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 at https://centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.net. This blog allows full text searching of over 27,000 entries.

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:: Pre-Print Servers
WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing – 17 March 2023
17 March 2023

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening,

Last Saturday, the 11th of March, marked three years since WHO first described the global outbreak of COVID-19 as a pandemic. That was a significant moment that caught the world’s attention.

However, from WHO’s perspective, the far more significant moment was six weeks earlier, on the 30th of January 2020, when I declared a public health emergency of international concern. It may not sound as dramatic or severe as “pandemic”, but a public health emergency of international concern is the highest level of alarm that WHO can sound under international law.

At that time – the 30th of January 2020 – there were fewer than 100 reported cases of COVID-19 outside China, and no reported deaths outside China. We declared a global health emergency to spur countries to take decisive action, but not all countries did. Three years later, there are almost 7 million reported deaths from COVID-19, although we know that the actual number of deaths is much higher.

We are certainly in a much better position now than we have been at any time during the pandemic. It’s very pleasing to see that for the first time, the weekly number of reported deaths in the past four weeks has been lower than when we first used the word “pandemic” three years ago.

I am confident that this year we will be able to say that COVID-19 is over as a public health emergency of international concern. We are not there yet. Last week, there were still more than five thousand reported deaths. That’s five thousand too many for a disease that can be prevented and treated.

Even as we become increasingly hopeful about the end of the pandemic, the question of how it began remains unanswered.

Last Sunday, WHO was made aware of data published on the GISAID database in late January, and taken down again recently. The data, from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, relates to samples taken at the Huanan market in Wuhan, in 2020. While it was online, scientists from a number of countries downloaded the data and analysed it. As soon as we became aware of this data, we contacted the Chinese CDC and urged them to share it with WHO and the international scientific community so it can be analysed. We also convened the Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens, or SAGO, which met on Tuesday.

We asked researchers from the Chinese CDC and the international group of scientists to present their analyses of the data to SAGO. These data do not provide a definitive answer to the question of how the pandemic began, but every piece of data is important in moving us closer to that answer. And every piece of data relating to studying the origins of COVID-19, needs to be shared with the international community immediately.
These data could have – and should have – been shared three years ago. We continue to call on China to be transparent in sharing data, and to conduct the necessary investigations and share the results.

Understanding how the pandemic began remains both a moral and scientific imperative. Even as we look back to the beginnings of this pandemic, we are continuing to look forward, to strengthen the world’s defences against future epidemics and pandemics. This is something that countries must do together. It’s not something that any country can do alone.

We can only face shared threats with a shared response, based on a shared commitment to solidarity and equity. That is what the pandemic accord that countries are now negotiating is all about: an agreement between nations to work in cooperation with each other – not in competition – to prepare for and respond to epidemics and pandemics.

It’s essential to emphasize that this accord is being negotiated by countries, for countries, and will be adopted and implemented by countries, in accordance with their own national laws. The claim by some that this accord is an infringement of national sovereignty is just plain wrong. Countries, and countries alone, will decide what is in the accord, not the staff of WHO. This accord would be an instrument of international law, similar to the many other accords and treaties that nations have agreed.

For example, the Framework Convention on Climate Change does not give the United Nations powers to dictate countries’ policies on climate or energy. The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control does not give WHO power to regulate tobacco in any country. The International Health Regulations do not give WHO power to dictate health policy to any country. Neither will this accord give WHO power to dictate policy to any country. This accord will be an agreement by countries.

WHO’s role would be to help implement the accord that countries agree. An accord that captures all the challenges we have faced during this pandemic is essential for making sure that the world does not repeat the mistakes that were made in this pandemic.

If we repeat the same mistakes, I don’t think we will forgive ourselves, and our children and grandchildren will not forgive us. We have a duty to ourselves to end this pandemic as soon as possible. We have a duty to those we have lost to find out how it started. And we have a duty to those who will follow us to make the world safer.

("SAGO statement on newly released SARS-CoV-2 metagenomics data from China CDC on GISAID"
18 March 2023  Statement
On 12 March 2023, WHO was made aware of new SARS-CoV-2 sequences and metagenomics data associated with samples collected in the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, Wuhan, China, from January 2020, that became available on GISAID for a short period of time. The data had subsequently been downloaded by a number of researchers from several countries. Access was restricted shortly after, apparently to allow further data updates by China CDC. WHO then immediately reached out to China CDC and to the Chair and Vice-Chair of SAGO.)
Upon discussions between WHO and Chinese colleagues, it was explained that the genomic data are the basis for an expected update to the existing Liu et al. 2022 preprint (1), which is in the process of being re-submitted for publication to *Nature* by China CDC.

After discussions with the WHO secretariat and the SAGO Chair and Vice-Chair, a call was arranged on 12 March with the scientists involved from China CDC, and some of those who had accessed the data from GISAID, to gauge the significance of this data and the analyses of this data. WHO subsequently organized a meeting on 14 March 2023 with all SAGO members, and invited researchers from China CDC to present the updated analysis of their data. WHO and SAGO also invited the researchers who had informed WHO that they had accessed data from GISAID, to present their analysis of the temporarily released sequences.

The presentations from China CDC and invited international researchers indicated that there were newly available data from the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market. This included metagenomic data of environmental samples from various stalls and wastewater collection sites collected as early as January 2020. Analyses of these data suggest that apart from SARS-CoV-2 sequences, some samples also contained human DNA, as well as mitochondrial DNA of several animal species, including some that are known to be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2. This included DNA from wild raccoon dogs, Malaysian porcupine, and bamboo rats among others, in SARS-CoV-2 positive environmental samples.

The findings suggest that animals were present at the market shortly before the market had been cleared on 1 January 2020, as part of the public health measures by Chinese authorities. These results provide potential leads to identifying intermediate hosts of SARS-CoV-2 and potential sources of human infections in the market.

According to the Chinese’s authors pre-print (Liu et al 2022), of 1380, samples collected from the environment and animals within the market in early 2020, 73/923 environmental samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2-specific RT-qPCR, from various stalls and sewerage systems in and around the market, but no virus was detected in 457 animal samples tested. The animal samples included animal bodies, frozen animal carcasses and animal products, as well as stray animals around the market, and covered 18 species. According to the preprint, raccoon dogs were not amongst the animals tested. However, the presence of high levels of raccoon dog mitochondrial DNA in the metagenomics data from environmental samples identified in the new analysis, suggest that raccoon dog and other animals may have been present before the market was cleaned as part of the public health intervention.

Historical photographic evidence was provided that shows raccoon dogs and other animals were sold at these specific stalls in the past. Although this does not provide conclusive evidence as to the intermediate host or origins of the virus, the data provide further evidence of the presence of susceptible animals at the market that may have been a source of human infections.

**SAGO will continue to evaluate any and all scientific data shared by Chinese and other researchers from anywhere in the world. SAGO encourages any and all data related to the studying of the origins of SARS-CoV-2 be made available immediately for robust and comprehensive review.**
As mentioned in SAGO's preliminary report (2), the SAGO strongly recommends that researchers in China investigate the upstream sources of the animals and animal products present in Huanan market just before its closure and removal of all animal products on 1 January 2020.

Furthermore, SAGO would like to encourage any and all available sequencing and metagenomic data to be made public on GISAID, or any other sequence database, and the pre-prints that are in review to be shared as soon as possible so the scientific community has the opportunity to analyse these further. In addition, SAGO encourages researchers using this data to collaborate and engage with Chinese researchers. WHO and SAGO are happy to facilitate these collaborations.

Dengue

Takeda’s QDENGA (Dengue Tetravalent Vaccine [Live, Attenuated]) Approved in Brazil for Use Regardless of Prior Dengue Exposure
March 13, 2023
- National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) Approved QDENGA (TAK-003) for Use in Individuals Aged 4 to 60
- The Approval of QDENGA is Based on Results Across 19 Phase 1, 2 and 3 Trials with More Than 28,000 Children and Adults, Including Four and a Half Years of Follow-Up Data Showing Sustained Efficacy and No Important Safety Risks, to Date
- QDENGA is the Only Dengue Vaccine Approved in Brazil for Use in Individuals Without Need for Pre-vaccination Testing
- Marks the First Approval of QDENGA in Latin America

OSAKA, Japan, and CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts, March 13, 2023 – Takeda today announced the company’s dengue vaccine, QDENGA® (Dengue Tetravalent Vaccine [Live, Attenuated]) (TAK-003), was approved in Brazil by the National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) for the prevention of dengue caused by any of the four virus serotypes that can be found in individuals from 4 to 60 years of age.1 The use of QDENGA should be in accordance with official recommendations of the regulatory agency. QDENGA is the only dengue vaccine approved in Brazil for use in individuals regardless of previous exposure to dengue and without the need for pre-vaccination testing.1

“Brazil has a high prevalence of dengue, and the country needs effective and safe vaccine options to help manage the significant burden dengue places on its health care systems and its communities,” said José Manuel Caamaño, president of Takeda in Brazil. “We are proud to make our vaccine available to the Brazilian government and health care providers with the hope that it may become an important tool to help combat dengue as part of an integrated dengue management program along with vector control. Based on our clinical trial results, we are hopeful that QDENGA could have a positive impact on the incidence of symptomatic dengue in Brazil, including dengue cases that require hospitalization. Bringing QDENGA to countries around the world remains a top priority for Takeda, and this approval is a step toward our purpose to deliver better health for people, and a brighter future for the world.”...
The approval of QDENG A is based on results across 19 Phase 1, 2 and 3 trials with more than 28,000 children and adults, including four and a half years of follow-up data from the global, pivotal Phase 3 Tetravalent Immunization against Dengue Efficacy Study (TIDES) trial. The TIDES trial met its primary endpoint of overall vaccine efficacy (VE) by preventing 80.2% of symptomatic dengue cases 12 months after vaccination.4

In addition, TAK-003 met its key secondary endpoint by preventing 90.4% of hospitalizations 18 months after vaccination.5 Efficacy varied by serotype (DENV-1 – 4).5,6 The TIDES exploratory analyses showed that throughout the four and a half-year study follow-up, TAK-003 prevented 84% of hospitalized dengue cases and 61% of symptomatic dengue cases in the overall study population, which included both seropositive and seronegative individuals.6 TAK-003 has been generally well tolerated, with no evidence of increased incidence of severe disease in baseline sero-negative vaccine recipients, and no important safety risks identified, to date....

