)

Yulan Lin, Zhitai Su, Fulian Chen, Qinjian Zhao, Gregory D. Zimet, Haridah Alias, Shuqiong He, Zhijian Hu & Li Ping Wong

Pages: 304-315

Published online: 13 May 2020

Review

[Control of vaccine preventable diseases in Australian infants: reviewing a decade of experience with DTPa-HBV-IPV/Hib vaccine](#)

Julianne Bayliss, Michael Nissen, Damita Prakash, Peter Richmond, Kyu-Bin Oh & Terry Nolan

Pages: 176-190

Published online: 23 Jun 2020

[Close the gap for routine mumps vaccination in Japan](#)

Taito Kitano

Pages: 205-210

Published online: 12 Jun 2020

Infectious Agents and Cancer

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

[Accessed 13 Feb 2021]

[No new digest content identified]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty

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

[Accessed 13 Feb 2021]

[No new digest content identified]

International Health

SUPPLEMENT Volume 13, Issue Supplement_1, January 2021

https://academic.oup.com/inthealth/issue/13/Supplement_1

Two Decades of Public Health Achievements in Lymphatic Filariasis (2000–2020): Reflections, Progress and Future Challenges

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health

Vol 8, No 1 (2021) January 2021

<https://www.ijcmph.com/index.php/ijcmph/issue/view/72>

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[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Epidemiology

Volume 49, Issue 6, December 2020

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare

Volume 14 Issue 1 2021

<https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2056-4902/vol/14/iss/1>

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[New issue; No digest content identified]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

February 2021 Volume 103 p1-654

<https://www.ijidonline.com/current>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

JAMA

February 9, 2021, Vol 325, No. 6, Pages 507-596

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

Research Letter

[Prevalence and Outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Migrant Workers in Singapore](#)

Iain Beehuat Tan, MBBS, PhD; Clive Tan, MBBS, MPH; Li Yang Hsu, MBBS, MPH; et al.

free access has active quiz

JAMA. 2021;325(6):584-585. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.24071

This study examines the prevalence and outcomes of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection among migrant workers in Singapore.

Viewpoint

Health Policy

The COVID-19 Pandemic as an Opportunity to Ensure a More Successful Future for Science and Public Health

K. M. Venkat Narayan, MD, MSc; James W. Curran, MD, MPH; William H. Foege, MD, MPH

free access has active quiz

JAMA. 2021;325(6):525-526. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.23479

This Viewpoint suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic provides an opportunity to build trust in science and update federal agencies to improve public health and poses questions and offers recommendations for consideration.

Genetic Variants of SARS-CoV-2—What Do They Mean?

Adam S. Luring, MD, PhD; Emma B. Hodcroft, PhD

free access has active quiz has multimedia has audio

JAMA. 2021;325(6):529-531. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.27124

This Viewpoint discusses emerging genetic variants of SARS-CoV-2, including new “UK” and “mink” variants and the significance of the new variants to coronavirus transmissibility, spread, virulence, and efforts to vaccinate the population against COVID-19.

Mandating COVID-19 Vaccines

Lawrence O. Gostin, JD; Daniel A. Salmon, MPH, PhD; Heidi J. Larson, PhD

free access has active quiz has audio

JAMA. 2021;325(6):532-533. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.26553

This Viewpoint discusses whether US states, businesses, health care facilities, and schools and universities can mandate vaccination against coronavirus as a condition of employment or service.

...Mandating COVID-19 vaccines under an EUA is legally and ethically problematic. The act authorizing the FDA to issue EUAs requires the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to specify whether individuals may refuse the vaccine and the consequences for refusal. Vaccine mandates are unjustified because an EUA requires less safety and efficacy data than full Biologics License Application (BLA) approval. Individuals would also likely distrust vaccine mandates under emergency use, viewing it as ongoing medical research...

Conversations with Dr Bauchner: Mandating COVID-19 Vaccines—Ethical and Legal Considerations

Problems With Paying People to Be Vaccinated Against COVID-19

Emily A. Largent, JD, PhD, RN; Franklin G. Miller, PhD

free access has active quiz

JAMA. 2021;325(6):534-535. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.27121

This Viewpoint describes features of 2 proposals to pay US residents to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and proposes ethical and practical complications of the plans, arguing that they are morally suspect, likely unnecessary, and may be counterproductive.

JAMA Network

COVID-19 Update February 13, 2021

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

JAMA Pediatrics

February 2021, Vol 175, No. 2, Pages 115-216

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

[Reviewed earlier]

JBIR Evidence Synthesis

January 2021 - Volume 19 - Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Adolescent Health

February 2021 Volume 68 Issue 2 p223-428

<https://www.jahonline.org/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research

Vol. 70 (2021)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health

Volume 46, issue 1, February 2021

<https://link.springer.com/journal/10900/volumes-and-issues/46-1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Development Economics

Volume 149 March 2021

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-development-economics/vol/149/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics

Volume 15 Issue 5, December 2020

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

February 2021 - Volume 75 - 2
<https://jech.bmj.com/content/75/2>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine

