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

Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review is published as a PDF and scheduled for release each Saturday [U.S.] at midnight [0000 GMT-5]. The PDF is posted and the elements of each edition are presented as a set of blog posts at https://centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.net. This blog allows full text searching of over 21,000 entries.

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

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Contents [click on link below to move to associated content]
A. Milestones :: Perspectives :: Featured Journal Content
B. Emergencies
C. WHO; CDC [U.S., Africa, China]
D. Announcements
E. Journal Watch
F. Media Watch
Milestones :: Perspectives :: Research

Editor’s Note:
As is obvious to all, the sheer volume of strategic announcements, regulatory actions, country program decisions, commentary, and, indeed, misinformation around COVID response continues at extraordinary levels. Our weekly digest strives to present a coherent and comprehensive snapshot, but cannot be exhaustive. If you recognize a missed strategic development, a new source of rigorous analysis, or an insight/commentary that would benefit our common understanding, please advise me...we will review suggestions and consider inclusion in a subsequent edition:
david.r.curry@ge2p2global.org

As COVID-19 Reveals Immoral Inequities in Health System, Secretary-General Observance Message Calls for Applying Policies, Assigning Resources to Ensure Everyone Thrives
5 April 2021   SG/SM/20672
Following is UN Secretary-General António Guterres’ message for World Health Day, observed on 7 April:
On this World Health Day, we highlight the inequalities and injustices of our health systems.

The COVID-19 crisis has revealed how unequal our societies are. Within countries, illness and death from COVID-19 has been higher among people and communities that contend with poverty, unfavourable living and working conditions, discrimination and social exclusion.

Globally, the vast majority of vaccine doses administered have been in a few wealthy countries or those producing vaccines. Thanks to the COVAX initiative, more nations are now beginning to receive vaccine supplies, but most people in low- and middle-income countries still must watch and wait.

Such inequities are immoral, and they are dangerous for our health, our economies and our societies. As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we must implement policies and allocate resources so all can enjoy the same health outcomes. That means achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. And it means delivering universal health coverage so everyone, everywhere, can thrive.

On this World Health Day, let us commit to work together for a healthy, equitable world.

Featured Journal Content

Nature
Volume 592 Issue 7853, 8 April 2021
https://www.nature.com/nature/volumes/592/issues/7853
Editorial | 06 April 2021
The world must learn from COVID before diving into a pandemic treaty
A treaty might help countries to prepare for the next pandemic — but first they must study what went wrong during this one.

Last week, 27 world leaders, including the president of the European Council and the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), called for the creation of a legally binding treaty so that the world is better prepared for the next pandemic. The European Union helped to initiate the idea, which is backed by countries in the African Union, Asia and South America. The United States and China are not in the founding group.

The leaders envisage a global agreement, organized through the WHO, that will enable nations to equitably share their expertise, equipment and knowledge in controlling and ending pandemics. “Together, we must be better prepared to predict, prevent, detect, assess and effectively respond to pandemics in a highly coordinated fashion,” the leaders wrote in a series of opinion articles published simultaneously in newspapers around the world.

A pandemic treaty, they imply, would be the antidote to the current response, which is the opposite of cooperative. Countries that are doing vaccine research and manufacturing — such as those in the EU, the United States and India — are buying up most of the stock or restricting exports to other countries. Many of the richer nations are, for now, maintaining intellectual-property protection on important technologies. Earlier in the pandemic, countries were outbidding each other to find personal protective equipment and coronavirus testing kits.

Although the objective of a pandemic treaty is compelling, it’s not clear whether, in practice, such an instrument would lead to a more unified and equitable response to a future pandemic. When the 2008 global financial crisis hit, world leaders, finance ministers and leaders of financial institutions worked in concert to stabilize economies. They didn’t need a treaty. Nor should those working to navigate a path out of the pandemic.

It was — and remains — entirely possible for nations to come together and make a few key joint decisions, as many, including this journal, have been advocating. On vaccinations, for example, there could have been an agreement to share know-how and supplies so that all of the world’s most vulnerable people could be protected first. Countries could similarly have cooperated by sharing research and experience to inform criteria for starting and ending lockdowns and for closing and opening borders.

Nonetheless, a pandemic treaty is not an unworkable idea, and multilateralism is infinitely preferable to nations acting alone. But it requires due diligence, alongside studies of the current pandemic response. It will also need a broader constituency of support beyond that of its founding leaders, and it will require patience, and give and take.