Cholera

WHO Fact Sheet – Cholera
30 March 2022
Key facts
- Most of those infected will have no or mild symptoms and can be successfully treated with oral rehydration solution.
- A global strategy on cholera control, Ending Cholera: a global roadmap to 2030, with a target to reduce cholera deaths by 90% was launched in 2017.
- Researchers have estimated that each year there are 1.3 to 4.0 million cases of cholera, and 21 000 to 143 000 deaths worldwide due to cholera (1)
- Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal disease that can kill within hours if left untreated.
- Provision of safe water and sanitation is critical to prevent and control the transmission of cholera and other waterborne diseases.
- Severe cases will need rapid treatment with intravenous fluids and antibiotics.
- Oral cholera vaccines should be used in conjunction with improvements in water and sanitation to control cholera outbreaks and for prevention in areas known to be high risk for cholera.

Communiqué
Joint Communiqué: High-Level Emergency Ministerial Meeting on Cholera Epidemics and Climate-Related Public Health Emergencies
African Union – Africa CDC – UNICEF - WHO
15 March 2023
(Editor’s Note: The PDF of this communiqué did not allow text copying limiting us to capturing images of key text segments below]
COLLECTIVELY, COMMIT TO:

1. Undertake urgent actions to facilitate cooperation and collaboration amongst AU Member States for cholera, and climate-related public health emergency preparedness, readiness, response, recovery, and sustainable control, including:
   a. Identifying and implementing priorities for bolstering resilience building, preparedness, readiness, response capacity and maintenance in all high-risk countries.
   b. Enhancing all-inclusive engagement of national stakeholders at all levels to set a multi-sectoral response implementation in particular: improve and maintain access to sustainable basic water sanitation and hygiene, improve and maintain timely access to quality health services including at community level, early detection, and surveillance capacities, including strengthening of laboratories and genomic surveillance capabilities, improved systems for sharing and coordination.
   c. Creating an enabling environment that supports the local manufacturing of oral cholera vaccines to achieve vaccine self-sufficiency in Africa.
   d. Fast-tracking the effective implementation and financing of the National/Annual Cholera Plans developed by countries to meet the target set by GTFCC “Ending Cholera: A Global Roadmap to 2030”; as well as mobilise financial resources for other public health emergencies
   e. Improving effective engagement of affected and hot spot communities in detecting, preventing, and controlling outbreaks and designing and maintaining effective community-based sustainable control strategy.
   f. Improving cross-border collaboration across pillars including RCCE and timely surveillance and WASH data-sharing for public health action.
   g. Building workforce capacity across response pillars, including joint training, exchange learning and benchmarking visits, strengthening of capacity for information analysis, operational research, interpretation, and simulation exercises leveraging the expertise of key multisectoral partners involved in cholera prevention, preparedness, and response.
   h. Sharing technical expertise and other resources and assets necessary for eliminating cholera and controlling climate-related public health emergencies in Africa.
   i. Enhancing cross-border joint planning and implementation of cholera preparedness, response, and recovery activities, including risk communication and community engagement in hotspots.
   j. Monitoring the movement of people across national borders in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005) to limit the international spread of disease without interfering with travel and trade.
k. Establishing agile and timely legal/regulatory processes/frameworks and logistics planning for rapid cross-border deployment and receipt of public health experts, as well as experts across WASH and the climate-related domains, and medical personnel for cholera and other public health emergency response including agreements to waive regulatory fees for emergency medical personnel supporting public health emergency response.

l. Defining attainable SDG 6 Water and Sanitation milestones combined with investments (i.e., at least 70% basic water and 50% basic sanitation service levels) before the target year of 2030 in cognizance of the transformative effect of WASH on public health, economies, gender equality, and societies, particularly in the face of climate change.

m. Sustaining high-level political will and commitment to prioritize and fund actions to address the underlying causes of cholera in the region through longer-term investment in the WASH infrastructure, services, and behaviors, essential for the preventing cholera and other climate-related health emergencies.

n. Mainstreaming health emergencies and its financing into ongoing climate change deliberations at global, regional, and national levels; and simultaneously work closely with the Ministries of Environment, climate change experts and related multilateral institutions to better integrate weather forecasting, climatology and other environmental sciences into emergency preparedness and response planning.

2. Establishing the Africa Elimination of Cholera Epidemics Coordination Task Force (AECERT), hosted at the African Union secretariat in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the leadership of the Member States with support from the Africa CDC, WHO, UNICEF, GTFCC and other relevant partners to support the cooperation and collaboration described above while maintaining full coherence with the Ending Cholera a Global Roadmap to 2030. Whilst the AECERT maintains political oversight through the AU institutional arrangements, the GTFCC will facilitate technical support through the WHO technical coordination platforms based at the WHO hubs in collaboration with Africa CDC, UNICEF, and relevant partners.

3. Exchanging information in a timely manner on matters of common interest as deemed appropriate for prevention, preparedness, and response, while acknowledging that withholding of, or falsification of, public health emergency data and information violates the IHR and threatens peace, security, and prosperity of the AU Member States.

4. Implementing National Cholera Plans, roadmaps and strategies developed following this high-level meeting and annually share progress reports.

5. Strengthening multisectoral corporation and coordination with relevant sectors including the climate sector to enhance the implementation of mitigation measures aimed at reducing health risks of climate sensitive diseases.
“Pandemic Accord”

**WHO Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) intersessional briefing on “One Health and the Quadripartite”**  
*Statement 17 Mar 2023*

On 17 March, IFPMA delivered a shortened version of the below statement at the WHO INB intersessional briefing on "Article 18: One Health and the Quadripartite“ of the WHO convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response ("WHO CA+”).

We firmly support the One Health approach in preventing and managing infectious disease across human, animal, and environmental health, and the collaborative approach of the Quadripartite agencies. Although there are important differences, we also believe there are certain parallels between areas of the AMR response and pandemic preparedness, chief of which is the importance of a One Health approach in surveillance. Robust surveillance and testing infrastructure and capability is crucial to identifying emerging potential infectious disease threats including resistance, as well as diagnosing patients and monitoring trends and developments over time.

The language in the zero draft calls on countries to establish a national One Health action plan on antimicrobial resistance, covering areas of stewardship, optimizing use, increased investment into R&D, and supporting equitable access, among others. However, experience to date shows that only a handful of AMR National Action Plans globally have had sustainable implementation funding attached – especially for R&D incentives – which hampers collective efforts to tackling the challenge of AMR and infectious diseases more broadly. The Quadripartite could work across sectors to further build the case for sustained country investment.

The industry brings with it considerable experience and contributions to AMR-relevant surveillance, including through maintaining surveillance databases, and should remain a key partner in efforts to progress solutions. Through the AMR Industry Alliance, the industry has also pioneered a science-based approach to limiting antibiotic discharge in the environment through the Antibiotic Manufacturing Standard.

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**WHO Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) intersessional briefing on the “Predictable global supply chain and logistics network”**  
*Statement 17 Mar 2023*

On 17 March, IFPMA delivered a shortened version of the below statement at the WHO INB intersessional briefing on "Article 6: Predictable global supply chain and logistics network“ of the WHO convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response ("WHO CA+”).

Article 6 proposes to establish a “WHO Global Pandemic Supply Chain and Logistics Network” and gives WHO significant oversight to control global production of pandemic products, going significantly beyond the organization's mandate and competency.
Any mechanism to strengthen global supply chain should build on the expertise and capabilities of the private sector and the relevant institutions, in this case the WTO, as they are usually the ones responsible for building supply chains and ensuring that they are sustainable over the long term.

This WHO-centric model cannot replace market-based solutions. It runs the risk of having inefficient allocation of resources with potential duplication or replacement of current capacity, fracturing efficient systems and creating market distortions. Furthermore, it may not be flexible enough to be able to adapt in the event of surges in demand and can create a risk of shortages.

Governments and private sector need to work together to strengthen existing national, regional, and global systems and set out procedures for allocation, distribution, logistical operations, customs clearance, and storage facilities to help deploy medical products and ensure access.

For this to take place, governments should commit to open trade without restrictions and expedited processes for import and export during a pandemic, including “green lanes” for health products, personnel, and the inputs necessary for their production. These issues fall within the purview of the WTO. The WTO and its Member States have undertaken significant work on these issues and as such the issue of supply chain and logistics should be dealt by the relevant institution.

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**PHEIC**

**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: 16 March 2023

- **Confirmed cases**: 760,360,956
- **Confirmed deaths**: 6,873,477
- **Vaccine doses administered**: 13,232,904,667

**Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 16 March 2023**

**Overview**

Globally, nearly 4.1 million new cases and 28,000 deaths were reported in the last 28 days (13 February to 12 March 2023), a decrease of 40% and 57%, respectively, compared to the previous 28 days; however, there are significant regional differences including increases in some regions. As of 12 March 2023, over 760 million confirmed cases and over 6.8 million deaths have been reported globally.
16 March 2023   Statement

Statement on the update of WHO’s working definitions and tracking system for SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern and variants of interest

Our World in Data

:: 69.7% of the world population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
:: 13.33 billion doses have been administered globally, and 362,338 are now administered each day.
:: 28.2% of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose.