Volume 13, Issue 4 Pages: 251-324 November 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 4, November 2020 Supplement
<https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/43320>
Table of Contents
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 23, issue 1, February 2021
<https://link.springer.com/journal/10903/volumes-and-issues/23-1>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 19, 2021_ Issue 1
<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wimm20/current>
Current Conflicts over Migration, Belonging and Membership: Classificatory Struggles Revisited
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 223, Issue 2, 15 January 2021
<https://academic.oup.com/jid/issue/223/2>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics

February 2021 - Volume 47 - 2
<http://jme.bmj.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews

Volume 8, Issue 1 (2021)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Pediatrics

February 2021 Volume 229 p1-316

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice

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

[Accessed 13 Feb 2021]

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Public Health Management & Practice

January/February 2021 - Volume 27 - Issue 1

<https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/pages/currenttoc.aspx>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Public Health Policy

Volume 41, issue 4, December 2020

<https://link.springer.com/journal/41271/volumes-and-issues/41-4>

[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

February 2021 Volume 18 Issue 175

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Travel Medicine

Volume 28, Issue 1, January 2021

<https://academic.oup.com/jtm/issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Virology

February 2021; Volume 95, Issue 4

<http://jvi.asm.org/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet

Feb 13, 2021 Volume 397 Number 10274 p555-640, e6

<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current>

Editorial

[Improving prisoner health for stronger public health](#)

The Lancet

Comment

[Urgent needs of low-income and middle-income countries for COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics](#)

Lancet Commission on COVID-19 Vaccines and Therapeutics Task Force Members

WHO and partners have learnt from the mis-steps in the response to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic¹ and established the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator to promote equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.² However, many high-income countries already have bilateral agreements with manufacturers of COVID-19 vaccines.³ The COVAX Facility of the ACT Accelerator has agreements to access 2 billion doses of WHO pre-qualified vaccines during 2021, but this represents only 20% of the vaccine needs of participating countries.⁴ Most low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) face difficulties in accessing and delivering vaccines and therapeutics for COVID-19 to their populations.⁵ COVAX will require decisive action by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, WHO, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), supported by the countries they serve and with financing for vaccine purchasing, to ensure people worldwide have equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.^{6, 7, 8}

For 80% of the populations in LMICs that will not benefit from COVAX-provided COVID-19 vaccines, finances for purchase or donations are needed. Government measures in response to COVID-19 and the broader global financial situation have led to increasing fiscal imbalances of heavily indebted countries.⁹ Multinational agencies, financial institutions, and wealthier countries should consider measures that could provide relief to indebted LMICs. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and others need to lead an international initiative to mobilise support for LMICs in need.

Many LMICs do not have an established platform for vaccinating their adult populations.¹⁰ Although it is feasible to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to health-care and other front-line essential workers, in some LMICs it will be difficult to effectively reach and vaccinate with two doses all elderly populations and individuals with co-morbidities, given insufficient mechanisms to identify such groups. Governments and technical leaders will need to use transparent, accountable, and unbiased processes when they make and explain evidence-based vaccine prioritisation decisions, while also building confidence in COVID-19 vaccines and engaging with all the stakeholders.

The ultracold chain requirements of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are likely to be an insurmountable hurdle in LMICs, outside of major cities. COVID-19 vaccine delivery will require considerable investment

of resources, health-care staff, and careful planning to avoid opportunity costs, including a disruption of routine health services and a decline in essential childhood vaccination coverage, which could result in outbreaks of measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases. There were more deaths from measles than Ebola virus disease in 2019 in the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, due to failure to maintain adequate childhood vaccinations.[11](#) The infrastructure for vaccination in many LMICs is already inadequate, as shown by the 19·7 million under-vaccinated infants globally, most of whom are in these countries.[12](#) Thus, preparation for all aspects of COVID-19 vaccine delivery in LMICs must begin now with the support of international partners.

Strengthening the capacity of LMICs to do clinical trials and promoting LMIC participation in research are also crucial.[13](#) More LMICs need to participate in future vaccine trials and in testing the clinical effectiveness of different therapeutic agents to ensure that interventions and implementation are suitable for local contexts.

Tracking the safety and effectiveness of different COVID-19 vaccines over time in various populations and settings will necessitate improvements in pharmacovigilance.[14](#) Regulatory authorities in many LMICs need to be strengthened and could benefit from a programme of national and international support, as well as regional cooperation and reliance mechanisms.[15](#) As part of internationally coordinated actions, COVID-19 technologies should be transferred to LMIC-based manufacturers, accompanied by regulatory guidance. Efforts to boost local manufacturing capacity in LMICs will contribute to equity, global solidarity, and global health security. India and South Africa have called for the suspension of intellectual property rights related to COVID-19 vaccines to improve access for LMICs, a move now supported by many other countries, but opposed by the pharmaceutical industry, which cites the disincentive to innovation.[16](#)

There are further challenges. Governments in LMICs with strong private health sectors, as those in high-income countries, will need to manage the inherent potential for inequity, whereby the rich could access COVID-19 vaccines before individuals with less access to private care who may be at increased risk of severe disease and death, such as older people and those with comorbidities. LMICs affected by war, civil conflict, economic crises, or natural disasters, or with large refugee populations or populations with special needs or vulnerabilities need additional support for vaccines and vaccination under extremely difficult operational conditions.