So what does a treaty need?
A pandemic treaty needs to meet at least four conditions.

First, international treaties need the world to sign up. So far, only a small number of countries have done so. Different countries will have different reasons for taking part, which will need to be accommodated. A global treaty would also need participation from China and the United States, which is not certain at this time of renewed tensions in East–West relations. And treaty negotiation can take years, if not decades — so prepare for a long haul.
Second, a treaty needs researchers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to be actively involved. Historically, both have been crucial in creating treaties. Warnings from researchers helped the world to agree on international treaties on ozone depletion and climate change. NGOs have been instrumental in the creation of biodiversity treaties and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force in January. Their voices, along with those of the thousands of clinicians, epidemiologists, geneticists, public-health specialists, virologists and so many more who have been central to the pandemic response, have yet to be heard — and they need to be.

Third, before negotiating a new treaty, nations need to study why existing agreements are not working. Under the EU’s pandemic plan, for example, procured vaccines are placed in a central pool and are released to countries according to priority categories. But this has proved controversial because it has prevented countries from purchasing their own supplies. Some EU countries have contravened the agreement and gone outside the pool to procure vaccines on their own.

The COVAX scheme has some elements of a treaty: countries and funders have promised to contribute funding and vaccines for the most vulnerable people in countries with the greatest need. This is an important initiative, and was designed to ensure that all of the world’s most vulnerable people could be vaccinated first. However, it is clear that donor countries are waiting for vaccines to be rolled out to their own citizens before they release supplies to COVAX for recipient countries.

Clearly, although countries say they are committed to the principle of equitable allocation, this is not actually happening. That means there is a risk that, when the next pandemic strikes, countries will return to competing with each other for supplies, even with a treaty committing them to equitable access.

Fourth, if a new treaty is to be administered by the WHO, nations need to have an honest conversation about whether they will give the agency more powers. The WHO has been offering constant guidance since before it declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern more than a year ago. Some countries were better able to follow its advice and have had more success at eliminating the virus, others less so. To succeed, a treaty that is administered by the WHO will need every country to respect its instructions.

After the 2008 global financial crisis, world leaders realized that parts of the architecture of international finance needed to be mended. But you cannot fix a broken system in the middle of a crisis. A treaty to fix today’s ills has the potential to be a powerful instrument in a future pandemic, but, with countries still navigating their way out of this one, it’s important to remember that people don’t need an international law to pick up the phone and talk.

COVAX

COVAX says India’s Serum Institute bound to supply virus vaccines
By Krishna N. Das
April 9, 2021
NEW DELHI (Reuters) - The Serum Institute of India (SII) is legally compelled to ship coronavirus vaccine to global vaccine sharing facility COVAX, its co-lead Gavi has told Reuters, a provision that could complicate the firm’s efforts to boost domestic supplies.

India, where infections have surged to 13.06 million, suspended all major exports of vaccines last month to fill demand at home, forcing the world’s biggest vaccine maker to divert nearly all its production to the domestic market.

“The agreement is legally binding and served as a basis for the first-round allocation document, which has been communicated to all participating economies,” a Gavi spokeswoman said in an email. The pact specified Gavi would receive from SII 1.1 billion doses of either the AstraZeneca vaccine or that of Novavax, with 200 million committed, and the rest on option.

SII partner AstraZeneca has already issued it a legal notice over delays to other shipments, even as many Indian states have complained of a shortage facing priority recipients.

Gavi said its pact with SII took effect when the World Health Organization approved the AstraZeneca shot on Feb. 15, after a source said SII had originally been supposed to send doses to COVAX only from May.

“SII has pledged that, alongside supplying India, it will prioritise the COVAX multilateral solution for equitable distribution,” Gavi added.

COVAX had expected here a total of more than 100 million doses from SII between February and May, excluding supplies for India, but has so far received here only about 18.2 million.

Serum has sent another 10 million doses to the Indian government through COVAX, Gavi said. Gavi did not respond on Friday to questions about what now lies ahead. SII also did not immediately respond to a request for comment...