COVID Vaccines – OCHA:: HDX

COVID-19 Data Explorer: Global Humanitarian Operations

COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-out

Mar 18, 2023 | COVAX (WHO,GAVI,CEPI), UNDESA, Press Reports | DATA

Global COVID-19 Figures: 125M total confirmed cases; 2.3M total confirmed deaths
Global vaccines administered: 13.3B
Number of Countries: 28
COVAX Allocations Round 4-9 (Number of Doses): 170M
COVAX Delivered (Number of Doses): 390M
Other Delivered (Number of Doses): 430M
Total Delivered (Number of Doses): 830M
Total Administered (Number of Doses): 590M
**Global Dashboard on COVID-19 Vaccine Equity**
The Dashboard is a joint initiative of UNDP, WHO and the University of Oxford with cooperation across the UN system, anchored in the SDG 3 Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All.

**Dashboard on Vaccine Equity** [accessed 18 Mar 2023]: [https://data.undp.org/vaccine-equity/](https://data.undp.org/vaccine-equity/)
See also visualization on [Vaccine Access](#) and [Vaccine Affordability](#)

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**Duke – Launch and Scale Speedometer**
**The Race for Global COVID-19 Vaccine Equity**
See our COVID Vaccine Purchases research
See our COVID Vaccine Manufacturing research
See our COVID Vaccine Donations & Exports research
Global COVID-19 Access Tracker
https://www.covid19globaltracker.org/

The ACT Accelerator Global COVID-19 Access Tracker (GCAT) is a dynamic tool to transparently track progress on access to COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, tests, and PPE.

- **Vaccination**: 1.89 Bn doses delivered by Covax to date, 146 countries with vaccine doses through Covax
- **Testing**: 176 Mn tests delivered via ACTA to date, 184 countries with tests delivered via ACTA
- **Therapeutics**: 314,710 units of therapeutics allocated to countries (malaria, HIV, tuberculosis), 180 Mn Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) delivered via ACTA to date
- **Health Workers**: US$ 736 Mn

Updated on Mar 15, 2023
U.S.: COVID-19/Vaccines – Announcements/Regulatory Actions/Deployment

HHS

News

Seniors and People with Disabilities Likely to Save Over $230 Million on Vaccines Thanks to Inflation Reduction Act, According to New HHS Report
March 15, 2023 | News Release

FDA

Press Announcements

March 14, 2023 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Authorizes Bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine as Booster Dose for Certain Children 6 Months through 4 Years of Age

FDA VRBPAC

No meetings on calendar

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

European Medicines Agency [EMA]

News & Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en

News/Updates/Reports [Selected]

News

Weekly COVID-19 country overview
Epidemiological update - 17 Mar 2023

EFSA, ECDC, EURL: ongoing avian influenza outbreaks in birds, low risk to the public
News - 13 Mar 2023

Bacteria resistant to commonly used antimicrobials still frequently found in humans and animals
News story - 6 Mar 2023
Africa: COVID-19 – Announcements/Regulatory Actions/Deployment
https://africacdc.org/covid-19-vaccination/

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

Russia: Sputnik V – "the first registered COVID-19 vaccine"
https://sputnikvaccine.com/newsroom/pressreleases/
Press Releases
No new digest content identified. Last press release issued 31.08.2022.

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

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
https://www.mohfw.gov.in/
**Latest Press Releases**
No new digest content identified.

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

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**PHEIC**

**Pox**

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)
https://www.who.int/emergencies/situations/monkeypox-outbreak-2022

**Multi-country outbreak of mpox, External situation report #18 - 16 March 2023**

Overview
This is the 18th situation report for the multi-country outbreak of mpox, which provides details on the latest epidemiology, summary of deaths due to mpox, a special focus on the clinical presentation of mpox, management of severe mpox, and an update on the situation of mpox in the Western Pacific Region.

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**PHEIC**

**Polio**

**Polio this week as of 15 March 2023 - GPEI**

Headlines
- The GPEI celebrated International Women’s Day last week, highlighting the important and integral roles women play at all levels of the global polio eradication effort. More.
- At a high-level event at the House of Commons in London, UK, Andrew Mitchell MP, Minister of State (Development & Africa) announced he will be taking on the role of gender champion for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and pledging the Government’s continued support for the campaign. Rotary International President Jennifer Jones warned against polio ‘fatigue’, insisting that the world has never been closer to winning the fight against the disease, calling on all stakeholders to deliver on its promise to deliver a polio-free world.
- Eastern Mediterranean health leaders call for redoubled efforts for a defining year for polio. Ministers and high-level delegates from across the Region participated in the seventh meeting of the Regional Subcommittee for Polio Eradication and Outbreaks. More.
- The Global Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication (GCC) met recently in Amman, Jordan, to review progress towards interrupting wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) transmission in polio-endemic Pakistan and Afghanistan, implementation of the Global Surveillance Action Plan,
and to hear from the six regional certification commissions on current regional priorities and issues. More.

- The GPEI has received confirmation of the detection of cVDPV2 in Burundi and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), originating from novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) (see country sections below). Read the GPEI’s statement on the detections.

Summary of new polioviruses this week:
- Pakistan: one wild poliovirus type 1-positive environmental sample
- Benin: one circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) case
- Burundi: one cVDPV2 case and five cVDPV2-positive environmental samples
- Chad: two cVDPV2 cases
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo): six cVDPV2 cases
- Niger: one cVDPV2 case

UN OCHA – Current Emergencies
Current Corporate Emergencies

Afghanistan
Editor’s Note:
We observe that OCHA has removed Afghanistan from its listing of “Current Emergencies.” We did not identify any explanation for its removal.

Northern Ethiopia
No new digest content identified.

Somalia
No new digest content identified.

Türkiye/Syria Earthquakes
Today’s top news
17 Mar 2023
Türkiye
- So far, flash flooding has claimed 18 lives in the cities of Adiyaman and Sanliurfa, according to the Government. The floodwaters inundated camps housing people displaced by last month’s earthquakes. Authorities say some 220,000 people are living in tents in and around Adiyaman.
- As of yesterday, some 2.3 million people are sheltering in temporary settlements – with 1.6 million of them in informal sites. Many camps lack access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, and overcrowding is a major concern.
- Access to education is also a problem for nearly 4 million children, of whom 350,000 are refugees and migrants. We and our partners have set up 87 temporary learning sites for more than 6,000 children in Gaziantep, Hatay and Kahramanmaras.
- UN agencies and our partners have reached more than 520,000 people with water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance. About 45,000 people have received health and nutrition assistance. The World Food Programme has provided more than 6 million food packages and hot meals.
- Meanwhile, UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination teams continue to work with Turkish authorities on humanitarian relief efforts in Adiyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaras, and Malatya.
- Funding is urgently needed to help more than 5 million people affected by the earthquakes. The flash appeal for $1 billion is just over 16 percent funded.

**Syria**

OCHA and its partners continue to scale up their efforts to help millions of people affected by the earthquakes.

- The flash appeal for $400 million is now 72 percent funded.
- In northwest Syria, more than 103,000 people have been internally displaced since 6 February.
- As of today, nearly 900 trucks carrying aid from seven UN agencies have crossed into the northwest from southern Türkiye, through the three available border crossings.
- In the past 10 days, more than 1.3 million people in northwest Syria have been vaccinated against cholera. That response is being led by WHO and UNICEF.
- Nearly 200,000 people in Idlib and Aleppo received multi-purpose cash assistance last month, totaling $6.4 million,

**Ukraine**

Last Updated: 10 Feb 2023

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**WHO & Regional Offices** [to 18 Mar 2023]

https://www.who.int/news/Selected News/Announcements/Statements

18 March 2023  Statement

**SAGO statement on newly released SARS-CoV-2 metagenomics data from China CDC on GISAID**

16 March 2023  Statement

**Statement on the update of WHO’s working definitions and tracking system for SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern and variants of interest**

14 March 2023  Departmental news

**WHO publishes recommendations on two new types of insecticide-treated nets**

14 March 2023  Departmental news

**Message by the Director of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals at WHO - March 2023**

13 March 2023  Statement

**WHO at the 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU): statement in the General Debate**

13 March 2023  Departmental news

**HIV self-testing to take off in India: findings from the STAR Initiative**

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WHO Regional Offices
Selected Press Releases, Announcements

WHO African Region
:: Burundi declares outbreak of circulating poliovirus type 2
17 March 2023  Brazzaville/Bujumbura – Health authorities in Burundi today declared an outbreak of circulating poliovirus type 2 (CVDPV 2) after confirming eight polioviruses, the first such detection in more than three decades...

WHO Region of the Americas  PAHO
:: PAHO seeks to strengthen regional avian influenza surveillance and response
  Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 16, 2023 (PAHO)- The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) this week brought together animal and public health experts from nine countries in the Americas to agree on strategies to strengthen the prevention and control of avian influenza in animals and mitigate the risk of human transmission. The meeting, organized...
:: Five cities recognized for public health achievements at Partnership for Healthy Cities Summit
  Partnership for Healthy Cities award recipients include Montevideo, Uruguay for food policy; Mexico City, Mexico for road safety; Vancouver, Canada for surveillance; Athens, Greece for overdose prevention, and Bengaluru, India for tobacco control. The first-of-its-kind Summit was convened in London by Bloomberg Philanthropies, World Health...
:: PAHO brings together health authorities in the Americas to discuss future pandemic international instrument
  Washington, DC, March 14, 2023 (PAHO)- A preliminary draft for a new convention, agreement, or other international health instrument to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response was the focus of a regional meeting facilitated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) today in Washington, DC. During the meeting,...