Re-examining global governance structures, including the UN and its Security Council, is much needed so that the voices and interests of billions of people in LMICs are better represented and recognised. Global support to multilateral institutions is essential to sustain their support to LMICs to facilitate vaccinations globally. The COVID-19 pandemic shows that no nation can stand alone. We are all part of a common humanity that requires us to respect our diverse experiences, cultures, and countries and forge partnerships that better serve the interests of all.

[Author conflicts and disclosures at title link above]

Correspondence

[COVID-19 vaccines for Palestinians](#)

Graham Watt, Rita Giacaman, Huda Zurayk, Espen Bjertness, Gerd Holmboe-Ottesen, Hala Ghattas, Iman Nuwayhid, Jennifer Leaning, John S Yudkin, Khamis Elessi, Richard Sullivan, Rima Afifi, Yousef S Khader, Harry S Shannon

The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health

Feb 2021 Volume 5 Number 2 p91-154, e3-e5

<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/issue/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Digital Health

Feb 2021 Volume 3 Number 2 e67-e134

<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landig/issue/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Global Health

Feb 2021 Volume 9 Number 2 e99-e217

<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/issue/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Infectious Diseases

Feb 2021 Volume 21 Number 2 p149-296, e16-e35

<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/issue/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Public Health

Feb 2021 Volume 6 Number 2 e82-e135

<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/issue/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Respiratory Medicine

Feb 2021 Volume 9 Number 2 p117-216, e11-e21

<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/issue/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 25, issue 2, February 2021

<https://link.springer.com/journal/10995/volumes-and-issues/25-2>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Medical Decision Making (MDM)

Volume 41 Issue 2, February 2021

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

Brief Reports

[Feasibility of Rapidly Developing and Widely Disseminating Patient Decision Aids to Respond to Urgent Decisional Needs due to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Dawn Stacey, Claire Ludwig, Patrick Archambault, Kevin Babulic, Nancy Edwards, Josée Lavoie, Samir Sinha, Annette M. O'Connor

First Published December 10, 2020; pp. 233–239

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy

Volume 98, Issue 4 Pages: 1021-1341, E1-E12 December 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14680009/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature

Volume 590 Issue 7845, 11 February 2021

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

Genome revolution

Editorial | 10 February 2021

[The next 20 years of human genomics must be more equitable and more open](#)

By re-committing to data sharing, researchers can fulfil the long-delayed promise of the Human Genome Project.

News Feature | 10 February 2021

[The broken promise that undermines human genome research](#)

Data sharing was a core principle that led to the success of the Human Genome Project 20 years ago. Now scientists are struggling to keep information free.

Kendall Powell

Comment | 10 February 2021

[Sequence three million genomes across Africa](#)

Capture the full scope of variation to improve health care, equity and medical research globally.

Ambroise Wonkam

Comment / 10 February 2021

[A wealth of discovery built on the Human Genome Project — by the numbers](#)

A new analysis traces the story of the draft genome's impact on genomics since 2001, linking its effects on publications, drug approvals and understanding of disease.

Alexander J. Gates, Deisy Morselli Gysi & Albert-László Barabási

Review Article | 10 February 2021

[Origins of modern human ancestry](#)

A Review describes the three key phases that define the origins of modern human ancestry, and highlights the importance of analysing both palaeoanthropological and genomic records to further improve our understanding of our evolutionary history.

Anders Bergström, Chris Stringer & Pontus Skoglund

Nature Biotechnology

Volume 39 Issue 2, February 2021

<https://www.nature.com/nbt/volumes/39/issues/2>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Nature Communications

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

(Accessed 13 Feb 2021)

[No new digest content identified]

Nature Genetics

Volume 53 Issue 2, February 2021

<https://www.nature.com/ng/volumes/53/issues/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Human Behaviour

Volume 5 Issue 1, January 2021

<https://www.nature.com/nathumbehav/volumes/5/issues/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Medicine

Volume 27 Issue 1, January 2021

<https://www.nature.com/nm/volumes/27/issues/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Reviews Genetics

Volume 22 Issue 2, February 2021

<https://www.nature.com/nrg/volumes/22/issues/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Reviews Immunology

Volume 21 Issue 2, February 2021

<https://www.nature.com/nri/volumes/21/issues/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Reviews Drug Discovery

Volume 20 Issue 2, February 2021

<https://www.nature.com/nrd/volumes/20/issues/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

New England Journal of Medicine

February 11, 2021 Vol. 384 No. 6

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

Original Article

Repurposed Antiviral Drugs for Covid-19 — Interim WHO Solidarity Trial Results

WHO Solidarity Trial Consortium

Abstract

Background

World Health Organization expert groups recommended mortality trials of four repurposed antiviral drugs — remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir, and interferon beta-1a — in patients hospitalized with coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

Methods

We randomly assigned inpatients with Covid-19 equally between one of the trial drug regimens that was locally available and open control (up to five options, four active and the local standard of care). The intention-to-treat primary analyses examined in-hospital mortality in the four pairwise comparisons of each trial drug and its control (drug available but patient assigned to the same care without that drug). Rate ratios for death were calculated with stratification according to age and status regarding mechanical ventilation at trial entry.

