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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Request email delivery of the pdf: If you would like to receive the PDF of each edition via email [Constant Contact], please send your request to david.r.curry@centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.org.

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**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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**Highlights from the Meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization - 22-24 March 2021**
*(Full report will be published in the Weekly Epidemiological Record on 4 June 2021, and only the wording of the full report should be considered as final.)*

**Ebola Vaccines**
:: Two Ebola vaccines have been licensed. One has been WHO prequalified (rVSVΔG-ZEBOV-GP vaccine) and the other is under review (Ad26.ZEBOV and MVA-BN-Filo Ebola vaccines administered as a heterologous prime boost 8 weeks apart).
:: In the context of an Ebola Vaccine Disease (EVD) outbreak response, SAGE made a recommendation for off-label use of the two Ebola vaccines to include infants and children from birth to 17 years of age, as well as pregnant and lactating women.
:: SAGE reconfirmed its previous recommendation to use a ring vaccination strategy for EVD outbreak response.
:: Given current vaccine supply constraints and the unknown duration of protection, widespread preventive use of Ebola vaccines in the absence of an outbreak is currently not recommended.
:: SAGE requested the development of a learning agenda to more broadly examine the potential preventive role of Ebola vaccines and to provide more clarity on vaccine use and vaccine demand in the longer term.
:: SAGE urged manufacturers to increase production capacity to meet the expected vaccine demand resulting from the recommendations.

**Polio**
:: SAGE was pleased to note a significant drop in wild poliovirus detections in the endemic areas during the past 6 months. However, SAGE expressed concern about the inability of the program to effectively control outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in Africa and Asia. SAGE noted that the first cVDPV2 outbreak response campaign with novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) was conducted in Nigeria in March 2021.
:: SAGE recommended that WHO prequalified Sabin-based IPV may be used interchangeably with the traditional Salk-based IPV. SAGE agreed with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative plan for transition from initial to wider nOPV2 use for response to cVDPV2 outbreaks, contingent on safety and genetic stability reviews.
SAGE recommended that vigorous efforts be made to improve inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) coverage in locations at risk of cVDPV2 outbreaks to reduce the number of susceptible children before transmission or outbreaks can occur.

SAGE urged all countries at risk of cVDPV2 outbreaks to prepare to meet the criteria for use of nOPV2 and to complete a readiness assessment.

SAGE emphasized that the priority for countries experiencing cVDPV2 outbreaks is to conduct high quality outbreak responses without delay, with whichever oral polio vaccine is available to them.

**COVID-19 Vaccines**

**Review of interim data on Sinopharm and Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine products**

Interim analyses of clinical trial data for two inactivated COVID-19 vaccines, one from Sinovac and one from Sinopharm, were presented to SAGE. Both vaccines are already in use in many countries, but neither product has received authorization by a stringent regulatory authority. Both companies have submitted dossiers for their products to WHO for emergency use listing. SAGE will consider policy recommendations for each vaccine once emergency use listing by WHO is obtained. Vaccines demonstrated safety and good efficacy against symptomatic COVID-19 disease but both vaccines lacked data in older age groups and in persons with comorbidities. Post-introduction vaccine effectiveness and safety studies will be needed to address the impact on those sub-populations.

**Review of case definitions and clinical endpoints used in trials for COVID-19 vaccines**

SAGE noted that COVID-19 vaccine efficacy results from different trials cannot be directly compared against each other. They must be interpreted in the context of study designs (including case definitions, clinical endpoints, access to testing), target populations, and COVID-19 epidemiologic conditions (including circulation of variants of concern).

SAGE therefore requested that COVID-19 vaccine communications avoid direct comparisons of vaccine efficacies between COVID-19 vaccine products and instead discuss vaccines in their totality, taking into consideration their characteristics with regards to vaccine logistics, programmatic ease and safety in addition to vaccine efficacy.

**COVID-19 Variants**

SAGE requested that data on performance against variants of concern (VOCs) be gathered for all COVID-19 vaccines.

Methods and approaches to collect data on vaccine performance against VOCs should be harmonized and laboratory, clinical and observational data should be triangulated.

If VOCs significantly change the performance of vaccines, implications for vaccination strategies will need to be considered.

**COVID-19 Vaccination and Early Learning**

SAGE noted that it was valuable for countries to share lessons learned from COVID-19 vaccine rollout in order to benefit from each other’s experiences.

Introduction of COVID-19 vaccination and reaching adults for vaccination is complex. This effort benefits from strong political will; comprehensive communication and community engagement; robust microplanning; interoperable digital tools which allow registration, safety monitoring, vaccine stock management, follow-up reminders, and vaccination certificates; and which engages partners and stakeholders, including the private sector.

Introduction of COVID-19 vaccination should be taken as an opportunity for strengthening broader immunization and health systems to resolve existing weaknesses and to meet future needs for robust essential health services.
COVID-19 Vaccine safety
:: To date, post-introduction safety data from COVID-19 vaccines give assurance that safety surveillance is performing well and that rare adverse events are being captured. The response to the global pandemic has contributed to the strengthening of safety monitoring systems at global, regional and national levels.
:: Safety signals for the four COVID-19 vaccines with WHO interim recommendations for use that were analysed by the Global Advisory Committee for Vaccine SafetyCOVID-19 subcommittee show that the overall benefits in preventing severe disease and deaths from SARS-COV-2 infection remain favourable and outweigh any identified risks with these vaccines.
:: Appropriate communication on the benefit-risk profile of COVID-19 vaccines remains crucial to maintain confidence in immunization programmes and to avoid vaccine hesitancy. Furthermore, there is a need to carefully consider the negative consequences of rigorously applying precautionary principles to suspend vaccinations while a safety signal is still being investigated.

Measles Rubella
:: SAGE recognized that measles control and elimination efforts need significant improvement. Current measles and rubella policies are appropriate, but there are major issues related to policy implementation and sub-national heterogeneity. Given the ongoing and increasing risk of measles outbreaks, SAGE supported urgent implementation of the Measles Outbreaks Strategic Response Plan.
:: SAGE strongly advised WHO and partners to maintain resources for measles and rubella efforts and to restore those that have been redeployed to the COVID-19 response, given the growing immunity gaps and increasing risk of measles outbreaks.
:: SAGE strongly advocated more research and innovation on measles and rubella, including faster progress on subnational data science and the development of measles rubella microarray patch vaccines and Rapid Diagnostic Tests as potential game-changers.
:: SAGE recommends measles rubella andCOVID-19 vaccine co-administration studies be planned and executed to facilitate health worker immunization and eventually measles rubella vaccination catch-up as COVID-19 vaccination roll out extends to younger age groups.

Vaccine Acceptance and Uptake
:: SAGE was presented with an update on the field of work in relation to acceptance and uptake of vaccination, and a summary of work currently underway to develop tools and guidance to measure and address behavioural and social drivers of vaccination. Workout puts will include core indicators as well as corresponding interventions most likely to affect attitudes, intentions and uptake.
:: Much has been learned in recent years on how to equitably and sustainably drive vaccine acceptance and uptake for vaccination, particularly with regards to childhood vaccination.
:: The latest evidence and knowledge have enabled development of a framework to illustrate that uptake is affected by what people think and feel, social influences, motivation, and practical/logistical factors. This framework enables a holistic determination of the full range of possible drivers to enable comprehensiveness in the measures.
:: The current context (given the challenges and opportunities for both routine immunization and for COVID-19 vaccination) highlights the importance of supporting programmes to gather and use behavioural and social data to determine how different factors contribute to under-vaccination, and to identify evidence-based interventions that are prioritized and adapted locally.
Joint Statement – “International Pandemic Treaty”

COVID-19 shows why united action is needed for more robust international health architecture
30 March 2021
[Editor’s text bolding]

The COVID-19 pandemic is the biggest challenge to the global community since the 1940s. At that time, following the devastation of two world wars, political leaders came together to forge the multilateral system. The aims were clear: to bring countries together, to dispel the temptations of isolationism and nationalism, and to address the challenges that could only be achieved together in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, namely peace, prosperity, health and security.

Today, we hold the same hope that as we fight to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic together, we can build a more robust international health architecture that will protect future generations. There will be other pandemics and other major health emergencies. No single government or multilateral agency can address this threat alone. The question is not if, but when. Together, we must be better prepared to predict, prevent, detect, assess and effectively respond to pandemics in a highly coordinated fashion. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a stark and painful reminder that nobody is safe until everyone is safe.

We are, therefore, committed to ensuring universal and equitable access to safe, efficacious and affordable vaccines, medicines and diagnostics for this and future pandemics. Immunization is a global public good and we will need to be able to develop, manufacture and deploy vaccines as quickly as possible.

This is why the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) was set up in order to promote equal access to tests, treatments and vaccines and support health systems across the globe. ACT-A has delivered on many aspects but equitable access is not achieved yet. There is more we can do to promote global access.

To that end, we believe that nations should work together towards a new international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response.

Such a renewed collective commitment would be a milestone in stepping up pandemic preparedness at the highest political level. It would be rooted in the constitution of the World Health Organization, drawing in other relevant organizations key to this endeavour, in support of the principle of health for all. Existing global health instruments, especially the International Health Regulations, would underpin such a treaty, ensuring a firm and tested foundation on which we can build and improve.

The main goal of this treaty would be to foster an all-of-government and all-of-society approach, strengthening national, regional and global capacities and resilience to future pandemics. This includes greatly enhancing international cooperation to improve, for example, alert systems, data-sharing, research, and local, regional and global production and distribution of medical and public health counter measures, such as vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and personal protective equipment.
It would also include recognition of a “One Health” approach that connects the health of humans, animals and our planet. And such a treaty should lead to more mutual accountability and shared responsibility, transparency and cooperation within the international system and with its rules and norms.

To achieve this, we will work with Heads of State and governments globally and all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. We are convinced that it is our responsibility, as leaders of nations and international institutions, to ensure that the world learns the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At a time when COVID-19 has exploited our weaknesses and divisions, we must seize this opportunity and come together as a global community for peaceful cooperation that extends beyond this crisis. Building our capacities and systems to do this will take time and require a sustained political, financial and societal commitment over many years.

Our solidarity in ensuring that the world is better prepared will be our legacy that protects our children and grandchildren and minimizes the impact of future pandemics on our economies and our societies.

**Pandemic preparedness needs global leadership for a global health system fit for this millennium. To make this commitment a reality, we must be guided by solidarity, fairness, transparency, inclusiveness and equity.**

By:
J. V. Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji;
Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand;
António Luis Santos da Costa, Prime Minister of Portugal;
Mario Draghi, Prime Minister of Italy;
Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania;
Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom;
Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda;
Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya;
Emmanuel Macron, President of France;
Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany;
Charles Michel, President of the European Council;
Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece;
Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea;
Sebastián Piñera, President of Chile;
Andrei Plenković, Prime Minister of Croatia;
Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of Costa Rica;
Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania;
Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa;
Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago;
Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands;
Kais Saied, President of Tunisia;
Macky Sall, President of Senegal;
Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of Spain;
Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway;
Aleksandar Vučić, President of Serbia;
In view of the social and economic impact of current COVID-19 crisis, political leadership in preparing for any eventual future pandemic is crucial. Over the last 12 months we have seen the importance of a strong innovation system and the successful development of several safe and highly effective vaccines in record time. The discussions around a possible International Pandemic Treaty need to take into account the important role played by the innovative biopharmaceutical industry and its supply chain in fighting the virus. It will be important to acknowledge the critical role played by the incentive system in developing tests, therapeutics, and vaccines to contain and defeat the coronavirus. We hope that the discussions on an International Pandemic Treaty will address enablers for future pandemic preparedness – the importance of incentives for future innovation, the immediate and unrestricted access to pathogens, and the importance of the free flow of goods and workforce during the pandemic – in addition to continuing the multi stakeholder approach undertaken in ACT-A and COVAX.

The biopharmaceutical industry and its supply chain is part of the solution for future pandemics and therefore should play a role in shaping an international Pandemic Treaty. In the short term, in acknowledgement of the current coronavirus crisis, we hope politicians will support the free flow of goods and workforce, acknowledge the unprecedented efforts in collaboration and voluntary tech transfer across vaccine makers from developed and developing countries and show solidarity to ensure the highly effective COVID-19 vaccines reach people so that no one is left behind.

COVID – Europe

WHO: Slow vaccine roll-out prolonging pandemic
Copenhagen, 31 March 2021
As variants of concern continue to spread and strain on hospitals grows, religious holidays are leading to increased mobility. Speeding up vaccination roll-out is crucial as new cases in the WHO European Region are increasing in every age group, apart from one.

Last week saw increasing transmission of COVID-19 in the majority of countries in the WHO European Region, with 1.6 million new cases and close to 24 000 deaths. The Region remains the second most affected by SARS-CoV-2 of all the world’s regions, with the total number of deaths fast approaching 1 million and the total number of cases about to surpass 45 million.

"Only 5 weeks ago, the weekly number of new cases in Europe had dipped to under 1 million, but now the Region’s situation is more worrying than we have seen in several months. There are risks associated with the increased mobility and gatherings over the religious holidays. Many countries are
introducing new measures that are necessary and everyone should follow as much as they can,” said Dr Dorit Nitzan, Regional Emergency Director for the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

**Across the Region, 50 countries or territories have reported the variant of concern B.1.1.7,** initially detected by the United Kingdom and now the predominant variant in the Region. As this variant is more transmissible and can increase the risk of hospitalization, it has a greater public health impact and additional actions are required to control it.

**Early impact of vaccination**
At the European regional level, new cases are increasing in every age group except in people 80 years and older. It is only in this most vulnerable population that we have seen a steady decline in cases and a decreasing proportion of COVID-19 deaths since the beginning of 2021, reflecting early signs of the impact of vaccination.

New data from Public Health England suggest that COVID-19 vaccines have saved, at the very least, over 6000 lives among people over 70 since vaccination started in December 2020. Similarly, data from Israel show that the Pfizer–BioNTech vaccine is around 90% effective at preventing infection, severe disease and hospitalization after the second dose.

“Vaccines present our best way out of this pandemic. Not only do they work, they are also highly effective in preventing infection. However, the roll-out of these vaccines is unacceptably slow. And as long as coverage remains low, we need to apply the same public health and social measures as we have in the past, to compensate for delayed schedules. Let me be clear: we must speed up the process by ramping up manufacturing, reducing barriers to administering vaccines, and using every single vial we have in stock, now,” said Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe...

**Curbing spread**
As the largest numbers of new COVID-19 cases are occurring in population groups that are not yet vaccinated, WHO continues to call for early action to implement public health and social measures on the basis of epidemiological and health system data while vaccination coverage continues to grow. **A total of 27 countries in the Region are in partial or full nationwide lockdown, with 21 imposing nighttime curfews. In the past 2 weeks, 23 countries have intensified restrictions while 13 have eased measures, with an additional 9 to follow suit.**

Although so-called lockdowns should be avoided by timely and targeted public health interventions, they should be used when the disease overstretches the ability of health services to care for patients adequately, and to accelerate the readiness of local and national public health systems.

“The likelihood of new variants of concern occurring increases with the rate at which the virus is replicating and spreading, so curbing transmission through basic disease control actions is crucial. And today, as opposed to a year ago, we have better test and trace systems, faster information-sharing, and we know much more about how to care for the severely ill,” said Dr Nitzan.