WHO South-East Asia Region  SEARO
No new digest content identified.

WHO European Region  EURO
:: 17 March 2023  Press release –
  Second high-level interregional meeting on the health of refugees and migrants, 16–17 March 2023, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
:: 16 March 2023  News release
  Enabling support for Ukrainian refugees with disabilities in the Republic of Moldova
:: 14 March 2023  News release
  What is the best way to treat a complex new disease like post COVID-19 condition (long COVID)? Researchers in Belgium are developing the answer

WHO Western Pacific Region
No new digest content identified.

Disease Outbreak News (DONs)
14 March 2023 | Measles - Nepal

Situation at a glance

On 2 January 2023, an outbreak of measles was confirmed in Nepalgunj sub-metropolitan city (SMC) in Banke district, Nepal, following a cluster of cases of fever and rash. Following the confirmation and through active case search, the index case was identified, with the onset of symptoms on 24 November 2022. Between 24 November 2022 and 10 March 2023, 690 measles cases, including one associated death (case fatality ratio: 0.14 %), have been reported from seven districts in western Nepal, and three districts in eastern Nepal (mainly in the Terai ecological region). The majority of the cases (n=591; 86%) have been reported in children aged less than 15 years.

While measles is endemic in Nepal and is reported every year, the magnitude and extent of the current outbreak are unusually high compared to the previous years...

New WHO Publications

https://www.who.int/publications/i

16 March 2023

Selected

Tracking urban health policies

15 March 2023

Virtual cGMP Training Marathon for Vaccine Manufacturing: Questions & Answers

15 March 2023

Sentinel surveys of acquired HIV resistance to dolutegravir among people receiving dolutegravir-containing...

14 March 2023

WHO Guidelines for malaria

14 March 2023

Guidance on the prioritization of insecticide-treated nets in situations where resources are limited

14 March 2023

Target product profile for aerosolized surfactant therapy in neonates with respiratory distress syndrome...

13 March 2023

WHO’s response to the Ukraine crisis: annual report, 2022
A new analysis from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reveals that the number of people receiving lifesaving HIV treatment through PEPFAR has increased 300 times in under 20 years, from 2004 to 2022.

FDA and CDC Response to the Florida Surgeon General
March 13, 2023

ACIP Meetings
Next ACIP Meeting: June 21-22

MMWR Weekly
March 17, 2023 / No.11
PDF of this issue
- Notes From the Field: Prevalence of Previous Dengue Virus Infection Among Children and Adolescents — U.S. Virgin Islands, 2022
- Notes From the Field: First Evidence of Locally Acquired Dengue Virus Infection — Maricopa County, Arizona, November 2022
- Correction and Republication: Early Estimates of Bivalent mRNA Vaccine Effectiveness in Preventing COVID-19–Associated Emergency Department or Urgent Care Encounters and Hospitalizations Among Immunocompetent Adults — VISION Network, Nine States, September–November 2022

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)–CDC
Announcements/reports/data summaries [Selected]
3/16/23

3/15/23
Overall US COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Update as of Wed, 15 Mar 2023 06:00:00 EST

3/15/23
COVID-19 Forecasting and Mathematical Modeling
Africa CDC  [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.africacdc.org/
Press Releases
Press Release on Africa CDC Strategic Plan 2022-2026
18 March 2023
... This new Strategic Plan 2022-2026 is designed to further champion implementation of Africa’s New Public Health Order, the vision that constitutes a paradigm shift that informs the work of the Africa CDC, the African Union and its Member States, and all relevant stakeholders. It brings focus to Africa’s priorities in inclusive health security and the broader public health through local ownership and leadership. The ultimate purpose is to contribute towards realisation of AU’s Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want, namely a safer, healthier, coordinated, and prosperous Africa...

Communique
Joint Communique: High-Level Emergency Ministerial Meeting on Cholera Epidemics and Climate-Related Public Health Emergencies
15 March 2023
[See Milestones above for detail]

Call for Applications
Call for applications: The Africa CDC Launches short-course trainings in vaccine manufacturing at the Texas A&M University
15 March 2023

China CDC
http://www.chinacdc.cn/en/

National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China  [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://en.nhc.gov.cn/
News
Website not responding at inquiry
[Editor’s Note: The most recent post on this site is 24 Dec 2022, representing the last daily report on confirmed COVID-19 infections.]

National Medical Products Administration – PRC  [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://english.nmpa.gov.cn/
No new digest content identified.

China CDC Weekly Reports: Current Volume (5)
2023-03-17 / No. 11  COVID-19 ISSUE (37)
View  PDF of this issue
- Preplanned Studies: Cross-Sectional Online Survey on Depression and Anxiety Among the Population Infected or Non-Infected with COVID-19 — China, December 2022
- Vital Surveillances: Trends of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Rural Area in Sentinel Community-Based Surveillance — China, December 2022 to January 2023
- Notes from the Field: The First Case of Co-Infection with Omicron Subvariants BA.5.2.48 and BF.7.14 — Chongqing Municipality, China, February 2023

Crowd-sourced journal articles

Organization Announcements

Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group
https://alleninstitute.org/news-press/
News
No new digest content identified.

BMGF - Gates Foundation
https://www.gatesfoundation.org/ideas/media-center
Press Releases and Statements
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Appoints Three New Leadership Team Members as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Legal Officer Steps Down

SEATTLE (March 15, 2023) – The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation today announced that it is appointing three new members to its Executive Leadership Team. These appointments come as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Legal Officer Connie Collingsworth retires after more than 20 years of dedicated service to the foundation.

Lauren Bright will assume the foundation’s chief legal officer role. In this capacity, she will lead the foundation’s legal team in providing counsel to advance the foundation’s mission and protecting its reputation by ensuring strong governance and compliance across the foundation and its affiliates. Bright most recently served as the foundation’s co-general counsel and director of its Washington, D.C. office. She first joined the foundation in 2005 to support the expanding range of legal and strategic issues related to the foundation’s policy and program advocacy priorities.

Shana Tarbell will serve as the foundation’s chief operating officer. As COO, she will lead many of the foundation’s operational functions, including business design; global security; facilities, events, and travel; grants and contracts services; and information technology. Tarbell first joined the foundation in 2015 and has served as its chief security officer since 2018.

Sonia Vora will serve as the foundation’s chief human resources officer, overseeing the talent and people strategies, processes, and programs that support the foundation’s employees around the world. In this capacity, she will support the organization’s values; commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and goal of accelerating impact as measured by lives saved or improved. Vora joined the foundation in 2019 and has served as the interim chief human resources officer since 2022...

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

News: Articles and Publications
No new digest content identified.

CARB-X  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://carb-x.org/
No new digest content identified.

Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy – GE2P2 Global Foundation  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.net/
News/Analysis/Statements
:: Past weekly editions of Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review are available here.
:: Informed Consent: A Monthly Review – March 2023 is now posted here
:: Genomic Medicine – Governance, Ethics, Policy, Practice: A Monthly Digest – March 2023

CEPI – Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations  [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://cepi.net/
Latest News
No new digest content identified.

CIOMS – COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF MEDICAL SCIENCES  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://cioms.ch/
News; Publications; Events
No new digest content identified.

DARPA – Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency [U.S.]  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.darpa.mil/news
News
3/14/2023
Creating Small Batches of Purified Pharmaceuticals with Minimal Byproducts
The annual demand for medical countermeasures (MCMs) in the Department of Defense is on the order of hundreds of grams, but current manufacturing methods for MCMs are only efficient at large scale (hundreds of kilograms to tons). This disparity in scale leads to cost premiums, a fragile supply chain, and poor resilience during emergencies such as natural disasters and pandemics.

Duke Global Health Innovation Center  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://dukeghic.org/
EDCTP [to 18 Mar 2023]
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
News
No new digest content identified.

Emory Vaccine Center [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.vaccines.emory.edu/
Vaccine Center News
No new digest content identified.

European Vaccine Initiative [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.euvaccine.eu/
Latest News, Events
News, Events
No new digest content identified.

Evidence Aid [to 18 Mar 2023]
Evidence Aid aims to save lives and livelihoods in disasters by providing decision-makers with the best available evidence and by championing its use.
http://www.evidenceaid.org/
Resources [Selected]
No new digest content identified.

Fondation Merieux [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.fondation-merieux.org/
News, Events
Mérieux Foundation co-organized event
Epidemiology in complex emergencies for effective surveillance and response
March 20 - 24, 2023 - Les Pensières Center for Global Health, Veyrier-du-Lac (France)

Gavi [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.gavi.org/
News Releases
No new digest content identified.
**GHIT Fund**  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.ghitfund.org/newsroom/press
*Press Releases*
March 13, 2023
**GHIT Fund Announces New Investments: A Total of Approximately 260 Million Yen in Shionogi, Takeda Pharmaceutical for New Malaria Drug Development**

**Global Fund**  [to 18 Mar 2023]
*News & Stories*
14 March 2023
**Global Fund and Unitaid Welcome WHO Recommendation for Insecticide-treated Nets With Dual Active Ingredients**
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Unitaid welcome WHO’s recommendation for the widespread use of a new class of mosquito net that uses two active ingredients – pyrethroid and chlorfenapyr. The new net has demonstrated approx...

**Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness [GloPID-R]**  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.glopid-r.org/news/
*News*
**Congratulations to the COVID CIRCLE team for its contributions to improved outbreak preparedness**
March 17, 2023

**Hilleman Laboratories**  [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.hilleman-labs.org/
*News & Insights*
No new digest content identified.

**HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute**  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.hhmi.org/news
*Press Room*
No new digest content identified.

**Human Vaccines Project**  [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.humanvaccinesproject.org/
*News*
No new digest content identified.

**IAVI**  [to 18 Mar 2023]
ICRC [to 015 Oct 2022]
What’s New [Selected]
Democratic Republic of the Congo: The humanitarian crisis in North Kivu is escalating
"The conflict is nearing densely populated urban areas, which is extremely concerning," says Pascal Hundt, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
13-03-2023 | News release

INSERM [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.inserm.fr/en/home/
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

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

IFFIm
http://www.iffim.org/
Press Releases/Announcements
Canada pledges C$ 125 million to IFFIm
17 Mar 2023
Canada expands its commitment to childhood immunisation as 11th donor to IFFIm

IFRC [to 18 Mar 2023]
Press Releases [Selected]
No new digest content identified.

Institut Pasteur [to 18 Mar 2023]
Press Documents
No new digest content identified.

ISC / International Science Council [to 18 Mar 2023]
ISC is a non-governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together 40 international scientific Unions and Associations and over 140 national and regional scientific organizations including Academies and Research Councils.

Latest Updates
No new digest content identified.

**International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS)**
https://iuis.org/
News/Events [Selected]
No new digest content identified.

**IVAC** [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/ivac/index.html
Updates; Events
No new digest content identified.

**IVI** [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.ivi.int/
IVI News & Announcements
**Government of the Republic of the Philippines makes voluntary contribution to IVI**
March 14, 2023

**Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security** [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/news/center-news/
Center News [Selected]
**Center Director Tom Inglesby Publishes Guest Essay in The New York Times to Mark 3rd Anniversary of COVID-19 Pandemic**
March 12, 2023

**MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières** [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.msf.org/
Latest [Selected Announcements]
No new digest content identified.

**National Academy of Medicine** - USA [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://nam.edu/programs/
News [Selected]
No new digest content identified.

**National Academy of Sciences** - USA [to 18 Mar 2023]
More Investment and Attention Needed to Address Pandemic-Related Harms on Children and Families in Marginalized Communities
March 15, 2023
Strengthening and expanding critical safety net programs is necessary to address the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on children and families says a new report that examines the substantial toll the pandemic has taken on their health and well-being especially those in marginalized communities.

Researchers Need to Rethink and Justify How and Why Race Ethnicity and Ancestry Labels Are Used in Genetics and Genomics Research Says New Report
March 13, 2023
Race ethnicity and ancestry labels are often used in genomics and genetics research to describe human genetic differences which is misleading and inaccurate. Researchers and scientists who utilize genetic and genomic data should rethink and justify how and why they use these descriptors in their work.

National Vaccine Program Office - U.S. HHS [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.hhs.gov/vaccines/about/index.html
Upcoming Meetings/Latest Updates
No new digest content identified.

NIH [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.nih.gov/
News Releases
No new digest content identified.

PATH [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.path.org/media-center/
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

Rockefeller Foundation [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/
Selected Reports/Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

Sabin Vaccine Institute [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.sabin.org/press/
Latest News & Press Releases
No new digest content identified.
Launch of UNICEF Child Alert - Ten million children in the central Sahel need humanitarian assistance amid spiralling conflict and punishing climate

As prepared for delivery "Good morning. "I’ve come in from UNICEF’s regional office in West and Central Africa to warn about a rapidly accelerating crisis for children on Europe’s doorstep. "Ten million children in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger are in dire need of humanitarian assistance largely due to spiralling conflict, while nearly 4 million...

10 million children in extreme jeopardy in central Sahel as insecurity seeps into neighbouring countries

GENEVA/DAKAR/NEW YORK, 17 March 2023 – Ten million children in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger are in dire need of humanitarian assistance – twice as many as in 2020 – largely due to spiralling conflict, while nearly 4 million children are at risk in neighbouring countries as hostilities between armed groups and national security forces spill across...

Global Fund and Unitaid Welcome WHO Recommendation for Insecticide-treated Nets With Dual Active Ingredients

GENEVA – The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Unitaid welcome WHO’s recommendation for the widespread use of a new class of mosquito net that uses two active ingredients – pyrethroid and chlorfenapyr. The new net has demonstrated approximately double the protection against malaria provided by the standard pyrethroid-only nets in areas where mosquitoes have already developed resistance to pyrethroids.

Randomized controlled trials in Tanzania and Benin over a two-year period demonstrated that the dual active ingredient insecticide-treated nets reduced malaria infections by approximately 50% among children between the ages of 6 months and 10 years.

Children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to malaria. According to the 2022 World Malaria Report, almost 80% of malaria deaths occur in children under 5. Most of the remaining deaths occur in children under 10 and pregnant women, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

“This shows how we can accelerate impact by embracing innovation,” said Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund. “The issuance of guidance by WHO is critical to influencing broad uptake
of the new nets and to combat growing insecticide resistance across Africa, where nearly all malaria infections and related deaths occur.”

Vaccine Equity Cooperative [nee Initiative]  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://vaccineequitycooperative.org/news/
News
No new digest content identified.

Vaccination Acceptance & Demand Initiative [Sabin]  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.vaccinationacceptance.org/
Announcements, Blog
2nd Annual Vaccination Acceptance Research Network Conference
VARN2023 Registration
Conference dates: June 13-15, 2023
Conference location: Bangkok, Thailand (venue information to come)

Vaccine Confidence Project  [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.vaccineconfidence.org/
News, Research and Reports
No new digest content identified.

Vaccine Education Center – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia  [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center
No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://wellcome.ac.uk/news
News, Opinion, Reports
No new digest content identified.

The Wistar Institute  [to 18 Mar 2023]
Media
No new digest content identified.

WFPHA: World Federation of Public Health Associations  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.wfpha.org/
Latest News - Blog
No new digest content identified.
World Medical Association [WMA] [to 18 Mar 2023]
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.oie.int/en/
Press Releases, Statements
No new digest content identified.

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ARM [Alliance for Regenerative Medicine] [to 18 Mar 2023]
Selected Press Releases
The Alliance for Regenerative Medicine Releases Report Analyzing Workforce Needed to Support Sustainable Biomanufacturing Of Cell And Gene Therapies In The United States
March 16, 2023

BIO [to 18 Mar 2023]
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

DCVMN – Developing Country Vaccine Manufacturers Network [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.dcvmn.org/
News; Upcoming events
No new digest content identified.

ICBA – International Council of Biotechnology Associations [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://internationalbiotech.org/news/
News
No new digest content identified.

IFPMA [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.ifpma.org/resources/news-releases/
Selected Press Releases, Statements, Publications
Statement 17 Mar 2023
WHO Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) intersessional briefing on “One Health and the Quadripartite”
On 17 March, IFPMA delivered a shortened version of the below statement at the WHO INB intersessional briefing on “Article 18: One Health and the Quadripartite” of the WHO convention,
agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response ("WHO CA+").

Statement 17 Mar 2023
WHO Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) intersessional briefing on the “Predictable global supply chain and logistics network”
On 17 March, IFPMA delivered a shortened version of the below statement at the WHO INB intersessional briefing on “Article 6: Predictable global supply chain and logistics network” of the WHO convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (“WHO CA+”).

Statement 17 Mar 2023
Statement at the Human Rights Council 52 Regular Session: Interactive dialogue on access to COVID-19 vaccines
On 17 March, IFPMA delivered a statement at the 52 Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the Interactive Dialogue with the Human Rights Commissioner on the report on Access to COVID-19 Vaccines.

International Alliance of Patients’ Organizations – IAPO [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.iapo.org.uk/news/topic/6
Press and media [Selected]
Save the date: 10th Global Patients Congress
We are delighted to announce that IAPO's 10th Global Patients Congress (GPC 2023) - "Innovative patient partnerships at the heart of global health advancement" will be held on 19 - 20 May 2023 at the Maison Internationale des Associations (MIA) in Geneva, Switzerland as a hybrid event.

International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association [IGBA]
https://www.igbamedicines.org/
News
No new digest announcements identified.

PhRMA [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.phrma.org/
Press Releases
No new digest announcements identified.

Vaccines/Therapeutics/Medicines – Selected Developer/Manufacturer Announcements
AstraZeneca
Press Releases - No new digest announcements identified
Bharat Biotech
**BioNTech**

*Press Releases*

14 March 2023


13 March 2023

**Update on First BioNTainer for African-based mRNA Manufacturing Facility**

MAINZ, GERMANY and KIGALI, RWANDA, March 13, 2023 — BioNTech SE (Nasdaq: BNTX, “BioNTech”) reached the next milestone in the establishment of scalable mRNA vaccine production in Africa. The six ISO-sized shipping containers for the first BioNTainer have been flown to Kigali, Rwanda, where they have been welcomed by Sabin Nsanzimana, M.D., Ph.D., the Minister of Health of Rwanda and Sierk Poetting, Ph.D., Chief Operating Officer at BioNTech. Media material from today’s arrival of the containers and their unloading at Kigali International Airport is available [here](#).

In parallel, BioNTech continues to build and develop its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility for the production of mRNA-based drugs and product candidates in Kigali, Rwanda, following the groundbreaking in June 2022. The facility will initially house two sets of BioNTainers for mRNA vaccine production in bulk and is expected to become the first node in a decentralized and robust end-to-end manufacturing network in Africa. BioNTech is also pursuing facility developments in Senegal and South Africa, in close coordination with each country. Vaccines deriving from this envisioned pan-African infrastructure will be intended for people residing in member states of the African Union, with the aim to support access to novel medicines...
Gamaleya National Center
Latest News and Events - See Russia above.