Results

At 405 hospitals in 30 countries, 11,330 adults underwent randomization; 2750 were assigned to receive remdesivir, 954 to hydroxychloroquine, 1411 to lopinavir (without interferon), 2063 to interferon (including 651 to interferon plus lopinavir), and 4088 to no trial drug. Adherence was 94 to 96% midway through treatment, with 2 to 6% crossover. In total, 1253 deaths were reported (median day of death, day 8; interquartile range, 4 to 14). The Kaplan–Meier 28-day mortality was 11.8% (39.0% if the patient was already receiving ventilation at randomization and 9.5% otherwise). Death occurred in 301 of 2743 patients receiving remdesivir and in 303 of 2708 receiving its control (rate ratio, 0.95; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.81 to 1.11; $P=0.50$), in 104 of 947 patients receiving hydroxychloroquine and in 84 of 906 receiving its control (rate ratio, 1.19; 95% CI, 0.89 to 1.59; $P=0.23$), in 148 of 1399 patients receiving lopinavir and in 146 of 1372 receiving its control (rate ratio, 1.00; 95% CI, 0.79 to 1.25; $P=0.97$), and in 243 of 2050 patients receiving interferon and in 216 of 2050 receiving its control (rate ratio, 1.16; 95% CI, 0.96 to 1.39; $P=0.11$). No drug definitely reduced mortality, overall or in any subgroup, or reduced initiation of ventilation or hospitalization duration.

Conclusions

These remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir, and interferon regimens had little or no effect on hospitalized patients with Covid-19, as indicated by overall mortality, initiation of ventilation, and duration of hospital stay. (Funded by the World Health Organization; ISRCTN Registry number, [ISRCTN83971151](#). opens in new tab; ClinicalTrials.gov number, [NCT04315948](#). opens in new tab.)

Original Article

Randomized Trial of a Vaccine Regimen to Prevent Chronic HCV Infection

Kimberly Page, Ph.D., M.P.H., et al

...In this trial, the HCV vaccine regimen did not cause serious adverse events, produced HCV-specific T-cell responses, and lowered the peak HCV RNA level, but it did not prevent chronic HCV infection. (Funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; ClinicalTrials.gov number, [NCT01436357](#). opens in new tab.)

Pediatrics

Vol. 147, Issue 2 1 Feb 2021

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Pharmacoeconomics

Volume 39, issue 2, February 2021

<https://link.springer.com/journal/40273/volumes-and-issues/39-2>

[Reviewed earlier]

PLoS Genetics

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

(Accessed 13 Feb 2021)

[No new digest content identified]

PLoS Medicine

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

(Accessed 13 Feb 2021)

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PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

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[No new digest content identified]

PLoS One

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

[Accessed 13 Feb 2021]

[Active pharmacovigilance of the seasonal trivalent influenza vaccine produced by Instituto Butantan: A prospective cohort study of five target groups](#)

Tazio Vanni, Beatriz da Costa Thomé, Mayra Martho Moura de Oliveira, Vera Lúcia Gattás, Maria da Graça Salomão, Marcelo Eiji Koike, Maria Beatriz Bastos Lucchesi, Patrícia Emília Braga, Roberta de Oliveira Piorelli, Juliana Yukari Koidara Viscondi, Gabriella Mondini, Anderson da Silva, Heloísa Maximo Espínola, Joane do Prado Santos, Samanta Hosokawa Dias de Nóvoa Rocha, Lily Yin Weckx, Olga Menang, Muriel Soquet, Alexander Roberto Precioso

Research Article | published 11 Feb 2021 PLOS ONE

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0246540>

[Knowledge, attitudes, and practices of seasonal influenza vaccination in postpartum women, Honduras](#)

Zachary J. Madewell, Rafael Chacón-Fuentes, Jorge Jara, Homer Mejía-Santos, Ida-Berenice Molina, Juan Pablo Alvis-Estrada, Rosa Coello-Licon, Belinda Montejo

Research Article | published 11 Feb 2021 PLOS ONE
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0246385>

Knowledge, attitudes, and practices of seasonal influenza vaccination among older adults in nursing homes and daycare centers, Honduras

Zachary J. Madewell, Rafael Chacón-Fuentes, Jorge Jara, Homer Mejía-Santos, Ida-Berenice Molina, Juan Pablo Alvis-Estrada, Raul Espinal

Research Article | published 11 Feb 2021 PLOS ONE
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0246382>

Prioritizing investments in rapid response vaccine technologies for emerging infections: A portfolio decision analysis

Dimitrios Gouglas, Kevin Marsh

Research Article | published 11 Feb 2021 PLOS ONE
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0246235>

The epidemiologic and economic impact of a quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine in Thailand

Wichai Termrungruanglert, Nipon Khemapech, Apichai Vasuratna, Piyalamporn Havanond, Preyanuch Deebukkham, Amit Sharad Kulkarni, Andrew Pavelyev

Research Article | published 11 Feb 2021 PLOS ONE
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0245894>