Expanded testing, isolation, contact tracing, quarantine and genetic sequencing are the basic public health tools that must be used and continually strengthened.

**Heed the danger**
Vaccination together with continued public health and social measures will eventually bring an end to the pandemic. For that to happen, a scale-up of both vaccine production and vaccination is required, as well as continued adherence to public health and social measures.

“The greatest determinant of how many people get infected and how many people die in the coming weeks is what you as an individual do – or don’t do. We have seen it time and time again: virus spread can be stopped. My message to governments in the Region is therefore that now is not the time to relax measures. We can’t afford not to heed the danger. We have all made sacrifices, but we cannot let exhaustion win. We must keep reining in the virus,” Dr Kluge concluded.

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**European Union: Commission Amends Authorization Mechanism for Exports of COVID-19 Vaccines**

(Apr. 1, 2021) On March 26, 2021, the European Commission’s Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/521, which amends the authorization mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines adopted on January 30, 2021, entered into force. The regulation adds the principles of reciprocity and proportionality as new criteria to be considered when a European Union (EU) member state authorizes exports.

EU Regulations are binding in their entirety and directly applicable in all EU member states. (Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union art. 288, para. 2.)

In announcing the new regulation, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, remarked: “[O]pen roads should run in both directions. . . . The EU has an excellent portfolio of different vaccines and we have secured more than enough doses for the entire population. But we have to ensure timely and sufficient vaccine deliveries to EU citizens. Every day counts.”...

Global Legal Monitor
Author: Jenny Gesley
Date: April 1, 2021

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2021/521 of 24 March 2021** …making specific arrangements to the mechanism making the exportation of certain products subject to the production of an export authorisation

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2015/479 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on common rules for exports(1), and in particular Article 5 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) On 30 January 2021, the Commission adopted Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/111(2) making the exportation of COVID-19 vaccines as well as active substances, including master and working cell banks, used to manufacture these vaccines, subject to the production of an export authorisation, pursuant to Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2015/479. At the end of the six weeks period following the date of entry into force of these measures, the Commission adopted Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/442(3) making the exportation of the same products subject to an export authorisation until 30 June 2021, pursuant to Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2015/479.

(2) The global shortage of supply of COVID-19 vaccine persists and is even increasing in view of the delays of production.
(3) In accordance with Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/442, export authorisations are to be refused by the Member States where the exports concerned pose a threat to the execution of the Advanced Purchase Agreements (APAs) between the Union and vaccine manufacturers in view of their volume or other relevant circumstances, such as the volume of vaccines delivered to the Union at the time of the request.

(4) There is still a lack of transparency as well as persisting constraints on production of COVID-19 vaccines and delays in their delivery in the Union, which may pose a threat to the security of supply within the Union of the goods covered by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/442. Additional elements should therefore also be considered in the decision to grant or refuse an export authorisation.

(5) The information collected by the Commission through the export authorisation mechanism put in place by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/111 and continued by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/442 and through customs data has shown that exports which are subject to the authorisation mechanism may be channelled via countries so far exempted from the export authorisation requirement, thereby not allowing for the required level of transparency. These exemptions should therefore be temporarily suspended.

(6) The exemption should be maintained for some of the countries and territories mentioned Article 1(9)(a) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/442, namely those which have a particular dependency on the metropolitan supply chains of the Member States to which they are attached or on the supply chains of neighbouring Member States, respectively.

(7) The information mentioned in recital (5) has also shown that Union manufacturers have exported large quantities of goods covered by the export authorisation mechanism to countries which have a large production capacity of their own, while those countries restrict their own exports to the Union, either by law or through contractual or other arrangements concluded with vaccine manufacturers established in their territory. This imbalance leads to shortages of supply within the Union.

(8) Furthermore, the same information has shown that Union manufacturers have exported large quantities of goods covered by the export authorisation mechanism to certain countries without production capacity, but which have a higher vaccination rate than the Union or where the current epidemiological situation is less serious than in the Union. Exports to those countries may thus threaten the security of supply within the Union.

(9) Member States should refuse export authorisations accordingly.

(10) The Commission should take the same additional elements into consideration when conducting its assessment of the draft decision notified by the competent authority of the Member State pursuant to Article 2(4) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/442.

(11) Due to the urgency of the situation, the measures provided for in this Regulation should be taken in accordance with Article 3(3) of Regulation (EU) 2015/479.
(12) This Regulation should enter into force immediately. Having regard to Article 5(5) of Regulation (EU) 2015/479, the measures provided for in this Regulation should apply for six weeks.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:
Article 1 The application of point (a) of Article 1(9) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/442 is suspended. However, the suspension shall not apply to the following countries and territories: — Andorra, — the Faroe Islands, — San Marino, — Vatican City, — the overseas countries and territories listed in Annex II to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, — Büsingen, — Helgoland, — Livigno, — Ceuta and Melilla.

Article 2 1. The competent authority of a Member State shall grant an export authorisation requested pursuant to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/442 provided that:
   (a) the export authorisation fulfils the condition of Article 1(7) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/442;
   (b) the authorisation does not otherwise pose a threat to the security of supply within the Union of the goods covered by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/442.

2. To determine whether the condition in point (b) of paragraph 1 is fulfilled, the competent authority of the Member State shall assess the following factors:
   (a) whether the country of destination of the export restricts its own exports to the Union of goods covered by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/442, or of the raw materials from which they are made, either by law or by any other means, including through the conclusion of contractual arrangements with the manufacturers of those goods;
   (b) the relevant conditions prevailing in the country of destination of the export, including the epidemiological situation, the vaccination rate and the existing availability of goods covered by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/442.

3. When the Commission assesses the draft decision notified by the competent authority of the Member State pursuant to Article 2(4) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/442, it shall also evaluate whether the condition in point (b) of paragraph 1 of this Article is fulfilled, having regard to the factors listed in its paragraph 2.

Article 3 This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. It shall apply until six weeks from its entry into force.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States. Done at Brussels, 24 March 2021. For the Commission The President Ursula VON DER LEYEN EN Official Journal of the European Union L 104/53 25.3.2021

WHO calls for further studies, data on origin of SARS-CoV-2 virus, reiterates that all hypotheses remain open

30 March 2021  News release  Geneva, Switzerland

The report of the international team on their Wuhan field visit, from 14 January -10 February 2021, was published today as WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called for further studies.

The report stems from a Member State resolution adopted by consensus at the World Health Assembly in May 2020 and calling on WHO “to identify the zoonotic source of the virus and the route of introduction to the human population, including the possible role of intermediate hosts, including through efforts such as scientific and collaborative field missions.”

In remarks to Member States today, Dr Tedros, who received the full report on the weekend, thanked the team for their tireless work. He said it advances our understanding in important ways, while raising questions that will need to be addressed by further studies, as noted in the report. “As far as WHO is concerned, all hypotheses remain on the table. This report is a very important beginning, but it is not the end. We have not yet found the source of the virus, and we must continue to follow the science and leave no stone unturned as we do,” said Dr Tedros. “Finding the origin of a virus takes time and we owe it to the world to find the source so we can collectively take steps to reduce the risk of this happening again. No single research trip can provide all the answers.”

The report is available on this webpage: https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus/origins-of-the-virus

Below is the full text of the Director-General’s remarks that can be found here: https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-remarks-at-the-member-state-briefing-on-the-report-of-the-international-team-studying-the-origins-of-sars-cov-2

Background information
From the very beginning of the pandemic WHO has stressed the need to understand the origin of the virus in order to better understand the emergence of new pathogens and possible exposures.

Only a few weeks into the outbreak, the IHR Emergency Committee of independent experts recommended that WHO and China pursue efforts to identify the animal source of the virus.

Throughout 2020, WHO continued to discuss with China and other Member States the need to study and share information around the virus origins.

The World Health Assembly resolution of May 2020, which was adopted by all Member States, cited a need “to identify the zoonotic source”: WHA73.1 from 19 May 2020: 9. (6) to continue to work closely with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and countries, as part of the One-Health Approach to identify the zoonotic source of the virus and the route of introduction to the human population, including the possible role of intermediate hosts, including through efforts such as scientific and collaborative field missions, which will enable targeted interventions and a research agenda to reduce the risk of similar events occurring, as well as to provide guidance on how to prevent
infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV2) in animals and humans and prevent the establishment of new zoonotic reservoirs, as well as to reduce further risks of emergence and transmission of zoonotic diseases;

In July 2020 WHO sent a small team to China to plan a joint study comprising Chinese and independent international scientists.

It was agreed that WHO would select the international scientists. The Terms of Reference for the Virus Origins Study were completed by fall 2020.

Terms of reference of the Global Study of the Origins of SARS-COV2

The team of scientists came from around the world: Australia, China, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, Qatar, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Viet Nam. The joint international team comprised 17 Chinese and 17 international experts from 10 other countries as well as the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE); and WHO. Find the list of the members of the international team here.

From the outset, this study was designed as one step on the path of understanding the origins of COVID-19 reflecting the specific scope and mandate as outlined by Member States in the World Health Assembly resolution and negotiated Terms of Reference.

UNICEF fund aims to raise US$2.5 billion for COVID-19 health supplies; low- and middle-income countries set to benefit

Denmark makes first donation to support the global equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines

NEW YORK/COPENHAGEN, 30 March 2021 – UNICEF has launched a fund to support low- and middle-income countries access to COVID-19 health supplies, including vital tests, treatments and vaccines. The fund, which leverages UNICEF’s Procurement Services to purchase supplies, provides an opportunity for donors to join the largest health and vaccines supply operation the world has ever seen.

The Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator Supplies Financing Facility ("ACT-A SFF") aims to initially raise US$2.5 billion by the end of 2021. Of this, US$1 billion is intended for vaccines and associated immunization campaign supplies including those not covered financially by the COVAX Facility, such as AMC92 country cost-sharing doses through COVAX and support for self-financing participants’ vaccine and delivery costs. Another US$1 billion is for diagnostics and US$500 million is for therapeutics. Contributions to the facility will help bring the world closer to the global ACT-A goal of providing low- and middle-income countries with the health supplies they need to help bring the acute phase of the pandemic to an end.

“An undertaking of this magnitude requires immediate support, which is why UNICEF has established the ACT-A Supplies Financing Facility,” said Etleva Kadilli, Director of UNICEF Supply Division. “The facility serves as one of the most efficient and most impactful vehicles for supporting the global COVID-19 response by making targeted interventions to get supplies to where they are needed at competitive prices.”
The Government of Denmark has contributed to the fund with a donation of US$4.8 million for immunization supplies to be used in Africa. These supplies will include cold chain and personal protective equipment (PPE) that are essential for carrying out safe COVID-19 immunization campaigns...

The launch of the SFF also complements UNICEF’s efforts to accelerate access to lifesaving supplies, including vaccines and other non-immunization commodities, through its Vaccine Independence Initiative ("VII") financial mechanism. In 2020, VII supplied hundreds of millions of doses of vaccines for non-COVID-19 immunizations, as well as millions of gloves, masks and medical supplies, as well as other essential commodities.

New York Times
March 31, 2021
See How Rich Countries Got to the Front of the Vaccine Line
By Keith Collins and Josh Holder

More than half a billion vaccine doses have been administered worldwide so far, and well over three-quarters of them have been used by the world’s richest countries. The reason, experts say, lies in how — and when — deals for doses were struck...

...The result has been that, as of March 30, 86 percent of shots that have gone into arms worldwide have been administered in high- and upper-middle-income countries. Only 0.1 percent of doses have been administered in low-income countries...
...But even with that influx, poor countries may end up waiting years before their populations can be fully vaccinated. **Kenya, for example**, expects that by 2023 it will have just 30 percent of its population vaccinated, and that’s with Covax covering the first 20 percent. That long wait would give the virus more time to spread, and potentially give rise to new mutations.

The global race for doses has also affected which countries get which vaccines. With much of the supply of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines already spoken for by wealthier countries, China, India and Russia have become important suppliers of vaccines to lower-income countries. And some experts believe those governments can use such relationships to **gain sway**...
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 :: 129 902 402 [week ago: 125 781 957] [two weeks ago: 121 969 223]
Confirmed deaths :: 2 831 815 [week ago: 2 759 432] [two weeks ago: 2 694 094]
Countries, areas or territories with cases :: 223

29 March 2021
Weekly operational update on COVID-19 - 29 March 2021

30 March 2021
Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 30 March 2021
Overview

Globally, new COVID-19 cases rose for a fifth consecutive week, with just over 3.8 million new cases reported in the last week. The number of new deaths increased for the second consecutive week, increasing by 5% compared to last week, with over 64,000 new deaths reported. All regions reported an increase in the number of cases this week, and all regions, except for the African Region, reported an increase in the number of deaths. The European Region and the Region of the Americas continue to account for nearly 80% of all the cases and deaths.

In this edition, special focus updates are provided on:
:: COVID-19 and Health and Care Workers (HCWs)
:: SARS-CoV-2 variants

Table 3: Overview of emerging information on variants of concern, as of 30 March 2021*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PANGO lineage</td>
<td>B.1.1.7</td>
<td>B.1.351</td>
<td>B.1.1.28.1, alias P.1*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GISAID clade</td>
<td>GR</td>
<td>GH</td>
<td>GR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate names</td>
<td>VOC 202012/01*</td>
<td>VOC 202012/02</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First detected by</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Brazil / Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earliest sample date</td>
<td>20 September 2020</td>
<td>Early August 2020</td>
<td>December 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key spike mutations</td>
<td>H65/V70 deletion; Y144 deletion; N501Y; A570D; and P681H</td>
<td>L242/A243/L244 deletion; K417N E484K, N501Y</td>
<td>K417T, E484K, N501Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key mutation in common</td>
<td>S106/G107/F108 deletion in Non-Structural Protein 6 (NSP6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Countries reporting cases (newly reported in last week)** | 130 (5) | 80 (5) | 45 (4) |

*While work is ongoing to establish standardized nomenclature for key variants, these are the names by which WHO will refer to them in this publication.
** Includes official and unofficial reports of VOCs detections in countries among either travellers (imported cases only) or community samples (local transmission).

WHO – Feature COVID stories from around the globe

31 March 2021
Zimbabwe: Data-driven decisions maintain availability and access to essential health services during the COVID-19 response

31 March 2021
WHO advises that ivermectin only be used to treat COVID-19 within clinical trials

30 March 2021
Uzbekistan strengthens its health system in the midst of COVID-19 crisis

29 March 2021
Caribbean countries boost the capacities of nurses in critical care during COVID-19

WHO – COVID Vaccines EUAL, Prequalification
Draft landscape and tracker of COVID-19 candidate vaccines

12 March 2021 | Publication

The COVID-19 candidate vaccine landscape and tracker database compiles detailed information on COVID-19 vaccine candidates in development.