GSK
Press releases for media
14 March 2023
GSK announces positive pivotal phase III data for 5-in-1 Meningococcal ABCWY vaccine candidate
MenAB CWY combination vaccine candidate met all 11 primary endpoints of the pivotal phase III clinical trial

IMBCAMS, China
Home - Website not responding at inquiry

Janssen/JNJ
Press Releases - No new digest announcements identified

Merck
News releases - No new digest announcements identified

Moderna
Press Releases
14 March, 2023
Moderna Announces Phase 2 Data on mRNA-4157/V940, an Investigational mRNA Personalized Cancer Vaccine, to be Presented at the 2023 AACR Annual Meeting

Nanogen
News - No new digest announcements identified

Novartis
News - No new digest announcements identified

Novavax
Press Releases - No new digest announcements identified

Pfizer
Recent Press Releases
03.16.2023
FDA Advisory Committee Votes in Support of Favorable Benefit-Risk Profile for Pfizer’s PAXLOVID™

03.14.2023

R-Pharm
https://rpharm-us.com/index.php
Takeda

Takeda’s QDENG A (Dengue Tetravalent Vaccine [Live, Attenuated]) Approved in Brazil for Use Regardless of Prior Dengue Exposure
March 13, 2023

- National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) Approved QDENG A (TAK-003) for Use in Individuals Aged 4 to 601
- The Approval of QDENG A is Based on Results Across 19 Phase 1, 2 and 3 Trials with More Than 28,000 Children and Adults, Including Four and a Half Years of Follow-Up Data Showing Sustained Efficacy and No Important Safety Risks, to Date
- QDENG A is the Only Dengue Vaccine Approved in Brazil for Use in Individuals Without Need for Pre-vaccination Testing
- Marks the First Approval of QDENG A in Latin America

Valneva

Press Releases - No new digest announcements identified

Vector State Research Centre of Viralogy and Biotechnology

Home - Website not responding [404 error]

WestVac Biopharma

Media

Coviccine® -- Recombinant COVID-19 Vaccine (Sf9 cell) by WestVac Biopharma is Available for Vaccination in Beijing

2023-03-16

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...It is reported that Coviccine® has been delivered to the vaccination sites in several districts and counties in Beijing. Local residents eligible for vaccination may inquire information at the nearby site
and make an appointment for vaccination. Since the approval for emergency use by the national authority in December 2022, Coviccine® has been on the vaccine procurement list in the bidding process in over 20 provinces, offering a better vaccin choice for the residents, and contributing WestVac Biopharma's efforts to fight against COVID-19...:

Zhifei Longcom, China  
[Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biologic Pharmacy Co., Ltd.]  
[No website identified]

Contents [click to move among sections]
:: Coronavirus [COVID-19] - WHO  
:: Organization Announcements  
:: Journal Watch  
:: Pre-Print Servers

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 14, 2023  Issue 1  
https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uabr21/current  
[Reviewed earlier]

AMA Journal of Ethics
Volume 25, Number 3: E167-237  March 2023  
https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/issue/clinicians-government

Clinicians in Government
Clinicians serving in federal or state government in the United States are accountable to patients, the public, and their professions in ways that transcend clinicians’ typical duties to individual patients and colleagues and even transcend their fiduciary duties to society. One reason for this is that, when clinicians draw upon their professional skill sets to help administer agencies, make laws, or enforce regulations, the social and cultural power they wield as professionals is reified with political power and authority of the state. Clinician governors’ legal and ethical responsibilities extend to preparing,
building, and maintaining health sector capacity to deliver quality services equitably in the best of times and during crises. Our lives often depend on how fully clinician governors’ offices are respected and how competently and efficiently their roles are executed.

American Journal of Infection Control
March 2023  Volume 51  Issue 3  p241-360
http://www.ajicjournal.org/current
[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine
March 2023  Volume 64  Issue 3  p305-458
https://www.ajpmonline.org/current
[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health
March 2023  113(3)
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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 108 (2023): Issue 3 (Mar 2023)
[Reviewed earlier]

Annals of Internal Medicine
February 2023  Volume 176, Issue 2
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Volume 316  March 2023
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BMJ Global Health
BMC Health Services Research
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**Ethical considerations of the vaccine development process and vaccination: a scoping review**
Various vaccines have been developed and distributed worldwide to control and cope with COVID-19 disease. To ensure vaccines benefit the global community, the ethical principles of beneficence, justice, non-ma...
Authors: Habib Jalilian, Mahdi Amraei, Elnaz Javanshir, Khosro Jamebozorgi and Farzad Faraji-Khiavi
Citation: BMC Health Services Research 2023 23:255
Content type: Research Published on: 14 March 2023

BMC Infectious Diseases
http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcinfectdis/content
(Accessed 18 Mar 2023)
**Case-control study of human anthrax outbreak investigation in farta woreda, South Gondar, Northwest Ethiopia**
Anthrax is a zoonotic disease caused by the Bacillus anthracis bacteria, which is one of the top five important livestock diseases and the second top priority zoonotic disease, next to rabies, in Ethiopia, which ...
Authors: Taddie Wondmnew and Biset Asrade
Citation: BMC Infectious Diseases 2023 23:167
Content type: Research Published on: 17 March 2023

Immune response to co-administration of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), and yellow fever vaccines: a randomized non-inferiority trial among one-year-old children in Argentina
In yellow fever (YF) endemic areas, measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), and YF vaccines are often co-administered in childhood vaccination schedules. Because these are live vaccines, we assessed potential immun...
Authors: Carla Vizzotti, Jennifer B. Harris, Analía Aquino, Carolina Rancaño, Cristian Biscayart, Romina Bonaventura, Andrea Pontoriero, Elsa Baumeister, Maria Cecilia Freire, Mirta Magariños, Blanca Duarte, Gavin Grant, Susan Reef, Janeen Laven, Kathleen A. Wannemuehler, Alba Maria Ropero Alvarez...
Citation: BMC Infectious Diseases 2023 23:165
Content type: Research Published on: 17 March 2023

BMC Medical Ethics
http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmedethics/content
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Politics of COVID-19 vaccination in Japan: how governing incumbents’ representation affected regional rollout variation

Despite initial delay, Japan’s COVID-19 vaccination accelerated remarkably from May to September 2021 under the leadership of Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. His "campaign" for vaccination, however, did not ye...

Authors: M. Kikuchi, S. Ishihara and M. Kohno

Citation: BMC Public Health 2023 23:515
Content type: Research Published on: 17 March 2023

Promoting HPV vaccination at school: a mixed methods study exploring knowledge, beliefs and attitudes of French school staff

HPV vaccine coverage in France remained lower than in most other high-income countries. Within the diagnostic phase of the national PrevHPV program, we carried out a mixed methods study among school staff to a...

Authors: Aurélie Bocquier, Marion Branchereau, Aurélie Gauchet, Stéphanie Bonnay, Maïa Simon, Marie Ecollan, Karine Chevreul, Judith E. Mueller, Amandine Gagneux-Brunon and Nathalie Thilly

Citation: BMC Public Health 2023 23:486
Content type: Research Published on: 14 March 2023

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February 2023 - Volume 28 - 1
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Featured Article
Enhancing translation of science into non-English languages
A.S.K.V.S. Sharma, Perez Ogayo, Paul Azunre
Translating scientific findings from English to other native languages is essential to make sure that they can be integrated into timely and informed dialogue with policymakers and a diverse range of audiences who are affected by the science. Here, we present innovative approaches how to enhance access to scientific knowledge in non-English languages.
Development Policy Review  
Volume 41, Issue 2 March 2023  
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14677679/current  
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Volume 16 - Issue 6 - December 2022  
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/disaster-medicine-and-public-health-preparedness/latest-issue  
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Volume 45, Issue 1 Pages: 1-38 January–February 2023  
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/25782363/current  
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[Reviewed earlier]
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Winter 2022 (36.4)  December 21, 2022
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Volume 26  February 2023
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Volume 33, Issue 1, February 2023
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Vol 22 (1) 2023  Issue In Progress
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Volume 25, Issue 3  March 2023
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Volume 16, Issue 1 (2023)
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Vol. 11, No. 1 February 28, 2023
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Volume 24, Issue 2, December 2022
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Health Research Policy and Systems
http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content
[Accessed 18 Mar 2023]
Engaging early career researchers in a global health research capacity-strengthening programme: a qualitative study
Research capacity-strengthening is recognized as an important component of global health partnership working, and as such merits monitoring and evaluation. Early career researchers are often the recipients of...
Authors: Claire Hawcroft, Evelina Rossi, Nerissa Tilouche, Ana Flavia d'Oliveira and Loraine J. Bacchus
Citation: Health Research Policy and Systems 2023 21:19
Content type: Research Published on: 16 March 2023

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Volume 34, Issue 3-4 / February 2023
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Humanitarian action is the answer to fewer and fewer of today’s humanitarian crises
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March 14, 2023

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Volume 18, Issue 5, 2022
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Feb 14, 2023 Volume 56 Issue 2 p225-458
https://www.cell.com/immunity/current
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http://www.infectagentscancer.com/
[Accessed 18 Mar 2023]
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The approaching pilot for One Health governance index

One Health approach advocates realizing the best health and harmonious symbiosis of human, animal and natural environment through cross-border, multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary cooperation. The good governance model is the leading factor for the performance of One Health governance. In order to tackle the complex problems in the One Health governance at the global level, the variation of One Health governance in different countries was analyzed by a set of indicators within the One Health system.