Determinants of vaccination dropout among children 12-23 months age in north Gondar zone, northwest Ethiopia, 2019

Muluken Genetu Chanie, Gojjam Eshetie Ewunetie, Asnakew Molla, Amare Muche

Research Article | published 08 Feb 2021 PLOS ONE
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0246018>

PLoS Pathogens

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

[Accessed 13 Feb 2021]

[No new digest content identified]

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

February 09, 2021; vol. 118 no. 6

<https://www.pnas.org/content/118/6>

Population Biology

Open Access

Cell-phone traces reveal infection-associated behavioral change

Ymir Vigfusson, Thorgerir A. Karlsson, Derek Onken, Congzheng Song, Atli F. Einarsson, Nishant Kishore, Rebecca M. Mitchell, Ellen Brooks-Pollock, Gudrun Sigmundsdottir, and Leon Danon

PNAS February 9, 2021 118 (6) e2005241118; <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2005241118>

Significance

Infectious disease control critically depends on surveillance and predictive modeling of outbreaks. We argue that routine mobile-phone use can provide a source of infectious disease information via the measurements of behavioral changes in call-detail records (CDRs) collected for billing. In anonymous CDR metadata linked with individual health information from the A(H1N1)pdm09 outbreak in Iceland, we observe that people moved significantly less and placed fewer, but longer, calls in the few days around diagnosis than normal. These results suggest that disease-transmission models should explicitly consider behavior changes during outbreaks and advance mobile-phone traces as a potential universal data source for such efforts.

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 36 - Issue 1 - February 2021

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Preventive Medicine

Volume 143 February 2021

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/preventive-medicine/vol/143/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Proceedings of the Royal Society B

10 February 2021 Volume 288 Issue 1944

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

[New issue: No digest content identified]

Public Health

Volume 190 Pages e1-e30, 1-176 (January 2021)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/public-health/vol/190/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Ethics

Volume 13, Issue 3, November 2020

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Reports

Volume 136 Issue 1, January/February 2021

<https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/phrg/136/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

Volume 31 Issue 3, February 2021

<http://qhr.sagepub.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Research Ethics

Volume 17 Issue 1, January 2021
<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/reab/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Reproductive Health

<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content>
[Accessed 13 Feb 2021]
[No new digest content identified]

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

<https://www.paho.org/journal/en>
[No new digest content identified]

Risk Analysis

Volume 41, Issue 1 Pages: 1-221 January 2021
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15396924/current>
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Risk Management and Healthcare Policy

<https://www.dovepress.com/risk-management-and-healthcare-policy-archive56>
[Accessed 13 Feb 2021]
[No new digest content identified]

Science

12 February 2021 Vol 371, Issue 6530
<http://www.sciencemag.org/current.dtl>
Policy Forum

Strengthen scientific integrity under the Biden administration

By Jacob M. Carter, Gretchen T. Goldman, Andrew A. Rosenberg, Genna Reed, Anita Desikan, Taryn MacKinney

Science 12 Feb 2021 : 668-671 Restricted Access

Accountability must extend to highest levels of leadership

Summary

At his victory speech on 7 November 2020, U.S. president Joseph R. Biden described that the will of the people was in part to “marshal the forces of science.” He declared that his plans to beat the novel coronavirus would be built on a bedrock of science. On 27 January, the Biden administration issued a presidential memorandum to strengthen scientific integrity and evidence-based decision-making (1).

These are great steps to bring science back to the table, but the administration still has a lot of work ahead to improve the role of science in government decision-making. The records of abuses of the past 4 years and data from surveys provide evidence that under the Trump administration, scientists were censored, scientific information was ignored, and reports and publications were unduly suppressed—all actions that undermined the appropriate use of science in decision-making processes. This occurred despite many federal agencies already having scientific integrity policies, communications policies, and well-established science advisory systems in place to promote an appropriate role for science in agency decision-making. But from these setbacks, we can draw lessons and suggest a road map for moving forward.

Science Translational Medicine

10 February 2021 Vol 13, Issue 580

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

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 269 January 2021

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/social-science-and-medicine/vol/269/suppl/C>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Systematic Reviews

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

[Accessed 13 Feb 2021]

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

[No new digest content identified]

Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics

Volume 41, issue 4, August 2020

<https://link.springer.com/journal/11017/volumes-and-issues/41-4>

Special Issue: Philosophical investigations into the essence of pediatric suffering

[Reviewed earlier]

Travel Medicine and Infectious Diseases

Volume 38 November–December 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/travel-medicine-and-infectious-disease/vol/38/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

Volume 26, Issue 2 Pages: i-iv, 121-255 February 2021

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Vaccine

Volume 39, Issue 8 Pages 1173-1358 (22 February 2021)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/vaccine/vol/39/issue/8>

Editorial Full text access

[Vaccines, masks, distancing and credibility: An urgent warning for pandemic management](#)

Paul H. Axelsen, Gregory A. Poland

Pages 1173-1174

Discussion Full text access

[US FDA erratic approach to placebo-controlled trials after issuing an emergency use authorization for a COVID-19 vaccine](#)

Rafael Dal-Ré

Pages 1180-1182

Short communication Open access

[Advancing innovation for vaccine manufacturers from developing countries: Prioritization, barriers, opportunities](#)