The landscape is updated regularly - twice a week (Tuesday and Friday, 17:00 CET). Download: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/blue-print/12.03.2021-novel-coronavirus_landscape_covid-19.xlsx.zip?sfvrsn=c2a25511_3&download=true

::::

### Status of COVID-19 Vaccines within WHO EUL/PQ evaluation process 01 April 2021

For 18 vaccine candidates, the presents Manufacturer, Name of Vaccine, NRA of Record, Platform, EOI Accepted Status, Pre-submission Meeting Held Status, Dossier Accepted for Review, Status of Assessment; Anticipated/Completed Decision Date

[click on the link above for full scale view]

* * *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Name of Vaccine</th>
<th>NRA of Record</th>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>EOI accepted</th>
<th>Pre-submission meeting held</th>
<th>Dossier accepted for review*</th>
<th>Status of assessment**</th>
<th>Anticipated decision date***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. B/cell</td>
<td>INN: BC009</td>
<td>EMA</td>
<td>Nucleoside-modified mRNA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Finalized</td>
<td>01/12/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. EU Nano</td>
<td>Azóis</td>
<td>EMA</td>
<td>DNA-MRNA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Data for Cov-Var expected in April 2021 onwards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. SR BIC</td>
<td>Azóis</td>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>DNA-MRNA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Finalized</td>
<td>15 Feb 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Serum Institute of India</td>
<td>CovShed</td>
<td>EMA</td>
<td>DNA-MRNA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Finalized</td>
<td>15 Feb 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Aegis</td>
<td>CovShed</td>
<td>EMA</td>
<td>DNA-MRNA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Finalized</td>
<td>15 Feb 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Biofarm / BiP</td>
<td>SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell), Inactivated (Vero Cell)</td>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>Inactivated, produced in Vero cells</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>MRA April 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. SinoVac</td>
<td>SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell), Inactivated</td>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>Inactivated, produced in Vero cells</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>MRA April 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Moderna</td>
<td>mRNA-1273</td>
<td>EMA</td>
<td>mRNA based vaccine, encapsulated in lipid nanoparticles</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>In progress using the enlarged procedure</td>
<td>MRA April 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Novavax</td>
<td>Novavax</td>
<td>EMA</td>
<td>DNA-MRNA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Finalized</td>
<td>01/30/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. AstraZeneca</td>
<td>CovShed</td>
<td>EMA</td>
<td>DNA-MRNA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Rolling decision starting April 2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Pfizer / Biontech</td>
<td>SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell), Inactivated</td>
<td>EMA</td>
<td>Inactivated, produced in Vero cells</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Rolling decision starting April 2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Zhejiang Longgang, China</td>
<td>Recombinant Novel Coronavirus Vaccine (Coding Cells)</td>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>Recombinant protein subunit</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Finalized</td>
<td>01/15/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. MAVMEC, China</td>
<td>SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine, Inactivated (Vero Cell)</td>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>Inactivated</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Finalized</td>
<td>01/15/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Bharat Biotech, India</td>
<td>Inactivated SARS-COV-2 VACCINE (Vero Cell)</td>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>Inactivated, produced in Vero cells</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Finalized</td>
<td>01/15/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Clover Biopharmaceuticals</td>
<td>CVX-180</td>
<td>EMA</td>
<td>Novel recombinant SARS-CoV-2 Spike (S) filament fusion protein</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>In discussion on submission strategy and timelines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. BioCasa Farmas - Cuba</td>
<td>Sabin 81, Sabin 07, Sabin 81, Sabin 07, Sabin 81, Sabin 07, Sabin 81, Sabin 07</td>
<td>EMA</td>
<td>Inactivated</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Finalized</td>
<td>01/15/20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Disclaimer Statement: Data and dates are provided because of the rolling submission approach. Data is updated after submission of reviewed data.


***Anticipated decision dates are only an estimate since it depends on when all the data is submitted under rolling submission and when all the responses to theInspectors’ questions are submitted.
**UNICEF COVID-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard :: Agreements Table Accessed 3 Apr 2021**

An overview of information collected from publicly announced bilateral and multilateral supply agreements [Agreements view from 2021-03-14 to date]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deal date</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Deal type</th>
<th>Vaccine name</th>
<th>Vaccine developer</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021-03-22</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Government purchase</td>
<td>Covaxax</td>
<td>Novavax</td>
<td>Serum Institute of India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-03-22</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Government purchase</td>
<td>CoronaVac</td>
<td>Sinovac</td>
<td>Sinovac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-03-25</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Government purchase</td>
<td>Sputnik V</td>
<td>Gamaleya Research Institute</td>
<td>Gamaleya Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-03-25</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Government purchase</td>
<td>AZD1222</td>
<td>AstraZeneca</td>
<td>R-Pharm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-03-25</td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>Government purchase</td>
<td>CoronaVac</td>
<td>Sinovac</td>
<td>Sinovac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-03-26</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Private purchase</td>
<td>Sputnik V</td>
<td>Gamaleya Research Institute</td>
<td>Gamaleya Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-03-26</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Government purchase</td>
<td>AZD1222</td>
<td>AstraZeneca</td>
<td>Siam Bioscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-03-26</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Government purchase</td>
<td>CoronaVac</td>
<td>Sinovac</td>
<td>Sinovac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-03-30</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Government purchase</td>
<td>Ad5-nCoV</td>
<td>CanSino Biologicals</td>
<td>CanSino Biologicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-03-30</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Government purchase</td>
<td>Sputnik V</td>
<td>Gamaleya Research Institute</td>
<td>Gamaleya Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-03-30</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Government purchase</td>
<td>Ad5-nCoV</td>
<td>CanSino Biologicals</td>
<td>National Institute of Health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Our World in Data**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccinations – Fully Vaccinated Population Percentage**
U.S.: COVID-19 Vaccines – Announcements/Regulatory Actions/Deployment

FDA - COVID-19 Vaccines [to 3 Apr 2021]
www.fda.gov/covid19vaccines
News and Updates; Upcoming Events
04/01/2021

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Makes Two Revisions to Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Emergency Use Authorization to Help Increase the Number of Vaccine Doses Available

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced two revisions regarding the number of doses per vial available for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine.

White House [U.S.]

Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials
April 02, 2021 • Press Briefings

Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials
March 31, 2021 • Press Briefings
**COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States**

Overall US COVID-19 Vaccine | Deliveries and Administration; Maps, charts, and data provided by CDC, updated daily by 8 pm ET.

Represents all vaccine partners including jurisdictional partner clinics, retail pharmacies, long-term care facilities, dialysis centers, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Health Resources and Services Administration partner sites, and federal entity facilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Vaccine Doses</th>
<th>People Vaccinated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delivered</td>
<td>At Least One Dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>207,866,645</td>
<td>104,213,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administered</td>
<td>161,688,422</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population ≥ 18 Years of Age</th>
<th>% of Total Population</th>
<th>Fully Vaccinated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population ≥ 18 Years of Age</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population ≥ 65 Years of Age</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**EMA**

*News: AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine: review of very rare cases of unusual blood clots continues (new)*

PRAC, Last updated: 31/03/2021
European Commission

European Union: Commission Amends Authorization Mechanism for Exports of COVID-19 Vaccines

(Apr. 1, 2021) On March 26, 2021, the European Commission’s Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/521, which amends the authorization mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines adopted on January 30, 2021, entered into force. The regulation adds the principles of reciprocity and proportionality as new criteria to be considered when a European Union (EU) member state authorizes exports.
[See Milestones above for detail]

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

No new digest content identified.

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 vaccine authorized in Panama
Press release, 01.04.2021

RDIF and TopRidge Pharma agree to produce over 100 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine in China
Press release, 01.04.2021

Sputnik V vaccine authorized in Mali
Press release, 30.03.2021

RDIF and Shenzhen Yuanxing Gene-tech agree to produce over 60 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine in China
Press release, 29.03.2021

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

Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)
https://www.icmr.gov.in/media.html
No new digest content identified.

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

[See China CDC section below]

COVID Vaccine Developer/Manufacturer Announcements [selected]

AstraZeneca
Press Releases - No new digest announcements identified

Janssen/JNJ
Johnson & Johnson Announces Advance Purchase Agreement with the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust for the Company's COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate
:: Up to 400 million doses of the Company's single-shot vaccine candidate will be made available to African Union member states
:: Availability of the vaccine is subject to national regulatory approvals
:: Data have demonstrated vaccine candidate protects against COVID-19 related hospitalization and death in broad geographic regions, including those with variants of significant concern
Mar 29, 2021, 03:09 ET

Moderna
Press Releases
April 1, 2021
Moderna Provides Storage Update & Announces the U.S. FDA Authorizes Up To 15-Doses Per Vial of its COVID-19 Vaccine

March 31, 2021
Moderna to Host Second Annual Virtual Vaccines Day on April 14, 2021

March 29, 2021
Moderna Announces Shipment of 100 Millionth Dose of its COVID-19 Vaccine to the U.S. Government

Novavax
News
GSK to support manufacture of Novavax' COVID-19 vaccine
- GSK to support manufacture of up to 60 million doses of Novavax' COVID-19 vaccine
- Manufacturing to take place at GSK UK facility at Barnard Castle
Mar 29, 2021, 16:02 ET

Pfizer
Recent Press Releases

04.01.2021
Pfizer and BioNTech Confirm High Efficacy and No Serious Safety Concerns Through Up to Six Months Following Second Dose in Updated Topline Analysis of Landmark COVID-19 Vaccine Study

03.31.2021
Pfizer-BioNTech Announce Positive Topline Results of Pivotal COVID-19 Vaccine Study in Adolescents

Serum Institute
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - No new digest announcements identified

Sinovac
Sinovac Announced Buildup of Two Billion Annual Capacity of Its COVID-19 Vaccine
April 01, 2021

COVID Vaccination: Incentives/Mandates/Certificates/Passports

WHO – Call for public comments: Interim guidance for developing a Smart Vaccination Certificate – Release Candidate 1
19 March 2021 Call for consultation
Interim Guidance pdf: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/interim-guidance-svc_20210319_final.pdf?sfvrsn=b95db77d_1&download=true

In response to the Statement on the sixth meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and the need for WHO to support Member States to deliver COVID-19 vaccines, at scale, with digital tools, WHO has developed this guidance and technical specifications document, in collaboration with a multi-disciplinary group of experts. The Guidance aims to support WHO Member States in adopting interoperability standards for digital documentation of vaccination status (i.e. Smart Vaccination Certificates).

It is critical to reiterate that the Smart Vaccination Certificate (SVC) is not intended to serve as an "immunity passport". Furthermore, as per the "Interim position paper: considerations regarding proof of COVID-19 vaccination for international travellers", currently, proof of COVID-19 vaccination is not recommended as a condition of departure or entry for international travel. Countries are advised to take a risk-based approach to international travel in the context of COVID-19. Additionally, along with the digital implementation of SVCs, it is recommended that the COVID-19 vaccination status should still be recorded through the paper-based International Certificate for Vaccination, and Prophylaxis based on the model presented in Annex 6 of the IHR.

Due to the constantly evolving context of the COVID-19 pandemic, this document is intended to have three releases prior to the release of the final version, with public feedback and input considered for all three releases. This document is the first of three
releases. Release candidate 1 (this document) contains the key business requirements for an SVC for national adoption that includes the prioritized scenarios of use, use cases, key workflows, a core data set with preferred terminology code sets, and an initial FHIR Implementation Guide for the content in Release Candidate 1. This document will also begin to outline the international trust framework and a high-level overview of a governance mechanism.

As this is Release Candidate 1, which is an initial release of the technical specification for the Smart Vaccination Certificate, no digital solutions have met this specification yet.

As part of the public consultation, you can provide constructive feedback on this document by 12 April 2021. Please use the link to the feedback form to provide your comments. For any additional inquiries, please contact smartvaccination@who.int.

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 Emergencies

POLIO
Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Polio this week as of 31 March 2021

Summary of new WPV and cVDPV viruses this week (AFP cases and ES positives):
:: Afghanistan: five cVDPV2 cases and two cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
:: Pakistan: two WPV1 and one cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
:: Côte d’Ivoire: 34 cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
:: Guinea: one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample
:: Liberia: three cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
:: Niger: one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample
:: Senegal: two cVDPV2 cases and one positive environmental sample
:: South Sudan: three cVDPV2 positive environmental samples

::::::

Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore on killing of polio workers in Afghanistan

NEW YORK, 30 March 2021 – “Four polio vaccinators, three of them women, came under attack this morning, March 30, while carrying out their life-saving work for children in Nangarhar province, Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Tragically, the three women were killed.

“UNICEF is outraged by this attack.

“UNICEF expresses its deepest condolences to the families, colleagues and friends of the courageous vaccinators who were at the forefront of efforts to combat the spread of polio and keep Afghanistan’s children safe from this disabling disease.

“Frontline health workers should never be a target of violence. They must be able to carry out their life-saving activities in a safe and secure environment.

“UNICEF has been working for years with the Government, the World Health Organization, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and partners on polio vaccination campaigns in the country.
"We remain committed to supporting polio eradication efforts in Afghanistan."

WHO/OCHA Emergencies

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 3 Apr 2021]
Democratic Republic of the Congo - No new digest announcements [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]

WHO Grade 2 Emergencies [to 3 Apr 2021]
Burkina Faso
:: Burkina Faso : visite du ministre de la santé et des Partenaires techniques financiers... 01 avril 2021

Iraq
:: COVID Vaccines – Baghdad, 25 March 2021 – Amid a global shortage of COVID-19 vaccines, Iraq has received 336 000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine through the COVAX Facility...The AstraZeneca vaccines manufactured by SK-Bio Institute of South Korea arrived on Thursday 25 March 2021

Myanmar
:: 23 March 2021 News release Building Bangladesh Capacity on Infection Prevention and Control

Afghanistan - No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 5 July 2020]
Angola - No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 16 March 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: 2 March 2020]
Libya - No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 7 October 2019]
Malawi Floods - No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 05 March 2021]
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]
Niger - No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 06 mars 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 3 Apr 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: 06 March 2021]
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]

UN OCHA – Current Emergencies
COVID-19 - No new digest announcements identified
Syrian Arab Republic - No new digest announcements identified
Yemen - No new digest announcements identified

WHO & Regional Offices [to 3 Apr 2021]
1 April 2021  Departmental news
Living with the Times: new toolkit helps older adults maintain good mental health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

31 March 2021  News release
Carl Bildt, former Prime Minister of Sweden, appointed WHO Special Envoy for the ACT-Accelerator

31 March 2021  Highlights
VSN membership

30 March 2021  Departmental news
New WHO-IUCN Expert Working Group on Biodiversity, Climate, One Health and Nature-based Solutions

30 March 2021 News release
WHO calls for further studies, data on origin of SARS-CoV-2 virus, reiterates that all hypotheses remain open
[See Milestones above for detail]

30 March 2021 News release
Global leaders unite in urgent call for international pandemic treaty
[See Milestones above for detail]

Weekly Epidemiological Record, Vol. 96, No. 13, pp. 105–112 2 April 2021
:: Pneumococcal vaccines: WHO position paper on their use in community outbreak settings
:: Monthly report on dracunculiasis cases, January-December 2020

WHO Regional Offices
Selected Press Releases, Announcements

WHO African Region AFRO
:: Bolstering community approach in Guinea’s Ebola fight 01 April 2021
   A few days after he referred a patient from his clinic to the regional hospital, Emmanuel Goepogui, a private practitioner in N’Zerekore prefecture in south-eastern Guinea, received a visit by a community disease surveillance team. “They came to inform me that my patient had tested positive for Ebola and that I was a direct contact,” he says.
:: Genome sequencing in Ebola response 01 April 2021
   Studies show that the Ebola virus can persist in bodily fluids – such as semen and breast milk – of survivors for months. The recent resurgence of Ebola in Guinea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been linked to bodily fluids of survivors.
Read more »
:: Better transport can save up 55 000 premature deaths in Accra, WHO report 01 April 2021

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
:: Slow vaccine roll-out prolonging pandemic 01-04-2021
:: Minimizing COVID-19 risk around religious celebrations as European Region sees resurgence of cases 31-03-2021
:: Regional Director meets TB patients and policy-makers in Kyrgyzstan as COVID-19 continues to threaten health care across the Region 31-03-2021
WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO
:: Yemen receives 360,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses through the COVAX Facility  31 March 2021
:: WHO committed to ensuring fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccine in Syria  31 March 2021
:: WHO/KSrelief helping children to recover from malnutrition in Yemen  30 March 2021

WHO Western Pacific Region
No new digest content identified

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CDC/ACIP [U.S.] [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.cdc.gov/media/index.html
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html

Latest News Releases, Announcements

CDC Issues Next Phase of the Conditional Sail Order for Cruise Ship Operators
Friday, April 2, 2021

CDC Issues Updated Guidance on Travel for Fully Vaccinated People
Friday, April 2, 2021
... Given recent studies evaluating the real-world effects of vaccination, CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people can travel at low risk to themselves. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last recommended dose of vaccine.