Authors: Odel Y. Li, XiangCheng Wang, Kelly Yang, DongMei Liu and HuaChen Shi
Citation: Infectious Diseases of Poverty 2023 12:16
Content type: Research Article Published on: 13 March 2023
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March 2023, Vol 4, No. 3
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March 2023, Vol 177, No. 3, Pages 219-324
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Volume 48, issue 1, February 2023
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Volume 161  March 2023
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Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics
Effectiveness of BNT162b2 Vaccination During Pregnancy in Preventing Hospitalization for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 in Infants

Dana Danino, Liat Ashkenazi-Hoffnung, Alejandro Diaz,...David Greenberg, Noga Givon-Lavi, Ilan Youngster
Published online: October 14, 2022
p48-53.e1

Medicine shortages: impact behind numbers

Current research to assess the impact that medicine shortages have on patients is limited to general aspects, such as the prevalence of shortages and product characteristics. The aim of this study is to assess the overall impact that medicine shortages have on economic, clinical, and humanistic outcomes.

Authors: Doerine J. Postma, Kim Notenboom, Peter A. G. M. De Smet, Hubert G. M. Leufkens and Aukje K. Mantel-Teeuwisse
Citation: Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice 2023 16:44
Content type: Research Published on: 14 March 2023
The Lancet
Mar 11, 2023 Volume 401 Number 10379 p795-876
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current

Editorial

**Human genome editing: ensuring responsible research**
The Lancet
In 2018, during the Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing in Hong Kong, Jiankui He shocked the world by announcing the birth of two children whose genomes he had edited using CRISPR technology. Following widespread condemnation and a criminal investigation, he was sentenced to 3 years in prison. The case caused international outcry and brought to the fore the need to reconsider the serious ethical, scientific, and social issues of heritable human genome editing. As science advances, especially in non-heritable, somatic gene editing for treatment of previously incurable diseases, regulatory gaps are becoming exposed. Governance of gene editing research was a major discussion point at the Third International Human Genome Editing Summit in London, on March
6–8, with widespread recognition for the need to build on existing guidelines to develop global standards for governance and oversight of human genome editing. As He's unconscionable actions showed, the ethical and scientific risks are substantial.

Gene editing regulations must consider the aims and consequences of the different practices involved. Somatic genome editing interventions (eg, targeted therapies such as chimeric antigen receptor T cells or small interfering RNA gene therapies) are not transmitted to offspring and are widely used. Heritable genome editing—also called germline editing—is aimed at research on human fertilisation and embryology or for reproductive purposes. From a genetic point of view, germline editing is of most concern because alterations are passed to offspring, with the risk of perpetuating unexpected and undesired changes through generations. It is impossible for our unborn descendants to give consent.

Loopholes and ambiguities in regulation need to be closed urgently to enable scientists to be held to account. In China, He's prosecution was based on practising medicine without a licence, rather than specifically based on a provision governing assisted reproduction or genome editing. China has since instituted new regulations, widely seen as a response to the He case, but they have been criticised in press reports for not doing enough to cover private companies. Wording of legislation needs to be explicit and clear. In the USA, use of funds by the FDA for the purpose of accepting and reviewing any application to begin a clinical trial for heritable germline editing is prohibited. While this, in effect, makes some reproductive editing illegal, it falls short of a ban on the practice itself. Similar ambiguities exist in many countries, and as the technologies involved become cheaper and more widely available, the risk increases.

A better international consensus is essential on how to advance gene editing while safeguarding humanity's collective genepool. There is broad agreement that altering embryo DNA for reproductive purposes should remain forbidden; a 2020 study showed that 75 of 96 surveyed countries have banned it. However, many do not have effective oversight and governance mechanisms to enforce existing regulations. In some countries, although altering embryo DNA is generally forbidden, exceptions are allowed, making more likely the possibility that the technology is used for a banned purpose. The lack of policy alignment between countries raises the possibility of scientists exporting their research to evade constraints established in their home jurisdictions.

How will a global consensus be enforced? The UN is the only body in a position to do so, and the prospect of an international legally binding treaty to govern genome editing was raised at the Second International Summit in 2018, but has seemingly proceeded no further. The Oviedo Convention, a legally binding instrument established by the European Council, permits somatic genome modifications for preventive, diagnostic, or therapeutic purposes, and prohibits germline editing, but only 29 countries have enacted it into law.

It is almost 20 years since scientists announced the mapping of the human genome. Now they are editing it, and the promise of a truly personalised medicine, tailored to an individual's genetic makeup, is becoming reality. The first CRISPR-based technology, for sickle cell disease, is expected to soon be approved by US regulators. Such advances have the potential to bring enormous benefits for humankind, but also bring unique social and ethical challenges. Resolving these challenges will involve ongoing conversations within and outside the scientific community. To protect legitimate genetic research—to close loopholes in regulations and establish a global consensus on oversight and regulation—will require governance that is as dynamic as the science.
Articles

**Mpox in people with advanced HIV infection: a global case series**
Oriol Mitjà, et al on behalf of SHARE-NET writing group

People living with HIV have accounted for 38–50% of those affected in the 2022 multicountry mpox outbreak. Most reported cases were in people who had high CD4 cell counts and similar outcomes to those without HIV. Emerging data suggest worse clinical outcomes and higher mortality in people with more advanced HIV. We describe the clinical characteristics and outcomes of mpox in a cohort of people with HIV and low CD4 cell counts (CD4 <350 cells per mm3).

**Viewpoint**

**Confronting the evolution and expansion of anti-vaccine activism in the USA in the COVID-19 era**
Richard M Carpiano, et al.

Introduction
Over the past two decades, anti-vaccine activism in the USA has evolved from a fringe subculture into an increasingly well organised, networked movement with important repercussions for public health. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this evolution and magnified the reach of vaccine misinformation. Anti-vaccine activists, who for many years spoke primarily to niche communities hesitant about childhood vaccinations, have used traditional and social media to amplify vaccine-related mistruths about COVID-19 vaccines while also targeting historically marginalised racial and ethnic communities. These efforts contributed to COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and expanded the movement, with early indications suggesting that this hesitancy could now also be increasing hesitancy that existed pre-pandemic towards other vaccines. It is important to understand the implications of this recent evolution of anti-vaccine activism on vaccination uptake and the promotion of sound public health strategies. In this Viewpoint, we summarise the latest developments in US-based anti-vaccine activism and propose strategies for confronting them.

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Mar 2023 Volume 7 Number 3 p145-222, e5-e9
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Mar 2023 Volume 11 Number 3 e301-e474
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Mar 2023 Volume 23 Number 3 p261-380, e72-e120
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Mar 2023 Volume 11 Number 3 p213-296, e20-e30
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Maternal and Child Health Journal
Volume 27, issue 2, February 2023
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Volume 43 Issue 3, April 2023
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Volume 100, Issue 4 Pages: 963-1278 December 2022
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Volume 55 Issue 3, March 2023
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Volume 7 Issue 2, February 2023
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Volume 29 Issue 2, February 2023
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Volume 22 Issue 3, March 2023
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Volume 24 Issue 3, March 2023
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Volume 23 Issue 3, March 2023
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March 16, 2023  Vol. 388 No. 11
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Audio Interview: The Future of Covid-19 Research
E.J. Rubin, L.R. Baden, and S. Morrissey

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Research Article
Maternal immunisation against Group B Streptococcus: A global analysis of health impact and cost-effectiveness
Simon R. Procter, Bronner P. Gonçalves, Proma Paul, Jaya Chandna, Farah Seedat, Artemis Koukounari, Raymond Hutubessy, Caroline Trotter, Joy E. Lawn, Mark Jit
Research Article | published 14 Mar 2023 PLOS Medicine
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Mapping of cholera hotspots in Kenya using epidemiologic and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) indicators as part of Kenya’s new 2022–2030 cholera elimination plan
Catherine Kiama, Emmanuel Okunga, Annastacia Muange, Doris Marwanga, Daniel Langat, Francis Kuria, Patrick Amoth, Ian Were, John Gachohi, Nolluscus Ganda, Marion Martinez Valiente, M. Kariuki Njenga, Eric Osoro, Joan Brunkard
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Large and small financial incentives may motivate COVID-19 vaccination: A randomized, controlled survey experiment
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COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and its drivers: An empirical study of the vaccine hesitant group in Malaysia
Santha Vaithilingam, Li-Ann Hwang, Mahendhiran Nair, Jason Wei Jian Ng, Pervaiz Ahmed, Kamarul Imran Musa
Research Article | published 15 Mar 2023 PLOS ONE
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Pregnant women’s awareness, perception, and acceptability of COVID-19 vaccine attending antenatal clinics in Bharatpur, Nepal
Radha Dhakal, Sushma Shapkota, Parita Shrestha, Prativa Adhikari, Shobhana Nepal
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March 14, 2023 vol. 120 no. 11
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Volume 43, Issue 2  Pages: 203-428  February 2023
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Volume 379| Issue 6637| 17 Mar 2023
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Volume 15 | Issue 687 | 15 Mar 2023  
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Volume 318 | February 2023  
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Volume 44, issue 1, February 2023  
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**Travel Medicine and Infectious Diseases**  
Volume 51 | January–February 2023  
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Volume 28, Issue 3 | Pages: i-iv, 157-246 | March 2023  
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*Selected Content*  
*Short communication  Full text access*  
**Influenza and pneumococcal vaccine prescription for adults during COVID-19 first wave in three regions of Argentina**  
María Gabriela Matta, Laura Pulido, Juan José Herrera-Paz, José M. Picco, ... Sebastian Garcia-Zamora  
Pages 1541-1544  

*Research article  Full text access*
COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy scale and its association with actual COVID-19 vaccine uptake in Israel
Ariella Grossman-Giron, Dana Tzur Bitan, Sharon Shemesh, Yael Mayer, ... Yuval Bloch
Pages 1567-1572