Benoit Hayman, Alex Bowles, Beth Evans, Elizabeth Eyermann, ... Sonia Pagliusi

Pages 1190-1194

Short communication Full text access

[Potential impact of COVID-19 pandemic on vaccination coverage in children: A case study of measles-containing vaccine administration in the United States \(US\)](#)

Cristina Carias, Manjiri Pawaskar, Mawuli Nyaku, James H. Conway, ... Ya-Ting Chen

Pages 1201-1204

Research article Abstract only

[Economic analysis for national immunization program planning: A case of rotavirus vaccines in Burundi](#)

Fulgence Niyibitegeka, Arthorn Riewpaiboon, Sitaporn Youngkong, Montarat Thavorncharoensap

Pages 1272-1282

Research article Abstract only

[A reactive vaccination campaign with single dose oral cholera vaccine \(OCV\) during a cholera outbreak in Cameroon](#)

Adidja Amani, Collins A. Tatang, Christian N. Bayiha, Marcel Woung, ... Emmanuel Epee Douba

Pages 1290-1296

Vaccines — Open Access Journal

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

(Accessed 13 Feb 2021)

Open Access Article

[Rotavirus Vaccination of Infants Delayed and Limited within the National Immunization Programme in the Netherlands: An Opportunity Lost](#)

by [Florian Zeevat](#), [Evgeni Dvortsin](#), [Abrham Wondimu](#), [Jan C. Wilschut](#), [Cornelis Boersma](#) and [Maarten J. Postma](#)

Vaccines 2021, 9(2), 144; <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9020144> (registering DOI) - 10 Feb 2021
Abstract

In this study, we estimated the benefits of rotavirus vaccination for infants had the rotavirus vaccine been introduced in the Netherlands as of its market authorization in 2006. An age-structured, deterministic cohort model was developed to simulate different birth cohorts over a period...

Value in Health

February 2021 Volume 24 Issue 2 p145-312

<https://www.valueinhealthjournal.com/current>

THEMED SECTION: OPIOID MISUSE: A GLOBAL CRISIS

[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 13 Feb 2021

Ideas

How to Beat the Pandemic by Summer

Averting a wave of new COVID-19 fatalities could require some dramatic, untested, and controversial strategies.

13 Feb 2021

Derek Thompson Staff writer at The Atlantic

After nearly a year of social isolation and sacrifice in the long war on COVID-19, the end stage of the pandemic is finally in sight. Millions of Americans are being vaccinated each week, and the number of coronavirus-related hospitalizations in the United States has plunged by more than 40 percent in the past month.

But this final stage will still be lethal—perhaps more so than most people imagine. More Americans were reported dead of COVID-19 on Friday, February 5, than on any day in all of 2020. The U.S. is still on pace to have more than 80,000 COVID-19 fatalities a month. Meanwhile, variants of the coronavirus that emerged in the United Kingdom, Brazil, and South Africa are spreading quickly. These variants are

more contagious and more deadly than the original virus, and they threaten to stall or even reverse our progress.

"If we don't accelerate the pace of vaccinations, we're looking at an apocalypse," says Peter Hotez, a vaccine scientist at Baylor College of Medicine. "We've got to figure out a way to get ahead of the variants to avoid 1 million deaths by the end of this year."...

Health

What If We Never Reach Herd Immunity?

Hitting the threshold might actually be impossible. But vaccines can still help end the pandemic.

Sarah Zhang, February 9, 2021

BBC

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

HARDtalk

Kirill Dmitriev: Russia's Sputnik V a vaccine for humankind?

Kirill Dmitriev, head of a ten billion dollar sovereign wealth fund which backed Sputnik V, on Russia's willingness to share its vaccine in the global fight against Covid19

15 February 2021 :: Audio - 23 minutes

Covid: Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to be tested on children

13 Feb 2021

A new trial is to test how well the Oxford-AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine works in children.

Some 300 volunteers will take part, with the first vaccinations in the trial taking place later in February.

Researchers will assess whether the jab produces a strong immune response in children aged between six and 17.

The vaccine is one of two being used to protect against serious illness and death from Covid in the UK, along with the Pfizer-BioNTech jab.

As many as 240 children will receive the vaccine - and the others a control meningitis jab - when the trial gets under way...

The Economist

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

Feb 13th 2021

How well will vaccines work?

Covid-19 may become endemic. Governments need to start thinking about how to cope

EVEN MIRACLES have their limits. Vaccines against the coronavirus have arrived sooner and worked better than many people dared hope. Without them, the pandemic threatened to take more than 150m lives. And yet, while the world rolls up a sleeve, it has become clear that expecting vaccines to see off covid-19 is mistaken. Instead the disease will circulate for years, and seems likely to become endemic.

Fear, uncertainty and doubt

Vaccine hesitancy is putting progress against covid-19 at risk

If the world is to tame the virus, the doubts will need to be fought

Vaccine efficacy

When covid-19 vaccines meet the new variants of the virus

A lot depends on blocking transmission not just disease

Financial Times

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

Covid-19 vaccines

Can Covax deliver the vaccines much of the world needs?