Fully vaccinated people can travel within the United States and do not need COVID-19 testing or post-travel self-quarantine as long as they continue to take COVID-19 precautions while traveling – wearing a mask, avoiding crowds, socially distancing, and washing hands frequently...

CDC Real-World Study Confirms Protective Benefits of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines
Monday, March 29, 2021

A new CDC study provides strong evidence that mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in preventing SARS-CoV-2 infections in real-world conditions among health care personnel, first responders, and other essential workers. These groups are more likely than the general population to be exposed to the virus because of their occupations.

The study looked at the effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna mRNA vaccines in preventing SARS-CoV-2 infections among 3,950 study participants in six states over a 13-week period from December 14, 2020 to March 13, 2021.

Results showed that following the second dose of vaccine (the recommended number of doses), risk of infection was reduced by 90 percent two or more weeks after vaccination. Following a single dose of either vaccine, the participants’ risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2 was reduced by 80 percent two or more weeks after vaccination...

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MMWR News Synopsis  Friday, April 2, 2021
:: Use of Selected Recommended Clinical Preventive Services — Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, United States, 2018
:: Willingness to Receive a COVID-19 Vaccination Among Incarcerated or Detained Persons in Correctional and Detention Facilities — Four States, September–December 2020
:: Rapid Spread of SARS-CoV-2 in a State Prison After Introduction by Newly Transferred Incarcerated Persons — Wisconsin, August 14–October 22, 2020
:: Counties with High COVID-19 Incidence and Relatively Large Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations — United States, April 1–December 22, 2020 (Early Release March 24, 2021)
:: Symptoms of Anxiety or Depressive Disorder and Use of Mental Health Care Among Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, August 2020–February 2021 (Early Release March 26, 2021)
:: Interim Estimates of Vaccine Effectiveness of BNT162b2 and mRNA-1273 COVID-19 Vaccines in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Health Care Personnel, First Responders, and Other Essential and Frontline Workers — Eight U.S. Locations, December 2020–March 2021 (Early Release March 29, 2021)

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)- CDC
Selected Resources
:: Overall US COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Update as of Fri, 02 Apr 2021 06:00:00 EST

:: Science Brief: Background Rationale and Evidence for Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People
Key Points
:: COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the United States are effective against COVID-19, including severe disease.
:: Preliminary evidence suggests that the currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines may provide some protection against a variety of strains, including B.1.1.7 (originally identified in the United Kingdom).
:: Reduced antibody neutralization and efficacy have been observed for the B.1.351 strain (originally identified in South Africa). However, across studies, antibody neutralizing activity of sera from vaccinated people was still generally higher than that observed for convalescent sera from people who have recovered from COVID-19.
:: A growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infection and potentially less likely to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others. However, further investigation is ongoing.
:: Modeling studies suggest that preventive measures such as mask use and social distancing will continue to be important during vaccine implementation. However, there are ways to take a balanced approach by allowing vaccinated people to resume some lower-risk activities.
:: Taking steps towards relaxing certain measures for vaccinated people may help improve COVID-19 vaccine acceptance and uptake.
:: The risks of SARS-CoV-2 infection in fully vaccinated people cannot be completely eliminated as long as there is continued community transmission of the virus. Vaccinated people could potentially still get COVID-19 and spread it to others. However, the benefits of relaxing some measures such as testing and self-quarantine requirements for travelers, post-exposure quarantine requirements and reducing social isolation may outweigh the residual risk of fully vaccinated people becoming ill with COVID-19 or transmitting the virus to others.
:: At this time, there are limited data on vaccine protection in people who are immunocompromised. People with immunocompromising conditions, including those taking immunosuppressive medications,
should discuss the need for personal protective measures after vaccination with their healthcare provider.

::: See updated guidance for fully vaccinated people including updated public health recommendations for domestic and international travel. This updated science brief reflects recent changes to the guidance document and will continue to be updated as more information becomes available.

Africa CDC  [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.africacdc.org/

News
Statement of the Chairperson of the Africa CDC Governing Board on the Renewal of the Mandate of the Africa CDC Inaugural Director, Dr. John N. Nkengasong
29 March 2021
The Governing Board of Africa CDC held an Extraordinary meeting on February 20th, 2021 and deliberated on the renewal of the second four-year mandate of the Africa CDC’s Director, Dr. John N. Nkengasong.
The Board congratulated Dr. John N. Nkengasong for the tremendous work accomplished in his first term to build a respectable public health institution that is now well recognized globally.
The remarkable progress made by Africa CDC in supporting Member States to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and Ebola outbreaks in Africa were highlighted.
The Board decided by an overwhelming majority to recommend to the Commission the renewal of the mandate of Dr John N. Nkengasong for a second four-year term in line with the Statute of Africa CDC.

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

National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China  [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://en.nhc.gov.cn/

News
April 3: Daily briefing on novel coronavirus cases in China
On April 2, 31 provincial-level regions and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps on the Chinese mainland reported 26 new cases of confirmed infections.

Data sharing thorough in WHO report, expert says
2021-04-01

Foreign, Chinese experts had same access to virus data: Leading expert
2021-04-01

No animal products sampled in Huanan market tested positive: expert
2021-04-01
China, WHO joint research to boost global cooperation in COVID-19 origin tracing: spokesperson
2021-03-31

China providing vaccine aid to 80 countries, 3 int'l organizations: FM spokesperson
2021-03-31

WHO highlights importance to investigate early COVID-19 cases in different countries
2021-03-31

National Medical Products Administration — PRC  [to 3 Apr 2021]
News
Nearly 120m COVID-19 vaccine doses administered across China
2021-04-02
A total of 119.82 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered across China as of Wednesday, the National Health Commission said on April 1.

WHO: Animal-to-human virus transmission most likely
2021-03-31
The virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic is "extremely unlikely" to have originated in a lab, but most likely jumped from an animal to humans, according to a World Health Organization report released on March 30 by a joint international and Chinese team probing the virus' origins. [See COVID above for WHO statement]

Country working on vaccines for novel coronavirus variants
2021-03-29
China is advancing the development of COVID-19 vaccines against variants of the novel coronavirus, and experiments have shown the inactivated vaccines currently used in the country are effective against them.

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Organization Announcements
Editor's Note:
Careful readers will note that the number and range of organizations now monitored in our Announcements section below has grown as the impacts of the pandemic have spread across global economies, supply chains and programmatic activity of multilateral agencies and INGOs.

Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group  [to 3 Apr 2021]
News
No new digest content identified.
March 31, 2021: HHS launches $500,000 contest for design of new, effective, comfortable masks for general public use

..., the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) is collaborating with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, part of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on the personal use mask design challenge. NIOSH administers the nation’s respirator approval program.

The first phase of the challenge, which opens today, invites new mask designs that meet specific criteria and asks the submitter to describe how that design idea fits the criteria and solves the hurdles to mask wearing. Up to 10 winning ideas will be selected to split $100,000. Submissions are due by 5 p.m. EDT April 21, 2021...

Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute

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

CARB-X is funding University of Oxford’s Jenner Institute to develop a new vaccine to prevent gonorrhea

CARB-X is awarding up to US$2 million to the Jenner Institute, part of the University of Oxford, UK, to develop a novel vaccine to prevent gonorrhea, a common sexually-transmitted bacterial infection that has developed resistance to most antibiotics. Under the award, the Institute would be eligible for up to $5.3 million more if the project progresses through certain project milestones, subject to available funding.

Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy – GE2P2 Global Foundation

:: Past weekly editions of Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review are available here.
**CEPI – Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations** [to 3 Apr 2021]  
http://cepi.net/  
*Latest News*

**CEPI launches funding call to advance development of broadly protective coronavirus vaccines**
:: Up to US$200 million in funding to be allocated for development of vaccines that provide broad protection against SARS-CoV-2 and betacoronaviruses.
:: R&D will focus on novel immunogens for use in vaccines that can elicit durable broadly protective immune responses.
:: Funding call forms part of CEPI’s longer term $3.5bn investment strategy, announced earlier in March, 2021, which is being activated now to mitigate the urgent threat posed by COVID-19.

31 Mar 2021

**CEPI Board membership updates**
30 Mar 2021

CEPI is pleased to announce that Professor Dr Veronika von Messling has been appointed to the Board where she will sit as an Investor representative. Dr von Messling replaces Dr Joachim Klein, who has stood down after 3 years of service.

Alongside her role on the Board, Dr von Messling will also join the Nominations, Compensation, Diversity and Inclusion committee.

Dr von Messling is Director General of the Life Science Division at the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research...

**DARPA – Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency** [to 3 Apr 2021]  
https://www.darpa.mil/news  
*News*

No new digest content identified.

**Duke Global Health Innovation Center** [to 3 Apr 2021]  
https://dukeghic.org/  
No new digest content identified.

**EDCTP** [to 3 Apr 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

No new digest content identified.

**Emory Vaccine Center** [to 3 Apr 2021]  
http://www.vaccines.emory.edu/  
*Vaccine Center News*
European Commission [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://europa.eu/rapid/search-result.htm?query=18&locale=en&page=1
Latest
Statement 31 March 2021
Statement of Commissioner Reynders on the referral of Poland to the European Court of Justice to protect independence of Polish judges and asks for interim measures

Press release 31 March 2021
Rule of Law: European Commission refers Poland to the European Court of Justice to protect independence of Polish judges and asks for interim measures
Today, the European Commission decided to refer Poland to the Court of Justice of the European Union regarding the law on the judiciary of 20 December 2019, which entered into force on 14 February 2020.

Press release 30 March 2021
Syrian crisis: €5.3 billion mobilised by donors for 2021 and beyond at 5th Brussels Conference
At the fifth Brussels Conference on 'Supporting the future of Syria and the Region' co-chaired today by the European Union and the United Nations, the international community pledged €5.3 billion for 2021 and beyond for Syria and the neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees.

European Medicines Agency [to 3 Apr 2021]
News & Press Releases
News: AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine: review of very rare cases of unusual blood clots continues (new)
PRAC, Last updated: 31/03/2021

News: EU recommendations for 2021-2022 seasonal flu vaccine composition (new)
Last updated: 30/03/2021

European Vaccine Initiative [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.euuvaccine.eu/
Latest News
No new digest content identified.

FDA [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/default.htm
Press Announcements / Selected Details
April 2, 2021 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: April 2, 2021

March 30, 2021 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: March 30, 2021
Fondation Merieux  [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.fondation-merieux.org/
News, Events
Mérieux Foundation co-organized event
Vaccine Acceptance webinars: managing vaccine misinformation in the midst of a pandemic
April 15, 2021 - Virtual Event

Gavi  [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://www.gavi.org/
News Releases
31 March 2021
Gavi and Save the Children form global partnership to immunise zero-dose and vulnerable children
:: The partnership will focus on reaching children who are currently receiving no routine vaccines and marginalised communities in line with Gavi’s vision to ‘leave no-one behind with immunisation’
:: In addition, the partnership will support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines by engaging with community champions on joint activities
:: Anuradha Gupta: “A disproportionate number of children who are not receiving vaccines come from hard-to-reach areas including fragile and conflict settings which is why we’re delighted to partner with Save the Children whose worldwide network and deep expertise will enable us to reach them”

29 March 2021
United States to host launch event for Gavi COVAX AMC 2021 investment opportunity
:: The virtual event will bring together world leaders, the private sector, civil society, and key technical partners to galvanize resources and commitment to the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC)
:: The event, featuring the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator on behalf of the United States government, and Gavi Board Chair José Manuel Barroso, will take place on April 15
:: The Gavi COVAX AMC is a financing mechanism that supports access to COVID-19 vaccines for 92 lower-income economies

GHIT Fund  [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://www.ghitfund.org/newsroom/press
GHIT was set up in 212 with the aim of developing new tools to tackle infectious diseases that March 31, 2021
GHIT Fund Announces New Investments: A Total of 2.3 Billion Yen in Drugs for Malaria, Tuberculosis, Chagas Disease and Visceral Leishmaniasis, Vaccine for Malaria and Diagnostics for Tuberculosis
:: As of March 31, GHIT’s portfolio includes 57 ongoing projects, including 30 in discovery stages, 20 in preclinical and seven in clinical trials (Appendix 3). The total amount of investments since 2013 is 25.1 billion yen (US$236 million).
**Global Fund** [to 3 Apr 2021]
*News & Stories*  
*News*
**The Global Fund’s Sixth Partnership Forums Generate Recommendations for the Next Global Fund Strategy**  
01 April 2021
The Sixth Partnership Forums ended on 15 March, having convened approximately 350 representatives from across the Global Fund partnership in a series of engaging, inclusive and energetic discussions to contribute to the development of the next Global Fund Strategy...

**Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness [GloPID-R]** [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://www.glopid-r.org/news/
*News*
No new digest content identified.

**Hilleman Laboratories** [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.hillemanlabs.org/
No new digest content identified.

**Human Vaccines Project** [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.humanvaccinesproject.org/media/press-releases/
No new digest content identified.

**IAVI** [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://www.iavi.org/newsroom
PRESS RELEASES/FEATURES
FEATURES
April 2, 2021
**Donor Spotlight: Government of India**
IAVI recognizes the Government of India for their unwavering support of the development of safe, effective, accessible, preventive HIV vaccines and biomedical prevention products for use throughout the world.

**International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities [ICMRA]**
Selected Statements, Press Releases, Research
No new digest content identified.

**International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association [IGBA]**
https://www.igbamedicines.org/
IFIm
http://www.iffim.org/
Press Releases/Announcements
No new digest content identified.