Research article  Full text access

Ethics of age de-escalation in pediatric vaccine trials: Attending to the case of COVID-19
Ami Harbin, Naomi Laventhal, Mark Navin
Pages 1584-1588

Abstract
In the development of new vaccines, many trials use age de-escalation: after establishing safety and efficacy in adult populations, progressively younger cohorts are enrolled and studied. Age de-escalation promotes many values. The responsibility to protect children from potential risks of experimental vaccines is significant, not only given increased risks of adverse effects but also because parents and medical professionals have a moral responsibility to protect children from harms associated with novel, uncertain interventions. Further, given that young children cannot provide informed consent, acceptable risks for research requiring proxy consent are lower than for adults making decisions for themselves. Although age de-escalation approaches are widely used in vaccine trials, including notably in the recent development of pediatric COVID-19 vaccines, ethicists have not addressed the benefits and risks of these approaches. Their benefits are largely assumed and unstated, while their potential risks are usually overlooked. There are no official ethics guidelines for the use of age de-escalation in clinical research. In this paper, we provide a systematic account of key moral factors to consider when employing age de-escalation. Analyzing pediatric COVID-19 vaccine development as our key case study, we clarify the benefits, risks, and trade-offs involved in age de-escalation approaches and call for the development of evidence-based best practice guidelines to identify when age de-escalation is likely to be an ethical strategy in vaccine development.

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March 2023  Volume 26  Issue 3  p317-440
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Selected Research

How have mathematical models contributed to understanding the transmission and control of SARS-CoV-2 in healthcare settings? A systematic search and review
David R M Smith, Sophie Chervet, Théo Pinettes, George Shirreff, Sofia Jijón, Ajmal Oodally, Kévin Jean, Lulla Opatowski, Solen Kernéis, Laura Temime
medRxiv 2023.03.17.23287403; doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.03.17.23287403

Growing gender disparity in HIV infection in Africa: sources and policy implications
Mélodie Monod, Andrea Brizzi, Ronald M Galiwango, Robert Ssekubugu, Yu Chen, Xiao Yue Xi, Edward Nelson Kankaka, Victor Ssempijja, Lucie Abeler-Dörner, Adam Akullian, Alexandra Blenkinsop, David Bonsall, Larry William Chang, Shozon Dan, Christophe Fraser, Tanya Golubchik, Ronald H Gray, Matthew Hall, Jade C. Jackson, Godfrey Kigozi, Oliver Laeyendecker, Lisa A Mills, Thomas Quinn, Steven J Reynolds, John Santelli, Nelson Sewankambo, Simon EF Spencer, Joseph Ssekasanvu, Laura Thomson, Maria Wawer, David Serwadda, Peter Godfrey-Faussett, Joseph Kagaayi, M Kate Grabowski, Oliver Ratmann, Rakai Health Sciences Program, PANGEA-HIV consortium
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Real-world effectiveness of mpox (monkeypox) vaccines: a systematic review
Mingda Xu, Caifen Liu, Zhanwei Du, Yuan Bai, Zhen Wang, Chao Gao
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Childhood Hepatitis B Immunization Coverage and Barriers in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea: Analysis of National Surveys (2018-2020)
George A Yendewa, Peter Bai James, Amir M. Mohareb, Umaru Barrie, Samuel P.E. Massaquoi, Sahr A Yendewa, Manal Ghazzawi, Tahir Bockarie, Peterlyn E Cummings, Ibrahima S Diallo, Ambulai Johnson, Benjamin Vohnm, Lawrence S Babawo, Gibrilla F. Deen, Mustapha Kabb, Foday Sahr, Sulaiman Lakoh, Robert A Salata
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Predicting COVID-19 pandemic waves with biologically and behaviorally informed universal differential equations
Bruce Kuwahara, Chris Bauch
Modeling COVID-19 vaccination strategies in LMICs considering uncertainty in viral evolution and immunity
Daniel J Klein, Luojun Yang, Cliff C Kerr, Greer Fowler, Jamie A Cohen
medRxiv 2023.03.15.23287285; doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.03.15.23287285

Impact and cost-effectiveness of measles vaccination through microarray patches in 70 low- and middle-income countries: a modelling study
Han Fu, Kaja Abbas, Stefano Malvolti, Christopher Gregory, Melissa Ko, Jean-Pierre Amorij, Mark Jit
medRxiv 2023.03.10.23287067; doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.03.10.23287067

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https://osf.io/preprints/discover?provider=OSF&subject=bepress%7CLife%20Sciences
[Accessed 06 Jan 2023]
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We observe increasing levels of "posting pollution" by individuals, sometimes posting 10+ items of no value. If this continues, we may decide to no longer monitor this resource.

No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Open Research
https://wellcomeopenresearch.org/browse/articles
[Accessed 06 Jan 2023]
Selected Research
Study Protocol  Open Access
The West Africa Lassa fever Consortium pre-positioned protocol for a Phase II/III adaptive, randomised, controlled, platform trial to evaluate multiple Lassa fever therapeutics [version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]
Josephine Bourner, et al....The WALC Work Package 2 Working Group
Abstract
Background: This is a standardized, pre-positioned protocol for the coordinated evaluation of Lassa fever therapeutics. The protocol is the product of discussions that took place in 2021 and 2022 among international investigators from a wide range of scientific and medical disciplines working together within the West Africa Lassa fever Consortium (WALC).
Methods: This is a clinical Phase II/III multicentre randomised controlled platform trial using a superiority framework with an equal allocation ratio and a composite primary endpoint of all-cause mortality OR new onset of i) acute kidney failure (AKF), OR ii) acute respiratory failure (ARF), OR iii) shock assessed from enrolment (D0) to D28.
Discussion: This pre-positioned protocol was developed by the WALC and made available for adaptation and implementation by the wider Lassa fever research community in order to generate efficient, reliable, and comparable evidence for Lassa fever therapeutics.

Open Letter  Open Access
**Gender inequity and COVID-19 vaccination policies for pregnant women in the Americas**

Ilana Ambrogi, Luciana Brito, Arbel Griner, Susan Bull

*Abstract*

The region of the Americas has been the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic's worst outcome in terms of number of deaths due to COVID-19. SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy and the postpartum period has been found to be associated with increased risk of mortality and severe disease. Several Latin American and Caribbean countries have disproportionally high maternal mortality rates due to COVID-19. Although this region achieved relatively high vaccination rates among the general adult population, there were differing restrictions regarding the vaccination of those who were pregnant. In a pandemic, policies reflect political priorities in responses to the threats posed to populations and play an important role in promoting gender equity. This paper reports the results of an ethical analysis of 45 national COVID-19 vaccination public policies from seven countries – Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and United States. The analysis drew on reproductive justice and feminist bioethics frameworks, paying close attention to whether and how gender and social and economic inequities were addressed. It found that exclusionary approaches in immunization policies which restricted access to vaccination during pregnancy were often justified on the basis of a lack of evidence about the effects of immunization of pregnant persons, and on the grounds of medical expertise, to the detriment of women’s autonomy and agency. As such these policies reiterate patriarchal moral understandings of women, pregnancy and motherhood. In practice, they counter human rights gender equity and equality principles, and became lethal, particularly to racialized women in Latin America. During an emerging lethal disease, policies and policy development must consider the intersection of oppressive structures to protect and guarantee rights of women, girls, and pregnant persons.

*Research Article  Open Access*

**Towards achieving transnational research partnership equity: lessons from implementing adaptive platform trials in low- and middle-income countries**

Chelsea Modlin, et al.

*Abstract*

Background: Use of adaptive clinical trials, particularly adaptive platform trials, has grown exponentially in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Implementation of these trials in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) has been fostered through the formation or modification of transnational research partnerships, typically between research groups from LMICs and high-income countries (HICs). While these partnerships are important to promote collaboration and overcome the structural and economic disadvantages faced by LMIC health researchers, it is critical to focus attention on the multiple dimensions of partnership equity.

Methods: Based on informal literature reviews and meetings with leaders of one of the multinational COVID-19 adaptive platform trials, we describe what can be learned about research partnership equity from these experiences.

Results: We organize these considerations into eight thematic categories: 1) epistemic structures, 2) funding, 3) ethics oversight, 4) regulatory oversight, 5) leadership, 6) post-trial access to interventions, data, and specimens, 7) knowledge translation, and 8) research capacity strengthening and maintenance. Within each category we review the normative claims that support its relevance to research partnership equity followed by discussion of how adaptive platform trials highlight new dimensions, considerations, or challenges.
Conclusion: These observations provide insight into procedural and substantive equity-building measures within transnational global health research partnerships more broadly.

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**Think Tanks**

**Brookings**  [to 18 Mar 2023]
http://www.brookings.edu/
*Latest Research [Selected] Technology & Innovation*
*Essay*

**Procompetitive health care reform options for a divided Congress**
Loren Adler and Benedic Ippolito
Thursday, March 16, 2023

**Center for Global Development**  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.cgdev.org/
*All Research [Selected]*
No new digest content identified.

**Chatham House**  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.chathamhouse.org/
*Selected Analysis, Comment, Events*
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**CSIS**  [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.csis.org/
*Selected Reports, Events*
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**Kaiser Family Foundation**  [to 18 Mar 2023]
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*Newsroom*
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**McKinsey Global Institute**
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*Latest Research*
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**ODI [Overseas Development Institute]**  [to 18 Mar 2023]
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Urban Institute [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://www.urban.org/publications
New Research Publications – Selected

World Economic Forum [to 18 Mar 2023]
https://agenda.weforum.org/news/
Media
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