February 12, 2021

Coronavirus Business Update

Developing world struggles to get its share of Covid vaccines

February 12, 2021

Why the world needs a Covid-19 exit strategy

The public needs to know when, how and how quickly restrictions will be lifted

The editorial board

February 12, 2021

February is one of the busiest months of the year for travel bookings in the northern hemisphere. Families plan how they will spend their summer holidays and try to grab a bargain spot in the sun. Not this year, however. The uncertainty over how long coronavirus restrictions will remain in place means that while some have taken a risk and booked a break, most are sitting on the sidelines, unsure of what to do. This confusion is emblematic of the wider uncertainties that exist over the reopening of economies. Tired of severe curbs of civil liberties — which have lasted far longer than most anticipated — many people are asking when governments will finally set out a path for life to return to something like normal, how it will happen, and how fast.

This anxiety has only been heightened in recent weeks by signs that in some cases restrictions, instead of easing as lockdowns take effect, are in fact being toughened to guard against more infectious and possibly more deadly new mutations of the virus. In the UK, tough border controls will take effect from Monday for people arriving in the country, including jail terms for those offending. Germany is poised to reinstate border controls with some areas of Austria and the Czech Republic, while in Australia the state of Victoria has announced a snap five-day lockdown after an outbreak.

A global, well-funded vaccination campaign is the only way to end the pandemic for good. But despite relatively high inoculation rates in some countries, it is now clear that vaccinating enough people to achieve herd immunity will take much longer than hoped. Covax, the global initiative to distribute vaccines equitably, aims to deliver at least 2bn doses by the end of this year but that will not cover much more than a third of its target population. The new variants mean that some of the measures we have become accustomed to during lockdown will have to stay in place for some time. While some curbs on freedom will be accepted, others — bans on foreign travel and on seeing family and friends — cannot be tolerated indefinitely. A point will come where the public will rebel against restrictions that make life unbearably bleak. In the UK, scientific advisers are calling for a debate on the terms of allowing a “big wave of infection”.

The solution is for politicians to provide as much certainty as is possible. They must make it clear what will trigger the lifting of restrictions and what will not be possible in the short-to-medium term. In the

UK, the government has so far produced little evidence of the costs and benefits of current restrictions. Priorities must be set, supported by appropriate economic and epidemiological modelling. Concern is rife over the impact of the lockdowns on young people and the loss of education. Reopening schools must therefore be a priority. Teachers will need to be vaccinated. Fast testing and accurate and quick contact tracing is critical. How to reboot travel must also be a consideration. For this to happen, vaccination passports would be essential, but with the aim of facilitating travel, not prohibiting travel. A recent policy document proposes that areas in Europe where the virus has been eliminated are declared green zones in which civil liberties are restored. These zones expand as more regions achieve elimination. Such an approach, while appealing, will require careful, global co-ordination.

The pandemic has severely damaged economies and societies. As far as is scientifically possible, the public deserves to know the route out of current restrictions. It is time for politicians to play their part and move from crisis response to forward planning.

Opinion Coronavirus pandemic

Another pandemic need never happen

Today's technology is such that scientists can credibly make this claim for the first time in history

Richard Hatchett

The writer is chief executive of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

... Humankind cannot prevent viruses from jumping the species barrier and on to humans. But with the right research and development investments, and a deliberate focus on eliminating barriers to rapid vaccine development, I believe we can eliminate the risk of a pandemic with the impact of Covid-19 from occurring again. It might cost tens of billions of dollars. But as a global insurance policy, that has got to be a bargain.

The Big Read Covid-19 vaccines

Vaccines vs variants: the race to immunise the developing world

The spread of new Covid strains has made it even more urgent to launch rapid vaccination programmes in poorer countries

David Pilling in London, Stephanie Findlay in New Delhi and Bryan Harris in São Paulo

February 11 2021

Opinion Coronavirus treatment

The west should pay attention to Russia and China's vaccine diplomacy

Beijing and Moscow are using jabs to court poorer nations — but the EU and US are barely noticing

Anne-Sylvaine Chassan

February 10 2021

Coronavirus pandemic

WHO dismisses coronavirus lab leak theory as 'extremely unlikely'

Scientists visiting Chinese city of Wuhan conclude that bats were most plausible source of virus

Christian Shepherd in Beijing

February 9 2021

Forbes

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

Editors' Pick /

13 Feb 2021

Why Vaccine Passports Are 'Inevitable,' Explained By Tony Blair

The former British Prime Minister says they are the fastest way back to normal.

By Suzanne Rowan Kelleher Forbes Staff

Foreign Affairs

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

[No new, unique, relevant content]

Foreign Policy

<http://foreignpolicy.com/>

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

Argument

Why Europe Is Falling Behind on Vaccines

It's a perfect storm of under procurement, overzealous regulators, and anti-vaccine populations.

By Eyck Freymann, Elettra Ardisino

| February 8, 2021, 12:02 PM

The Guardian

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

[No new, unique, relevant content]

New Yorker

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

Our Local Correspondents

Andrew Cuomo's Refusal to Vaccinate Inmates Is Indefensible

A new lawsuit argues that withholding the COVID-19 vaccine from New York's prisoners puts lives in danger, threatens public health, and endangers civil rights.