IFRC  [to 3 Apr 2021]
Selected Press Releases, Announcements
Global
Statement on International Treaty on Pandemics “We need bold new solutions – both in international and domestic laws – to avoid the same mistakes”

Geneva, 30 March 2021 In response to a common call for an International Treaty on Pandemics by the WHO and world leaders today, Jagan Chapagain, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, said: We are encouraged by this commitment from the WHO and world leaders today to develop a new treaty on pandemic prevention and response. The COVID-19 response has been hugely impaired by gaps in global cooperation and inequities affecting some of the most vulnerable of our societies. This treaty is an opportunity to address these for the next time.

“We need bold new solutions – both in international and domestic laws – to avoid the same mistakes. These must include a firm commitment to preparedness at all levels of society, including at the community level, and equitable access to testing, vaccines and treatment for all at greatest risk. We must also ensure that health and emergency staff and volunteers are supported to operate safely to provide life-saving aid, and access communities in need. And we must guard against the economic ruin of the poorest and most vulnerable as a result of pandemic responses.

“With our experience in supporting states to develop and implement disaster law and policy around the world, IFRC and its members stand ready to provide their expertise and advice to governments and to support such a treaty to not only be powerful on paper but transformative in reality.”

Institut Pasteur  [to 3 Apr 2021]
No new digest content identified.

IRC  International Rescue Committee  [to 3 Apr 2021]
Media highlights [Selected]
Press Release
Statement from the International Rescue Committee on the Generation Equality Forum
April 1, 2021

Statement
Ethiopia: IRC statement on the killing of humanitarian aid workers
April 1, 2021

**Press Release**

Las continuas caravanas migrantes son síntomas de la emergencia en el norte de Centroamérica, advierte IRC

March 31, 2021

**Press Release**

Ongoing migrant caravans are symptoms of the emergencies in northern Central America, warns IRC

March 31, 2021

Press Release

México: Postura del IRC sobre la muerte de Victoria Salazar

March 30, 2021

**IVAC** [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/ivac/index.html

Updates; Events

**Improving the Health of Women and Children in India**

March 2021  A Director’s Message

On New Year’s Day in 2021, approximately 68,000 babies were born across India. Their mothers would have traversed the arduous journey of pregnancy to reach the miraculous day of their birth. How many of these babies will be alive and thriving by the end of the year 2021? About five decades ago, [...]

**IVI** [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.ivi.int/

Selected IVI News, Announcements, Events

**International Vaccine Institute and Institut Pasteur Korea Sign MOU for Research and Development of Infectious Disease Therapeutics and Vaccines**

April 1, 2021, GYEONGDO-DO and SEOUL, Korea – The International Vaccine Institute (IVI) and the Institut Pasteur Korea (IPK) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for mutual collaboration in the research and development of therapeutics and vaccines for infectious diseases...

Towards the shared goal of improving public health, the IPK and IVI will promote research collaboration and information exchange, holding joint workshops and seminars to connect biomedical scientists and infectious disease experts of the two organizations and their partners worldwide.

In particular, the collaboration combines IPK’s research and technology in infectious disease and IVI’s capabilities and know-how in developing and designing new vaccines and in supporting clinical trials to accelerate new therapeutics and vaccine development. IPK and IVI have common fields of research interest in COVID-19, MERS, Dengue, TB, etc...

**JEE Alliance** [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://www.jeealliance.org/

Selected News and Events
No new digest content identified.

**Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security** [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/news/center-news/
Center News
No new digest content identified.

**MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières** [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.msf.org/
Latest [Selected Announcements]
Democratic Republic of Congo
In DRC, measles is spreading and killing again in what seems to be a never-ending fight
Project Update 31 Mar 2021

Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic
“Only vaccination will end the ferocious spread of COVID-19 in Iraq”
Op-Ed 31 Mar 2021

Tuberculosis
Sustainable solutions for children and adolescents at risk of drug-resistant tuberculosis
Project Update 30 Mar 2021

**National Academy of Medicine** - USA [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://nam.edu/programs/
Accessed 3 April 2021
Programs
Advancing Pandemic and Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Preparedness and Response
An International Committee will inform and facilitate efforts to advance global influenza pandemic preparedness. This International Committee will provide an iterative, interactive, multi-disciplinary, expert-informed process for assessing the global impact that capabilities, technologies, processes, and policies developed for COVID-19 could have on pandemic and seasonal influenza global preparedness and response, especially regarding vaccine development.

Upcoming Events:
:: Overview of Vaccine Science: Establishing Priorities to Improve Influenza Vaccines (April 15)
:: Major Barriers to Effective Global Coordination and Financing for Influenza Vaccination- Day 1 (April 9)
:: Major Barriers to Effective Global Coordination and Financing for Influenza Vaccination- Day 2 (April 16)

Past Events:
Overview of Vaccine Science: Existing Evidence and Lessons from COVID-19 (March 30)

**National Vaccine Program Office** - U.S. HHS [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://www.hhs.gov/vaccines/about/index.html
Upcoming Meetings/Latest Updates
No new digest content identified.

NIH [to 3 Apr 2021]
News Releases
NIH clinical trial evaluating Moderna COVID-19 variant vaccine begins
March 31, 2021 — Early-stage trial to evaluate safety and immunogenicity.

CDC and NIH bring COVID-19 self-testing to residents in two locales
March 31, 2021 — Participating households will receive free month-long supply of rapid tests aimed at reducing community transmission.

T cells recognize recent SARS-CoV-2 variants
March 30, 2021 — NIH research suggests protective effects of vaccination remain intact.

UN OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://www.unocha.org/
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

PATH [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://www.path.org/media-center/
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

Sabin Vaccine Institute [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.sabin.org/updates/pressreleases
Statements and Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

UNAIDS [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.unaids.org/en
Selected Press Releases/Reports/Statements
1 April 2021
President of Afghanistan declares ‘unwavering support’ for a People’s Vaccine for COVID-19
1 April 2021
New study recommends strategies to serve the under-protected Caribbean transgender community
31 March 2021
UNAIDS joins human rights community in mourning Christof Heyns, legal academic and expert

31 March 2021

(Wo)man in the Mirror: seeing your true self

30 March 2021

Solidarity fund helping transgender people during the COVID-19 pandemic

30 March 2021

Fighting transphobia and violence one social media post at a time

30 March 2021

Transgender communities in Asia and the Pacific respond to COVID-19 through activism

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter.html

Latest from News Centre

UNDP releases SDG Impact Standards for Bond Issuers

SDG Impact Standards are already being piloted in the market with New Development Bank’s (NDB) SDG bond issuance in China Interbank Bond Market earlier this month.

Posted on April 1, 2021

New UNDP study reveals the magnitude of limited debt relief eligibility for developing economies

Two-thirds of external ‘debt service at risk’ is not covered by current relief initiatives, putting at risk years of progress on poverty and the future resources needed to deal with climate change

Posted on April 1, 2021

UNESCO [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://en.unesco.org/news

Selected Latest News

No new digest content identified.

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 3 Apr 2021]

Selected Announcements

News Comment: Six refugees among 137 killed in Niger’s recent attack

This news comment is attributable to Gillian Triggs, UNHCR’s Assistant High Commissioner for Protection

1 Apr 2021

News comment: UNHCR calls on Myanmar’s neighbours to protect people fleeing violence

This news comment is attributable to Gillian Triggs, UNHCR’s Assistant High Commissioner for Protection
31 Mar 2021

**UNHCR alarmed at brutal attacks by insurgent armed group in Mozambique**

30 Mar 2021

**UNHCR rushing support and aid to Rohingya refugees affected by last week’s massive fire**

30 Mar 2021

**United Nations Chiefs urge donors to support record appeals for Syrians and the region**

Joint OCHA/UNHCR/UNDP Press Release

29 Mar 2021

**UNICEF** [to 3 Apr 2021]

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

Selected press releases, news notes and statements

*Press release* 04/01/2021

**Pre-pandemic data show 1 in 8 countries spends more on debt than on education, health and social protection combined – UNICEF**

UNICEF is calling for the extension of debt service relief and debt restructuring so that countries – and their children – can bounce back

*Press release* 03/31/2021

**Yemen receives 360,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses through the COVAX Facility**

... The AstraZeneca vaccines licensed and manufactured by the Serum Institute of India will enable health workers and other priority populations vulnerable to COVID-19 to be protected against the virus...

*Statement* 03/30/2021

**Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore on killing of polio workers in Afghanistan**

[See Polio above for detail]

*Press release* 03/30/2021

**UNICEF fund aims to raise US$2.5 billion for COVID-19 health supplies; low- and middle-income countries set to benefit**

Denmark makes first donation to support the global equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines

[See COVID above for detail]

*Statement* 03/29/2021

**UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore’s remarks at the World Immunisation & Logistics Summit, hosted by the HOPE Consortium**

**Unitaid** [to 3 Apr 2021]

https://unitaid.org/

Featured News
Unitaid statement regarding Ivermectin as a potential COVID-19 treatment

Geneva – Ivermectin, as well as other repurposed and new products, has been under evaluation in clinical trials as a potential treatment for COVID-19.

After updating the independent living network meta-analysis, the WHO Guidelines Development Group has updated the WHO Living Guidelines: Therapeutics and COVID-19 (today March 31). In this updated version, WHO recommends not to use ivermectin in patients with COVID-19 except in the context of clinical trials based on very low certainty of evidence.

Unitaid, in collaboration with the University of Liverpool, has tracked the evidence available for ivermectin from randomised clinical studies from around the world, with various studies still to be completed.

In addition, to support the acquisition of the necessary remaining evidence as soon as possible, the ANTICOV consortium – coordinated by DNDi and partly funded by Unitaid – is preparing to add ivermectin in a combination therapy, as a new treatment arm to the clinical trial. This large platform trial aims to identify treatments that can be used to treat mild and moderate cases of COVID-19, preventing them from progressing to severe COVID-19, and is being conducted in 13 countries in Africa, nine of which are funded by Unitaid.”

Vaccination Acceptance Research Network (VARN) [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://vaccineacceptance.org/news.html#header1-2r
Announcements
No new digest content identified.

Vaccine Confidence Project [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.vaccineconfidence.org/
News, Research and Reports
Coronavirus global impact
Launched April 2, 2020 and recurring every 3 days, Premise Data is utilizing its global network of Contributors to assess economic, social, and health sentiment surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Vaccine Education Center – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center
News
No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://wellcome.ac.uk/news
News and reports
Explainer
Why is a global Covid-19 vaccine rollout vital?
30 March 2021

Opinion
Our new funding will support bold and creative discovery research to improve health
29 March 2021

Michael Dunn shares more information about our new discovery research funding schemes, and the role of the Discovery Research team in Wellcome’s new strategy.

The Wistar Institute [to 3 Apr 2021]
Press Releases
Apr. 1, 2021
Wistar Scientists Discover New Mechanism Through Which Senescent Cells Turn On Genes That Encode for Secreted Tumor-regulating Factors
New insights into expression of the senescence-associated secretory phenotype.

WFPHA: World Federation of Public Health Associations [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://www.wfpha.org/
Latest News
Stop Blocking the Scale-up of Vaccines and Put Health over Profit!
Mar 31, 2021
On the occasion of World Health Day, WFPHA has joined a broad coalition of civil society organisations across Europe urgently calling on governments and EU institutions to implement a COVID-19 response based on global solidarity and to act to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines and medical products are available to everyone, everywhere in the world by waiving intellectual property rights (IPR) and sharing know-how and technology widely.

World Bank [to 3 Apr 2021]
Selected News, Announcements
Event – COVID-19: Vaccines for Developing Countries
Friday, April 9th | 11:00 am ET
The rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in developing countries is critical to protecting lives, building human capital, and stimulating economic recovery. The current crisis is exacerbating inequalities throughout the world and, without access to vaccines, the gap will widen further. Ensuring developing countries can access, as well as safely distribute vaccines, calls for strong partnership and cooperation at the national, regional & global levels. This event will explore:
:: The work underway in developing countries to prepare for large scale vaccine rollouts; the strengths and gaps in country readiness; measures to ensure access and distribution; and the importance of partnerships and cooperation across all stakeholders for success.
:: The private sector’s essential role in driving innovation, production and manufacturing to meet the enormous needs for COVID-19 vaccines, tests and therapeutics.
:: Taking a broad view of COVID-19 to reflect on opportunities and challenges across research, finance and policy, as we work to build more resilient health and economic systems now –and in the future.

Government of Nepal and World Bank sign $75 million additional financing agreement for COVID-19 vaccines
KATHMANDU, April 2, 2021 – The Government of Nepal and the World Bank today signed an agreement for additional financing of $75 million to support access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for...
Date: April 02, 2021 Type: Press Release

**WBG Vaccine Announcement-- Key Facts**
COVID-19 vaccines, alongside widespread testing, improved treatment and strong health systems are critical to save lives and strengthen the global economic recovery. To provide relief for vulnerable populations...
Date: March 30, 2021 Type: Factsheet

**World Customs Organization – WCO** [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.wcoomd.org/
Latest News – Selected Items
30 March 2021
**COVID-19 vaccine awareness: WCO completes three series of webinars involving the private sector**
   The World Customs Organization (WCO) successfully carried out three series of webinars between late January and late March 2021, to raise awareness about COVID-19 vaccines. The first series of webinars was held from 21 to 28 January in collaboration with Pfizer, the second from 15 to 17 March with Moderna, and the third one on 24 and 25 March with AstraZeneca.
   The 11 webinars, which brought together more than 1,300 participants in total, focused on the essential specifications of COVID-19 vaccines as well as details of their distribution patterns, the aim being to make Customs better equipped to identify counterfeit or sub-standard COVID-19 vaccines at borders and curb trafficking, notably during this important period of COVID-19 vaccine delivery to governments...

**World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)** [to 3 Apr 2021]
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

**WTO - World Trade Organisation** [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news_e.htm
WTO News and Events
**World trade primed for strong but uneven recovery after COVID-19 pandemic shock**
31 March 2021
   Prospects for a quick recovery in world trade have improved as merchandise trade expanded more rapidly than expected in the second half of last year. According to new estimates from the WTO, the volume of world merchandise trade is expected to increase by 8.0% in 2021 after having fallen 5.3% in 2020, continuing its rebound from the pandemic-induced collapse that bottomed out in the second quarter of last year.

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ARM [Alliance for Regenerative Medicine] [to 3 Apr 2021]
Press Releases - Alliance for Regenerative Medicine (alliancemrm.org)
No new digest content identified.

BIO [to 3 Apr 2021]
No new digest content identified.

DCVMN – Developing Country Vaccine Manufacturers Network [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.dcvmn.org/
No new digest content identified.

ICBA – International Council of Biotechnology Associations [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://internationalbiotech.org/news/
No new digest content identified.

IFPMA [to 3 Apr 2021]
http://www.ifpma.org/resources/news-releases/
COVID-19 vaccine and treatment innovators response to global leaders urgent call for international pandemic treaty
30 March 2021 –
[See Milestones above for detail]

Identification & Traceability of Medicinal Products – A tool towards strengthening health systems
30 March 2021

5 PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF TRACEABILITY SYSTEMS:

1. Harmonized Standards
2. Strategic Planning
3. Stepwise Approach
4. Framework for Implementation
5. Early Stakeholder Engagement

PhRMA [to 3 Apr 2021]
Strengthening a culture dedicated to patients and equity: A conversation with Vas Narasimhan, CEO of Novartis

March 31, 2021

Strengthening a culture dedicated to patients and equity: A conversation with Vas Narasimhan, CEO of Novartis

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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 3 Apr 2021
https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/issue/compassionate-force

Compassionate Force

Using force in caregiving is most often justified based on risk-benefit or best interest analyses. Careful, inclusive deliberation about whether force should be used in the course of a patient’s care is a rise-to-the minimum precursor of responsible force implementation, as is minimizing a patient’s risk of harm. Even when clinically indicated and ethically justifiable, force protocols drawing on physical, pharmaceutical, and legal means of restraint or seclusion can undermine therapeutic capacity in patient-clinician relationships, erode trust, and exacerbate emotional and moral distress for both patients and clinicians. These high stakes come patients’ extreme vulnerability prompt us to consider how clinicians’ and organizations’ clinical and ethical obligations extend beyond harm minimization to compassion maximization. Although the words "compassion" and "force" rarely appear together, this issue investigates what their union could mean for and make possible in the enterprise of health care.

American Journal of Infection Control

April 2021 Volume 49 Issue 4 p409-532
http://www.ajicjournal.org/current
American Journal of Preventive Medicine
April 2021  Volume 60  Issue 4p453-594
http://www.ajpmonline.org/current
Research Articles
Determinants of Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Uptake by Adult Women Attending Cervical Cancer Screening in 9 European Countries
Claudia Robles, Laia Bruni, Amelia Acera,... Christine Clavel, Silvia de Sanjosé, F. Xavier Bosch
Published online: December 24, 2020
p478-487
Open Access

American Journal of Public Health
April 2021  111(4)
http://ajph.aphapublications.org/toc/ajph/current
EDITORIALS
Addressing Vaccine Concerns: A Hopeful Path Forward for Vaccine Confidence
Jessica R. Cataldi and Sean T. O'Leary
111(4), pp. 556–558

PERSPECTIVES
Preparing for SARS-CoV-2 Vaccines in US Immigrant Communities: Strategies for Allocation, Distribution, and Communication
Eva H. Clark, Karla Fredricks, Laila Woc-Colburn, Maria Elena Bottazzi and Jill Weatherhead
111(4), pp. 577–581

BUILDING BRIDGES
Overcoming Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccination in African Americans: The Need for Cultural Humility
Keith C. Ferdinand
111(4), pp. 586–588

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
https://www.ajtmh.org/view/journals/tpmd/104/3_Suppl/tpmd.104.issue-3_Suppl.xml
Pragmatic Recommendations for the Management of Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients in Low- and Middle-Income Countries
Editorial
Open access
Recommendations for the Management of COVID-19 in Low- and Middle-Income Countries
Arjen M. Dondorp, Alfred C. Papali, Marcus J. Schultz, and for the COVID-LMIC Task Force and the Mahidol-Oxford Research Unit (MORU)
Annals of Internal Medicine
March 2021  Volume 174, Issue 3
http://annals.org/aim/issue
[Reviewed earlier]

Artificial Intelligence – An International Journal
Volume 293  April 2021
[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation
http://resource-allocation.biomedcentral.com/
(Accessed 3 Apr 2021)
[No new digest content identified]

BMJ Global Health
April 2021 - Volume 6 - 4
https://gh.bmj.com/content/6/4
Commentary
Cocreated regional research agenda for evidence-informed policy and advocacy to improve adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights in sub-Saharan Africa (2 April, 2021)
Meggie Mwoka, Anthony Idowu Ajayi, Grace Kibunja, Collins Cheruiyot, Ramatou Ouedraogo, Kenneth Juma, Emmy Kageha Igonya, Winnie Opondo, Emmanuel Otukpa, Caroline Kabiru, Boniface Ayanbekongshie Ushie

Intellectual property rights need to be subverted to ensure global vaccine access (1 April, 2021)
Salla Sariola

BMC Health Services Research
http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmchealthservres/content
(Accessed 3 Apr 2021)
[No new digest content identified]

BMC Infectious Diseases
http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcinfectdis/content
(Accessed 3 Apr 2021)
[No new digest content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics
http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmedethics/content
(Accessed 3 Apr 2021)
**Research article**

**A scoping review of genetics and genomics research ethics policies and guidelines for Africa**

Authors: Joseph Ali, Betty Cohn, Erisa Mwaka, Juli M. Bollinger, Betty Kwagala, John Barugahare, Nelson K. Sewankambo and Joseph Ochieng

Citation: BMC Medical Ethics 2021 22:39
Published on: 2 April 2021

**Background**

Genetics and genomics research (GGR) is increasingly being conducted around the world; yet, researchers and research oversight entities in many countries have struggled with ethical challenges. A range of ethics and regulatory issues need to be addressed through comprehensive policy frameworks that integrate with local environments. While important efforts have been made to enhance understanding and awareness of ethical dimensions of GGR in Africa, including through the H3Africa initiative, there remains a need for in-depth policy review, at a country-level, to inform and stimulate local policy development and revision on the continent.

**Conclusions**

Enforceable policies that are indispensable to the ethical conduct and review of GGR are either deficient or missing in many African countries. Existing international, GGR-specific ethics guidelines can be used to inform GGR policy development at a country-level, in conjunction with insight from country specific ethics committees and other local stakeholders.

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**BMC Medicine**

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

(Accessed 3 Apr 2021)

**Commentary**

**Research priorities for Long Covid: refined through an international multi-stakeholder forum**

In December 2020 ISARIC (the International Severe Acute Respiratory and emerging Infection Consortium), the research funders group GloPID-R (The Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness) and global group, Long Covid Support, jointly organised a ‘Long Covid Forum’ [8]. This public forum aimed to gain a better understanding of ‘Long Covid’ and to define research priorities for funders and researchers to take forward.

Authors: Gail Carson

Citation: BMC Medicine 2021 19:84
Published on: 31 March 2021

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**BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth**

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

(Accessed 3 Apr 2021)

[No new digest content identified]

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**BMC Public Health**

http://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles

(Accessed 3 Apr 2021)
How can community engagement in health research be strengthened for infectious disease outbreaks in Sub-Saharan Africa? A scoping review of the literature

Community engagement (CE) is a well-established practical and scholarly field, recognised as core to the science and ethics of health research, for which researchers and practitioners have increasingly asked q...

Authors: Samantha Vanderslott, Manya Van Ryneveld, Mark Marchant, Shelley Lees, Sylvie Kwedi Nolna and Vicki Marsh

Citation: BMC Public Health 2021 21:633
Content type: Research article
Published on: 1 April 2021

Scaling up public health interventions: case study of the polio immunization program in Indonesia

The scaling up of public health interventions has received greater attention in recent years; however, there remains paucity of systematic investigations of the scaling up processes. We aim to investigate the overall process, actors and contexts of polio immunization scaling up in Indonesia from 1988 until 2018.

Authors: Utsamani Cintyamena, Luthfi Azizatunnisa’, Riris Andono Ahmad and Yodi Mahendradhata

Citation: BMC Public Health 2021 21:614
Content type: Research article
Published on: 29 March 2021

BMC Research Notes
http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcresearchnotes/content
(Accessed 3 Apr 2021)
[No new digest content identified]

BMJ
03 April 2021(vol 373, issue 8286)
https://www.bmj.com/content/373/8286

Research
The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews
BMJ 2021; 372 :n71 (Published 29 March 2021)

The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement, published in 2009, was designed to help systematic reviewers transparently report why the review was done, what the authors did, and what they found. Over the past decade, advances in systematic review methodology and terminology have necessitated an update to the guideline. The PRISMA 2020 statement replaces the 2009 statement and includes new reporting guidance that reflects advances in methods to identify, select, appraise, and synthesise studies. The structure and presentation of the items have been modified to facilitate implementation. In this article, we present the PRISMA 2020 27-item checklist, an expanded checklist that details reporting recommendations for each item, the PRISMA 2020 abstract checklist, and the revised flow diagrams for original and updated reviews.

BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine
April 2021 - Volume 26 - 2
Improving care of migrants is key for viral hepatitis elimination in Europe
— Jin Un Kim, Patrick Ingiliz, Yusuke Shimakawa, & Maud Lemoine
http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.20.260919

Eliminating mother-to-child transmission of human immunodeficiency virus, syphilis and hepatitis B in sub-Saharan Africa
— Jennifer Cohn, Morkor N Owiredu, Melanie M Taylor, Philippa Easterbrook, Olufunmilayo Lesi, Bigirimana Francoise, Laura N Broyles, Angela Mushavi, Judith Van Holten, Catherine Ngugi, Fuqiang Cui, Dalia Zachary, Sirak Hailu, Fatima Tsouris, Monique Andersson, Dorothy Mbori-Ngacha, Wame Jallow, Shaffiq Essajee, Anna L Ross, Rebecca Bailey, Jesal Shah & Meg M Doherty
http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.20.272559

Supply chain transparency and the availability of essential medicines
— Christine Årdal, Enrico Baraldi, Peter Beyer, Yohann Lacotte, DG Joakim Larsson, Marie-Cécile Ploy, John-Arne Røttingen & Ingrid Smith
http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.20.267724
Clinical Therapeutics
Volume 43 Issue 2 p211-430, e33-e56
http://www.clinicaltherapeutics.com/current

Commentary
Artificial Intelligence in Pharmacovigilance: Scoping Points to Consider
Manfred Hauben, Craig G. Hartford
Published online: January 18, 2021

Abstract
Artificial intelligence (AI), a highly interdisciplinary science, is an increasing presence in pharmacovigilance (PV). A better understanding of the scope of artificial intelligence in pharmacovigilance (AIPV) may be advantageous to more sharply defining, for example, which terms, methods, tasks, and data sets are suitably subsumed under the application of AIPV. Accordingly, this article explores relevant points to consider regarding defining the scope of AIPV and offers a potential working definition of the scope of AIPV.

Clinical Trials
Volume 18 Issue 2, April 2021
https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ctja/18/2

Ethics
An ethics framework for consolidating and prioritizing COVID-19 clinical trials
First Published February 2, 2021; pp. 226–233

Preview
Given the dearth of established safe and effective interventions to respond to COVID-19, there is an urgent ethical imperative to conduct meaningful clinical research. The good news is that interventions to be tested are not in short supply. Unfortunately, the human and material resources needed to conduct these trials are finite. It is essential that trials be robust and meet enrollment targets and that lower-quality studies not be permitted to displace higher-quality studies, delaying answers to critical questions. Yet, with few exceptions, existing research review bodies and processes are not designed to ensure these conditions are satisfied. To meet this challenge, we offer guidance for research institutions about how to ethically consolidate and prioritize COVID-19 clinical trials, while recognizing that consolidation and prioritization should also take place upstream (among manufacturers and funders) and at a higher level (e.g. nationally). In our proposed three-stage process, trials must first meet threshold criteria. Those that do are evaluated in a second stage to determine whether the institution has sufficient capacity to support all proposed trials. If it does not, the third stage entails evaluating studies against two additional sets of comparative prioritization criteria: those specific to the study and those that aim to advance diversification of an institution's research portfolio. To implement these criteria fairly, we propose that research institutions form COVID-19 research prioritization committees. We briefly discuss some important attributes of these committees, drawing on the authors’ experiences at our respective institutions. Although we focus on clinical trials of COVID-19 therapeutics, our guidance should prove useful for other kinds of COVID-19 research, as well as non-pandemic research, which can raise similar challenges due to the scarcity of research resources.
Conflict and Health
http://www.conflictandhealth.com/
[Accessed 3 Apr 2021]
[No new digest content identified]

Contemporary Clinical Trials
Volume 102  March 2021
[New issue; No digest content identified]

The CRISPR Journal
Volume 4, Issue 1 / February 2021
https://www.liebertpub.com/toc/crispr/4/1
[Reviewed earlier]

Current Genetic Medicine Reports
Volume 9, issue 1, March 2021
https://link.springer.com/journal/40142/volumes-and-issues/9-1
[Reviewed earlier]

Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases
April 2021 - Volume 34 - Issue 2
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 21, Issue 1  Pages: i, 1-54  March 2021
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14718847/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice
Volume 31, Issue 1, 2021
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 2 Pages: 253-497 April 2021
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14677717/current
[Reviewed earlier]

EMBO Reports
Volume 22 Issue 3 3 March 2021
https://www.embopress.org/toc/14693178/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Emerging Infectious Diseases
Volume 27, Number 3—March 2021
http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/
[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics
Volume 34 March 2021
https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/epidemics/vol/34/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 2 Pages: 1-48 March–April 2021
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/25782363/current
Research ethics and pandemics • IRBs and AI research
[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health
Volume 31, Issue 1, February 2021

Iqbal Hossain, Isaac Mugoya, Lilian Muchai, Kirstin Krudwig, Nicole Davis, Lora Shimp and Vanessa Richart

Innovative learning strategies are needed to improve frontline health workers' skills for achieving immunization coverage goals—now even more important with COVID-19. Peer mentoring and WhatsApp networking are low-cost and useful blended learning methods for need-based and individualized capacity building of health workers for improving immunization services that don't disrupt the health care workers' regular work.
Lessons from the pandemic on the value of research infrastructure

The COVID-19 pandemic has shed a spotlight on the resilience of healthcare systems, and their ability to cope efficiently and effectively with unexpected crises. If we are to learn one economic lesson from the...

Authors: Laurence S. J. Roope, Paolo Candio, Vasiliki Kiparoglou, Helen McShane, Raymond Duch and Philip M. Clarke

Citation: Health Research Policy and Systems 2021 19:54
Content type: Commentary
Published on: 1 April 2021
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. Simione 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.
Infectious Diseases of Poverty
http://www.idpjournal.com/content
[Accessed 3 Apr 2021]
[No new digest content identified]

International Health
Volume 13, Issue 2, March 2021
https://academic.oup.com/inthealth/issue/13/2
[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health
Vol 8, No 3 (2021) March 2021
https://www.ijcmph.com/index.php/ijcmph/issue/view/74
Table of Contents
[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Epidemiology
Volume 50, Issue 1, February 2021
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
Table of Contents
[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases
March 2021 Volume 104 p1-754
https://www.ijidonline.com/current
[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA
March 23/30, 2021, Vol 325, No. 12, Pages 1125-1234
https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/currentissue
[Reviewed earlier]
These articles on COVID-19 were published across the JAMA Network in the last week.

**JAMA Pediatrics**
March 2021, Vol 175, No. 3, Pages 225-332
https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/currentissue
[Reviewed earlier]

**JBI Evidence Synthesis**
March 2021 - Volume 19 - Issue 3
https://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/Pages/currenttoc.aspx
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Adolescent Health**
Volume 68  Issue 4  p637-832
https://www.jahonline.org/current
[New issue; No digest content identified]

**Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research**
Vol. 70 (2021)
https://www.jair.org/index.php/jair
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Community Health**
Volume 46, issue 2, April 2021
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Development Economics**
Volume 150  May 2021
[New issue; No digest content identified]

**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**
Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine
Volume 14, Issue 1 Pages: 1-81 February 2021
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 32, Number 1, February 2021
https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/43951
Table of Contents
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health
Volume 23, issue 2, April 2021
[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 4, 15 February 2021
https://academic.oup.com/jid/issue/223/4
REVIEW
Outdoor Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and Other Respiratory Viruses: A Systematic Review
Tommaso Celeste Bulfone, Mohsen Malekinejad, George W Rutherford, Nooshin Razani
The Journal of Infectious Diseases, Volume 223, Issue 4, 15 February 2021, Pages 550–561,
https://doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jiaa742
This systematic review found that while outdoor environments do seem at lower risk for transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory viruses than indoor environments, there are data showing that infection transmission is possible outdoors, thus warranting further rigorous investigation.