By Eric Lach 13 Feb 2021

New York Times

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

World

California extends vaccine eligibility to people with disabilities after backlash.

The state will extend Covid-19 vaccinations to people over 16 who are debilitated or immunocompromised by cancer and other diseases and chronic conditions.

By Shawn Hubler Feb 12

Europe

With the Economy on the Ropes, Hungary Goes All In on Mass Vaccination

Hungary became the first European Union country to administer Russia's Sputnik vaccine, and will soon start with one from China — posing a challenge to the bloc's joint vaccination strategy.

By Benjamin Novak Feb 12

U.S.

'Open season' for vaccine eligibility could come in April, Fauci says.

Dr. Anthony Fauci said most members of the general public could become eligible to get the vaccine in April, but it would take "several more months" after that to distribute shots.

By Jacey Fortin Feb 11

World

Vaccines are the new diplomatic currency, and other news from around the world.

By Mujib Mashal and Vivian Yee Feb 11

Washington Post

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

Lack of health services and transportation impede access to vaccine in communities of color

Akilah Johnson · Health · Feb 13, 2021

Brazil governors seek own vaccine supplies as stocks run low

Feb 13, 2021

SAO PAULO — Brazilian state governors are pursuing their own vaccine supply plans, with some expressing concern that President Jair Bolsonaro's government won't deliver the shots required to avoid interrupting immunization efforts.

Governors are under pressure from mayors, some of whose vaccine stocks have already been depleted, including three cities in the metropolitan area of Rio de Janeiro. Northeastern Bahia state's capital Salvador suspended vaccination on Thursday because supplies are dwindling. Brazil's two biggest cities, Rio and Sao Paulo, are expected to be without shots in a matter of days...

Biden says 300 million Americans can be vaccinated by July

National · Feb 11, 2021

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Think Tanks et al

Brookings

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

Up Front

Rich countries have a moral obligation to help poor countries get vaccines, but catastrophic scenarios are overrated

Dany Bahar

Thursday, February 11, 2021

News Release

Brookings and Tsinghua University host high-level roundtable on US-China collaboration on COVID-19 prevention and treatment

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Center for Global Development [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Publication

A COVID Vaccine Certificate: Building on Lessons from Digital ID for the Digital Yellow Card

2/11/21

COVID-19 vaccination efforts are well and truly underway across the world. In addition to those in Europe and North America, vaccination campaigns are gathering pace across China, India, Russia, and the Middle East, though lagging in many other, mostly poor, countries. As more start scaling up their own programs and the number of vaccinated people increases over the coming year, a COVID Vaccine Certificate is likely to become an important tool to help monitor and manage the rollout of vaccinations and get national economies back on track.

February 10, 2021

Release COVID-19 Vaccine Contracts

Drugs created with billions in government support, bought almost exclusively by governments and international agencies are shrouded in secrecy: who is paying how much for delivery of what by when is a matter of guesswork and estimate.

Charles Kenny

Chatham House [to 13 Feb 2021]

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

Expert Comment 11 February 2021

Time to Clamp Down on Dangers of Vaccine Nationalism

Scientific breakthroughs are not enough, pharmaceutical companies and political leaders must ensure vital commodities reach everyone. But they are failing.

Robert Yates, Director, Global Health Programme; Executive Director, Centre for Universal Health

CSIS

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

Commentary

Build Back Better: Next Steps for Africa's Response to Covid-19

February 12, 2021 | By Laird Treiber

On Demand Event

Online Event: A Global Approach to Covid-19 Vaccination

February 10, 2021

Council on Foreign Relations

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

February 11, 2021

Cybersecurity

[The Dysfunctional Vaccine Rollout Is Creating Even More Opportunities for Cybercriminals](#)

It is time for authorities to partner with platforms for safer, more efficient scheduling and ensure that every appointment goes to someone who will use it.

Blog Post by Guest Blogger for Net Politics

Kaiser Family Foundation

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

Accessed 13 Feb 2021

February 12, 2021 *News Release*

[Reasons Vary Why People Want to "Wait and See" Before Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine.](#)

Nearly a third (31%) of the public says they want to "wait and see" how a COVID-19 vaccine works for others before they would get it, representing a critical group for efforts aimed at boosting vaccinations. The latest analysis from the KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor highlights how attitudes differ by...

February 8, 2021 *News Release*

[At This Early Stage of the COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out, Most Older Adults Have Not Yet Been Vaccinated As Supply Remains Limited](#)

With the COVID-19 vaccination rollout still in its early stages, a KFF analysis finds that most older adults have not yet been vaccinated against the potentially deadly virus, as vaccine supplies remain limited and most states have only recently begun to make people 65 and older eligible. Since January 12,...

February 8, 2021 *News Release*

[In Their Own Words: What People are Saying about Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

As the country broadens COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts, the latest research from the KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor finds that side effects, including allergic reactions and long-term consequences, are the public's top concern about getting vaccinated when asked to describe what worries them in their own words. The latest report from...

World Economic Forum [to 13 Feb 2021]

<https://agenda.weforum.org/news/>

Media

[No new relevant content]

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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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