**Safety and Immunogenicity of the Ad26.RSV.preF Investigational Vaccine Coadministered With an Influenza Vaccine in Older Adults**

Jerald Sadoff, Els De Paepe, Wouter Haazen, Edmund Omoruyi, Arangassery R Bastian...


Coadministration of Fluarix with the Ad26.RSV.preF vaccine had an acceptable safety profile and showed no evidence of interference in immune response in healthy adults aged ≥60 years.

**Journal of Medical Ethics**

March 2021 - Volume 47 - 3
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**

Volume 231  p1-304
http://www.jpeds.com/current
Reflections on Ethics and Advocacy in Child Health

**Global Ethical Considerations Regarding Mandatory Vaccination in Children**

Julian Savulescu, Alberto Giubilini, Margie Danchin
Published online: January 20, 2021
p10-16

Open Access

Whether children should be vaccinated against coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) (or other infectious diseases such as influenza) and whether some degree of coercion should be exercised by the state to ensure high uptake depends, among other things, on the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. For COVID-19, these factors are currently unknown for children, with unanswered questions also on children's role in the transmission of the virus, the extent to which the vaccine will decrease transmission, and the expected benefit (if any) to the child. Ultimately, deciding whether to recommend that children receive a novel vaccine for a disease that is not a major threat to them, or to mandate the vaccine, requires precise information on the risks, including disease severity and vaccine safety and effectiveness, a comparative evaluation of the alternatives, and the levels of coercion associated with each. However, the decision also requires balancing self-interest with duty to others, and liberty with usefulness. Separate to ensuring vaccine supply and access, we outline 3 requirements for mandatory vaccination from an ethical perspective: (1) whether the disease is a grave threat to the health of children and to public health, (2) positive comparative expected usefulness of mandatory
vaccination, and (3) proportionate coercion. We also suggest that the case for mandatory vaccine in children may be strong in the case of influenza vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*In the Wake of a Pandemic: Revisiting School Approaches to Nonmedical Exemptions to Mandatory Vaccination in the US*
Erin Talati Paquette
Published online: January 20, 2021
p17-23

*Adolescent Consent for Human Papillomavirus Vaccine: Ethical, Legal, and Practical Considerations*
Gregory D. Zimet, Ross D. Silverman, Robert A. Bednarczyk, Abigail English
Published online: January 20, 2021
p24-30

We address ethical, legal, and practical issues related to adolescent self-consent for human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination. HPV vaccination coverage continues to lag well behind the national goal of 80% series completion. Structural and behavioral interventions have improved vaccination rates, but attitudinal, behavioral, and access barriers remain. A potential approach for increasing access and improving vaccination coverage would be to permit adolescents to consent to HPV vaccination for themselves. We argue that adolescent self-consent is ethical, but that there are legal hurdles to be overcome in many states. In jurisdictions where self-consent is legal, there can still be barriers due to lack of awareness of the policy among healthcare providers and adolescents. Other barriers to implementation of self-consent include resistance from antivaccine and parent rights activists, reluctance of providers to agree to vaccinate even when self-consent is legally supported, and threats to confidentiality. Confidentiality can be undermined when an adolescent's self-consented HPV vaccination appears in an explanation of benefits communication sent to a parent or if a parent accesses an adolescent's vaccination record via state immunization information systems. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to a substantial drop in HPV vaccination, there may be even more reason to consider self-consent. The atmosphere of uncertainty and distrust surrounding future COVID-19 vaccines underscores the need for any vaccine policy change to be pursued with clear communication and consistent with ethical principles.

*Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice*
https://joppp.biomedcentral.com/
[Accessed 3 Apr 2021]
[No new digest content identified]

*Journal of Public Health Management & Practice*
March/April 2021 - Volume 27 - Issue 2
https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/pages/currenttoc.aspx
[Reviewed earlier]

*Journal of Public Health Policy*
Volume 42, issue 1, March 2021
https://link.springer.com/journal/41271/volumes-and-issues/42-1
The Lancet
Apr 03, 2021 Volume 397 Number 10281 p1237-1324, e10
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current

Comment
Africa needs local solutions to face the COVID-19 pandemic
Yap Boum, Lisa M Bebell, Anne-Cécile Zoung-Kanyi Bisseck

Migration and health in Latin America during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond
Ietza Bojorquez et al.

10 years of the Syrian conflict: a time to act and not merely to remember
Samer Jabbour, et al

Articles
The first and second waves of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa: a cross-sectional study
Stephanie J Salyer, et al

Although the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic progressed more slowly in Africa than the rest of the world, by December, 2020, the second wave appeared to be much more aggressive with many more cases. To date, the pandemic situation in all 55 African Union (AU) Member States has not been comprehensively reviewed. We aimed to evaluate reported COVID-19 epidemiology data to better understand the pandemic's progression in Africa.
Health Policy

Eliminating postnatal HIV transmission in high incidence areas: need for complementary biomedical interventions
Philippe Van de Perre, et al.

The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health
Apr 2021 Volume 5 Number 4 p233-308, e9-e11
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/issue/current
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Lancet Digital Health
Apr 2021 Volume 3 Number 4 e204-e273
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landig/issue/current

Viewpoint

Health data poverty: an assailable barrier to equitable digital health care
Hussein Ibrahim, Xiaoxuan Liu, Nevine Zariffa, Andrew D Morris, Alastair K Denniston

Summary
Data-driven digital health technologies have the power to transform health care. If these tools could be sustainably delivered at scale, they might have the potential to provide everyone, everywhere, with equitable access to expert-level care, narrowing the global health and wellbeing gap. Conversely, it is highly possible that these transformative technologies could exacerbate existing health-care inequalities instead. In this Viewpoint, we describe the problem of health data poverty: the inability for individuals, groups, or populations to benefit from a discovery or innovation due to a scarcity of data that are adequately representative. We assert that health data poverty is a threat to global health that could prevent the benefits of data-driven digital health technologies from being more widely realised and might even lead to them causing harm. We argue that the time to act is now to avoid creating a digital health divide that exacerbates existing health-care inequalities and to ensure that no one is left behind in the digital era.

Lancet Global Health
Apr 2021 Volume 9 Number 4 e372-e557
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/issue/current

Articles
Dynamic needs and challenges of people with drug-resistant tuberculosis and HIV in South Africa: a qualitative study
Amrita Daftary, et al

Lancet Infectious Diseases
Apr 2021 Volume 21 Number 4 p439-578, e67-e109
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/issue/current

Comment
Optimising dengue pre-vaccination screening
Annelies Wilder-Smith, Rosanna W Peeling
Articles

**Immunogenicity and safety of simplified vaccination schedules for the CYD-TDV dengue vaccine in healthy individuals aged 9–50 years (CYD65): a randomised, controlled, phase 2, non-inferiority study**
Diana Leticia Coronel-Martínez, et al.

**Accuracy and efficacy of pre-dengue vaccination screening for previous dengue infection with five commercially available immunoassays: a retrospective analysis of phase 3 efficacy trials**
Carlos A DiazGranados, et al.

**Safety and immunogenicity of inactivated poliovirus vaccine schedules for the post-eradication era: a randomised open-label, multicentre, phase 3, non-inferiority trial**
Ananda S Bandyopadhyay, et al.

Open Access

**Personal View**

**The granting of emergency use designation to COVID-19 candidate vaccines: implications for COVID-19 vaccine trials**
Jerome Amir Singh, Ross E G Upshur

**Summary**
An efficacious COVID-19 vaccine is currently the world’s leading research priority. Several nations have indicated that if there is a compelling case for use of a vaccine before it is licensed, they would be prepared to authorise its emergency use or conditional approval on public health grounds. As of Dec 1, 2020, several developers of leading COVID-19 candidate vaccines have indicated that they have applied, or intend to apply, for emergency authorisation for their vaccines. Should candidate vaccines attain emergency use designation and be programmatically deployed before their phase 3 trials conclude, such a strategy could have far reaching consequences for COVID-19 vaccine research and the effective control of the COVID-19 pandemic. These issues merit careful consideration.

**Lancet Public Health**
Apr 2021 Volume 6 Number 4 e192-e259
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/issue/current

**Comment**

**Understanding the determinants of acceptance of COVID-19 vaccines: a challenge in a fast-moving situation**
Pierre Verger, Patrick Peretti-Watel

**Articles**

**COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in a representative working-age population in France: a survey experiment based on vaccine characteristics**
Michaël Schwarzinger, Verity Watson, Pierre Arwidson, François Alla, Stéphane Luchini

**Lancet Respiratory Medicine**
Apr 2021 Volume 9 Number 4 p319-434, e30-e46
Articles

**Safety and immunogenicity of the adjunct therapeutic vaccine ID93 + GLA-SE in adults who have completed treatment for tuberculosis: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 2a trial**

Tracey A Day, et al for the TBVPX-203 study team

**Maternal and Child Health Journal**
Volume 25, issue 3, March 2021
[Reviewed earlier]

**Medical Decision Making (MDM)**
Volume 41 Issue 3, April 2021
[http://mdm.sagepub.com/content/current](http://mdm.sagepub.com/content/current)
[New issue; No digest content identified]

**The Milbank Quarterly**
_A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy_
Volume 99, Issue 1  Pages: 1-327  March 2021
[Reviewed earlier]

**Nature**
Volume 592 Issue 7852, 1 April 2021
[https://www.nature.com/nature/volumes/592/issues/7852](https://www.nature.com/nature/volumes/592/issues/7852)

*Editorial*  30 March 2021
**It’s time to consider a patent reprieve for COVID vaccines**

The pandemic is not a competition between companies and will not end without more-equal distribution of coronavirus vaccines.

**Nature Biotechnology**
Volume 39 Issue 3, March 2021
[https://www.nature.com/nbt/volumes/39/issues/3](https://www.nature.com/nbt/volumes/39/issues/3)
[Reviewed earlier]

**Nature Communications**
[https://www.nature.com/subjects/health-sciences/ncomms](https://www.nature.com/subjects/health-sciences/ncomms)
(Accessed 3 Apr 2021)
[No new digest content identified]
**Nature Genetics**  
Volume 53 Issue 3, March 2021  
https://www.nature.com/ng/volumes/53/issues/3  
[Reviewed earlier]  

**Nature Human Behaviour**  
Volume 5 Issue 3, March 2021  
https://www.nature.com/nathumbehav/volumes/5/issues/3  
[Reviewed earlier]  

**Nature Medicine**  
Volume 27 Issue 3, March 2021  
https://www.nature.com/nm/volumes/27/issues/3  
[Reviewed earlier]  

**Nature Reviews Genetics**  
Volume 22 Issue 4, April 2021  
https://www.nature.com/nrg/volumes/22/issues/4  
*In Brief* | 02 March 2021  
**The TOPMed genomic resource for human health**  
The TOPMed consortium report whole-genome sequencing data from 53,831 ethnically diverse participants. They describe the key features of the genetic variation and produce data resources for future medical research by the wider scientific community.  
Darren J. Burgess  

**Nature Reviews Immunology**  
Volume 21 Issue 4, April 2021  
https://www.nature.com/nri/volumes/21/issues/4  
*Comment* | 05 March 2021  
**COVID-19 vaccines: modes of immune activation and future challenges**  
This Comment outlines how the recently licensed vaccines for COVID-19 activate innate immune mechanisms to promote immune memory to SARS-CoV-2. The authors also consider future challenges that could limit vaccine efficacy.  
John R. Teijaro & Donna L. Farber  

*Comment* | 12 March 2021  
**Signals of hope: gauging the impact of a rapid national vaccination campaign**  
Preliminary data from Israel demonstrate real-life effectiveness of their COVID-19 vaccination campaign and provide insights that could inform rollout in other countries.  
Smadar Shilo, Hagai Rossman & Eran Segal  

**Nature Reviews Drug Discovery**  
Volume 20 Issue 3, March 2021
Perspective

A Half-Century of Progress in Health: The National Academy of Medicine at 50: Emerging Infectious Diseases — Learning from the Past and Looking to the Future

Christopher Elias, M.D., M.P.H., John N. Nkengasong, Ph.D., and Firdausi Qadri, Ph.D.

Remarkable progress has been made in preventing deaths from infectious diseases. Now, attention could shift to focusing more resources on pandemic preparedness, including detecting and containing emerging zoonotic threats while they are localized and manageable.

Original Articles

Brief Report: Ebola Virus Transmission Initiated by Relapse of Systemic Ebola Virus Disease

Placide Mbala-Kingebeni, M.D., Ph.D. et al

Summary

During the 2018–2020 Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in North Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of Congo, EVD was diagnosed in a patient who had received the recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus–based vaccine expressing a ZEBOV glycoprotein (rVSV-ZEBOV) (Merck). His treatment included an Ebola virus (EBOV)–specific monoclonal antibody (mAb114), and he recovered within 14 days. However, 6 months later, he presented again with severe EVD-like illness and EBOV viremia, and he died. We initiated epidemiologic and genomic investigations that showed that the patient had had a relapse of acute EVD that led to a transmission chain resulting in 91 cases across six health zones over 4 months. (Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and others.)

Editorials

Audio Interview: Delivering Covid-19 Vaccines to Minority Communities

E. J. Rubin, L. R. Baden, C. Del Rio, C. Akusobi, and S. Morrissey

Pediatrics

Vol. 147, Issue 4 1 Apr 2021

Societal Costs of a Measles Outbreak

Jamison Pike, Alan Melnick, Paul A. Gastañaduy, Meagan Kay, Jeff Harbison, Andrew J. Leidner, Samantha Rice, Kennly Asato, Linda Schwartz, Chas DeBolt

Pediatrics, Apr 2021, 147 (4) e2020027037

Commentaries

The Many Costs of Measles Outbreaks and Undervaccination: Why We Need to Invest in Public Health

Jessica R. Cataldi

Pediatrics, Apr 2021, 147 (4) e2020035303
PharmacoEconomics
Volume 39, issue 4, April 2021
[New issue; No digest content identified]

PLoS Genetics
https://journals.plos.org/plosgenetics/
(Accessed 3 Apr 2021)
[No new digest content identified]

PLoS Medicine
http://www.plosmedicine.org/
(Accessed 3 Apr 2021)
[No new digest content identified]

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases
http://www.plosntds.org/
(Accessed 3 Apr 2021)
Research Article
Use of seroprevalence to guide dengue vaccination plans for older adults in a dengue non-endemic country
Yi-Hua Pan, Mei-Ying Liao, Yu-Wen Chien, Tzong-Shiann Ho, Hui-Ying Ko, Chin-Rur Yang, Shu-Fen Chang, Chia-Yi Yu, Shu-Yu Lin, Pin-Wei Shih, Pei-Yun Shu, Day-Yu Chao, Chao-Ying Pan, Hong-Ming Chen, Guey-Chuen Perng, Chia-Chi Ku, Chwan-Chuen King
| published 01 Apr 2021 PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0009312

PLoS One
http://www.plosone.org/
[Accessed 3 Apr 2021]
Rapidly modifiable factors associated with full vaccination status among children in Niamey, Niger: A cross-sectional, random cluster household survey
Mika Kondo Kunieda, Mahamane Laouali Manzo, Akira Shibanuma, Masamine Jimba
Research Article | published 31 Mar 2021 PLOS ONE
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0249026

PLoS Pathogens
http://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/
[Accessed 3 Apr 2021]
[No new digest content identified]
Health and economic impact of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in hindering antimicrobial resistance in China
Ember (Yiwei) Lu, Hui-Han Chen, Hongqing Zhao, and Sachiko Ozawa
PNAS March 30, 2021 118 (13) e2004933118; https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2004933118

Looking to the empirical literature on the potential for financial incentives to enhance adherence with COVID-19 vaccination
Stephen T. Higgins, Elias M. Klemperer, Sulamunn R.M. Coleman
Article 106421

A narrative review of HPV vaccination interventions in rural U.S. communities
Heather M. Brandt, Robin C. Vanderpool, Meagan Pilar, Maria Zubizarreta, Lindsay R. Stradtman
Article 106407

Effects of fact-checking social media vaccine misinformation on attitudes toward vaccines
Jingwen Zhang, Jieryu Ding Featherstone, Christopher Calabrese, Magdalena Wojcieszak
Article 106408

Expectant parents' vaccine decisions influenced by the 2018 Chinese vaccine crisis: A cross-sectional study
Xiaomin Wang, Leesa Lin, Jiayao Xu, Weiyi Wang, Xudong Zhou
Article 106423
Research Articles

The Intersection of Problems, Policy, and Politics: The Adoption of an HPV Vaccine School-Entry Requirement in Puerto Rico
Coralia Vázquez-Otero, Ellen M. Daley, Cheryl A. Vamos, Nancy Romero-Daza, Jason Beckstead, Dinorah Martinez Tyson
First Published March 18, 2021; pp. 859–870
Risk Analysis
Volume 41, Issue 3  Pages: 407-557  March 2021
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15396924/current

Special Issue: 40 Years of Social Sciences in Risk Research Reconsidered
[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Management and Healthcare Policy
[Accessed 3 Apr 2021]
[No new digest content identified]

Science
02 April 2021  Vol 372, Issue 6537
http://www.sciencemag.org/current.dtl
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Science Translational Medicine
31 March 2021  Vol 13, Issue 587
https://stm.sciencemag.org/
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Social Science & Medicine
Volume 272  March 2021
[Reviewed earlier]

Systematic Reviews
https://systematicreviewsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles
[Accessed 3 Apr 2021]
https://stm.sciencemag.org/
The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews
Authors: Matthew J. Page, Joanne E. McKenzie, Patrick M. Bossuyt, Isabelle Boutron, Tammy C. Hoffmann, Cynthia D. Mulrow, Larissa Shamseer, Jennifer M. Tetzlaff, Elie A. Akl, Sue E. Brennan, Roger Chou, Julie Glanville, Jeremy M. Grimshaw, Asbjørn Hróbjartsson, Manoj M. Lalu, Tianjing Li...
Citation: Systematic Reviews 2021 10:89
Content type: Research
Published on: 29 March 2021

Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics
Volume 41, issue 5-6, December 2020
Travel Medicine and Infectious Diseases
Volume 40  March–April 2021
[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health
Volume 26, Issue 3  Pages: i-iv, 257-384  March 2021
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13653156/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Vaccine
Volume 39, Issue 14  Pages 1877-2016 (1 April 2021)
Short communication  Full text access
Vaccine hesitancy and anti-vaccination in the time of COVID-19: A Google Trends analysis
Samuel Pullan, Mrinalini Dey
Pages 1877-1881

Short communication  Abstract only
Ancillary benefits of seasonal influenza vaccination in middle-income countries
Malembe S. Ebama, Susan Y. Chu, Eduardo Azziz-Baumgartner, Kathryn E. Lafond, ... Joseph Bresee
Pages 1892-1896

Review article  Open access
National decision-making for the introduction of new vaccines: A systematic review, 2010–2020
Morgane Donadel, Maria Susana Panero, Lynnette Ametewee, Abigail M. Shefer
Pages 1897-1909

Review article  Abstract only
Multi-domain narrative review of vaccine hesitancy in childhood
Syarafina Hasnan, Ngiap Chuan Tan
Pages 1910-1920

Research article  Full text access
Influenza vaccination in the time of COVID-19: A national U.S. survey of adults
Lynne Sturm, Monica L. Kasting, Katharine J. Head, Jane A. Hartsock, Gregory D. Zimet
Pages 1921-1928

Research article  Full text access
Willingness to pay and financing preferences for COVID-19 vaccination in China
Jiahao Wang, Yun Lyu, Haijun Zhang, Rize Jing, ... Hai Fang
Research article  Abstract only

Workplace influenza vaccination to reduce employee absenteeism: An economic analysis from the employers’ perspective
Frederik Verelst, Philippe Beutels, Niel Hens, Lander Willem
Pages 2005-2015

Vaccines — Open Access Journal
http://www.mdpi.com/journal/vaccines
(Accessed 3 Apr 2021)
Research article  Abstract only

Workplace influenza vaccination to reduce employee absenteeism: An economic analysis from the employers’ perspective
Frederik Verelst, Philippe Beutels, Niel Hens, Lander Willem
Pages 2005-2015

Open Access  Article
Awareness, Attitudes and Clinical Practices Regarding Human Papillomavirus Vaccination among General Practitioners and Pediatricians in Switzerland
by Levy Jäger, Oliver Senn, Thomas Rosemann and Andreas Plate
Vaccines 2021, 9(4), 332; https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9040332 - 01 Apr 2021
Abstract
In Switzerland, the human papillomavirus vaccination (HPVv) coverage rate lies below a desirable threshold. General practitioners (GPs) and pediatricians have been recognized as important providers of the HPVv, but there is little known about their self-attributed role and its relationship with their actual [...]

Open Access  Article
COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy among Young Adults in Saudi Arabia: A Cross-Sectional Web-Based Study
by Dalia Almaghaslah, Abdulrhman Alsayari, Geetha Kandasamy and Rajalakshimi Vasudevan
Vaccines 2021, 9(4), 330; https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9040330 - 01 Apr 2021
Abstract
Ending the COVID-19 pandemic requires achieving herd immunity, either by previous infection or by vaccination. However, concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine are growing around the globe. The current study was conducted to investigate young the adult population’s hesitancy towards the vaccine. The study [...]

Open Access  Review
The Implementation of Mass-Vaccination against SARS-CoV-2: A Systematic Review of Existing Strategies and Guidelines
by Tasnim Hasan, Justin Beardsley, Ben J. Marais, Thu Anh Nguyen and Greg J. Fox
Vaccines 2021, 9(4), 326; https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9040326 - 01 Apr 2021
Abstract
The global drive to vaccinate against severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) began in December 2020 with countries in Europe, Middle East, and North America leading the roll out
of a mass-vaccination program. This systematic review synthesised all available English-language
guidelines and research regarding [...]  

Open Access  Review  

Demand Creation for COVID-19 Vaccination: Overcoming Vaccine Hesitancy through Social Marketing  
by William Douglas Evans and Jeff French  
Vaccines 2021, 9(4), 319; https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9040319 - 01 Apr 2021  
Abstract  
The COVID-19 pandemic has led to millions of deaths and tested the capabilities of the medical and public health systems worldwide. Over the next two years as more approved vaccines are made available and supply meets or exceeds demand, medical and public health [...]  

Value in Health  
March 2021  Volume 24  Issue 3  p313-462  
https://www.valueinhealthjournal.com/current  
[Reviewed earlier]  

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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 sheer volume of vaccine and pandemic-related coverage is extraordinary. We will strive to present the most substantive analysis and commentary we encounter.  

The Atlantic  
http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/  
Accessed 3 Apr 2021  
[No new, unique, relevant content]  

BBC  
http://www.bbc.co.uk/  
Accessed 3 Apr 2021
**The Economist**  
http://www.economist.com/  
*Accessed 3 Apr 2021*  
**Briefing**  
**Why the EU’s covid-19 vaccination programme went wrong**  
The commission should have done much better

**Financial Times**  
https://www.ft.com/  
*Accessed 3 Apr 2021*  
**The Big Read**  
**Brazil’s coronavirus nightmare: ‘Bolsonaro is more isolated than ever’**  
April 3, 2021

**Interview**  
**Lunch with the FT**  
**UK vaccine supremo Kate Bingham: ‘The bickering needs to stop’**  
...“You need to be sure that the vaccines are safe and that if you take the vaccine, you will get protected....”  
April 3, 2021

**Coronavirus latest: Pfizer trial points to vaccine effectiveness against South Africa variant**  
**Italy to make vaccines mandatory for healthcare workers**  
April 1, 2021

**Forbes**  
http://www.forbes.com/  
*Accessed 3 Apr 2021*  
Apr 2, 2021  
**Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis Bans Vaccine Passports Amid GOP Pushback**  
Some businesses are already requiring vaccine proof.  
By Nicholas Reimann  
Forbes Staff

Apr 1, 2021  
**WHO Calls Out Europe For ‘Unacceptably Slow’ Vaccine Rollout, Warns It Will Prolong Pandemic**  
The global body noted that more than 1.6 million people have contracted Covid-19 in Europe in the past week and the numbers are continuing to rise.  
By Siladitya Ray  
Forbes Staff

Mar 31, 2021  
**How Counterfeit Covid-19 Vaccines And Vaccination Cards Endanger Us All**  
As much as 10% of medicines are thought to be counterfeit. The growing trade in falsified and substandard drugs is worsening and endangers us in surprising ways.
By Judy Stone  Senior Contributor

Mar 31, 2021
‘World’s First’ Animal Covid-19 Vaccine Registered In Russia — Here’s What That Means
Millions of mink were culled due to widespread outbreaks of Covid-19, sparking fears for the future of the fur industry.
By Robert Hart  Forbes Staff

Foreign Affairs
http://www.foreignaffairs.com/
Accessed 3 Apr 2021
[No new, unique, relevant content]

Foreign Policy
http://foreignpolicy.com/
Accessed 3 Apr 2021
Latin America’s COVID-19 Fiasco Is Also a Crisis of Regional Integration
A spat at Mercosur’s 30th birthday marked a low point for regional cooperation.
By Catherine Osborn  | April 2, 2021, 8:00 AM

Russia and China Are Exploiting Europe’s Vaccine Shortfalls
Slovakia’s prime minister has resigned over a secret delivery of Moscow’s Sputnik V as Brussels struggles to keep the EU united.
By Tim Gosling  | March 31, 2021, 10:30 AM

New Yorker
http://www.newyorker.com/
Accessed 3 Apr 2021
[No new, unique, relevant content]

New York Times
http://www.nytimes.com/
Accessed 3 Apr 2021
World
Kenya, expressing concern about counterfeit vaccines, blocks private imports of doses.
The move comes after private health facilities started administering Russia’s Sputnik V vaccine, charging up to $70 for a shot.
By Abdi Latif Dahir

Americas
Argentina’s President Tests Positive for Coronavirus Despite Vaccination
Alberto Fernández, who received early results on his 62nd birthday, was confirmed to have the virus in a later PCR test. His symptoms were said to be mild.
By Daniel Politi
Florida’s governor bans agencies and businesses from requiring ‘vaccine passports.’

The Biden administration has made clear that it will neither issue nor require so-called vaccine passports, but Republicans have seized on the issue as an example of government overreach. By Patricia Mazzei, Sheryl Gay Stolberg, Eileen Sullivan and Isabella Grullón Paz

Can Vaccinated People Spread the Virus? We Don’t Know, Scientists Say.

Researchers pushed back after the C.D.C. director asserted that vaccinated people “do not carry the virus.” By Apoorva Mandavilli

Washington Post
https://www.washingtonpost.com/
Accessed 3 Apr 2021
Vaccine passport efforts draw opposition from GOP lawmakers
Apr 3, 2021

Africa CDC says India vaccine woes could be ‘catastrophic’
Apr 1, 2021

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Think Tanks et al

Brookings
http://www.brookings.edu/
Accessed 3 Apr 2021
Future Development
For greater vaccine equity, first fix these misconceptions
Philip Schellekens
Friday, April 2, 2021

Coronavirus (COVID-19)
“Vaccine Passport” certification — Policy and ethical considerations
Mark Hall and David Studdert
Thursday, April 1, 2021

Center for Global Development
http://www.cgdev.org/page/press-center
Publication
April 2, 2021
A Global Pandemic Needs A Global Response: US Contributions to COVID Relief
The American Rescue Plan—the massive COVID-19 relief package recently signed into law—has featured in plenty of headlines. While the vast majority of the nearly $1.9 trillion package is allocated to domestic relief and response, the legislation provides nearly $11 billion in supplemental international affairs spending. We dug in to see how this new injection of funding compares to emergency foreign assistance provided under previous pandemic-related legislation and share some areas we hope to see USAID and the State Department prioritize as they work to put the new money to good use. Erin Collinson and Jocilyn Estes

March 30, 2021

**The Indirect Health Effects of COVID-19: Emerging Findings from Kenya, the Philippines, South Africa, and Uganda**

Much of the initial COVID response focused on limiting cases and deaths, without sufficient attention to the broader indirect impacts. A new CGD series investigates. Carleigh Krubiner et al.

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**Chatham House** [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://www.chathamhouse.org/
Accessed 3 Apr 2021

**Culture notes: Jabs that started a vaccine fight**
Catherine Fieschi on how the world fell out trying to counter a pandemic
The World Today
2 April 2021

**CSIS**
https://www.csis.org/
Accessed 3 Apr 2021

**Upcoming Event**
**Trusting a Covid-19 Vaccine: What’s Next?**
April 9, 2021

**Transcript**
**Africa’s Global Reset: Foreign Relations in a Post-Pandemic Era**
March 31, 2021

**Kaiser Family Foundation**
https://www.kff.org/search/?post_type=press-release
Accessed 3 Apr 2021
March 30, 2021  News Release
**Vaccine Monitor: 6 in 10 Adults Have Either Gotten a COVID-19 Vaccine or Want To “as Soon as Possible;” “Wait and See” Group Continues To Shrink**
Among Those Who Have Not Been Vaccinated, 3 in 10 Are Unsure if They are Eligible Yet; Hispanic Adults and People with Low Incomes More Likely to Be Unsure The latest KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor report finds enthusiasm for getting a COVID-19 vaccine continuing to grow, with roughly 6 in...
New Analysis Indicates U.S. County Vaccination Rates Do Not Correspond to COVID-19 Impact Thus Far

An analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 vaccination data from 72% of all counties in the U.S. shows that counties classified as having “low” COVID-19 community transmission (cases and positive tests) levels have an average vaccination rate greater than the rate in counties with “high” community...

World Economic Forum  [to 3 Apr 2021]
https://agenda.weforum.org/news/

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