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COVAX reaches over 100 economies, 42 days after first international delivery
:: The COVAX Facility has now delivered life-saving vaccines to over 100 economies since making its first international delivery to Ghana on February 24th
:: So far, more than 38 million doses of vaccines from manufacturers AstraZeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech and Serum Institute of India (SII) have now been delivered, including 61 economies eligible for vaccines through the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment
:: COVAX aims to supply vaccines to all participating economies that have requested vaccines, in the first half of 2021, despite some delays in planned deliveries for March and April.

GENEVA/ NEW YORK/ OSLO, 8 April 2021 – More than one hundred economies have received life-saving COVID-19 vaccines from COVAX, the global mechanism for equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. The milestone comes 42 days after the first COVAX doses were shipped and delivered internationally, to Ghana on February 24th.
COVAX has now delivered more than 38 million doses across six continents, supplied by three manufacturers, AstraZeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech and the Serum Institute of India (SII). Of the over 100 economies reached, 61 are among the 92 lower-income economies receiving vaccines funded through the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC).

Despite reduced supply availability in March and April – the result of vaccine manufacturers scaling and optimising their production processes in the early phase of the rollout, as well as increased demand for COVID-19 vaccines in India – COVAX expects to deliver doses to all participating economies that have requested vaccines in the first half of the year.

“In under four months since the very first mass vaccination outside a clinical setting anywhere in the world, it is tremendously gratifying that the roll-out of COVAX doses has already reached one hundred countries,” said Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. “COVAX may be on track to deliver to all participating economies in the first half of the year yet we still face a daunting challenge as we seek to end the acute stage of the pandemic: we will only be safe when everybody is safe and our efforts to rapidly accelerate the volume of doses depend on the continued support of governments and vaccine manufacturers. As we continue with the largest and most rapid global vaccine rollout in history, this is no time for complacency.”

“COVAX has given the world the best way to ensure the fastest, most equitable rollout of safe and effective vaccines to all at-risk people in every country on the planet,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “If we are going to realize this great opportunity, countries, producers and the international system must come together to prioritize vaccine supply through COVAX. Our collective future, literally, depends on it.”

"This is a significant milestone in the fight against COVID-19. Faced with the rapid spread of COVID-19 variants, global access to vaccines is fundamentally important to reduce the prevalence of the disease, slow down viral mutation, and hasten the end of the pandemic,” said Dr Richard Hatchett, CEO of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). “The extraordinary scientific achievements of the last year must now be matched by an unprecedented effort to protect the most vulnerable, so the global community must remain firmly focused on reducing the equity gap in COVID-19 vaccine distribution."

“In just a month and a half, the ambition of granting countries access to COVID vaccines is becoming a reality, thanks to the outstanding work of our partners in the COVAX Facility,” said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director. “However, this is no time to celebrate; it is time to accelerate. With variants emerging all over the world, we need to speed up global rollout. To do this, we need governments, along with other partners, to take necessary steps to increase supply, including by simplifying barriers to intellectual property rights, eliminating direct and indirect measures that restrict exports of COVID-19 vaccines, and donating excess vaccine doses as quickly as possible.”

According to its latest supply forecast, COVAX expects to deliver at least 2 billion doses of vaccines in 2021. In order to reach this goal, the COVAX Facility will continue to diversify its portfolio further, and will announce new agreements with vaccine manufacturers in due course.

Furthermore, in March it was announced that the United States government will host the launch event for the 2021 Gavi COVAX AMC Invest Opportunity to catalyse further commitment and support for accelerated access to vaccines for AMC-supported economies. An additional US$2 billion is required in
2021 to finance and secure up to a total of 1.8 billion donor-funded doses of vaccines. COVAX is also working to secure additional sourcing of vaccines in the form of dose-sharing from higher income countries...

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**We need speed and simplicity to remove barriers to the acquisition, manufacture and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines globally**

Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore

NEW YORK, 6 APRIL 2021

"...But the fight is not yet over. Variants are emerging all over the world, and with each, the risk of a massive global setback.

"At the current rate, there is simply not enough vaccine supply to meet demand. And the supply available is concentrated in the hands of too few. Some countries have contracted enough doses to vaccinate their populations several times, while other countries have yet to receive even their first dose. This threatens us all. The virus and its mutations will win.

"In order to get ahead of the virus, and to shift gears, we must build on a strategy of vaccinating frontline workers but drive towards a strategy that truly enables equitable access for all. We urge governments, businesses and partners to take three urgent actions:

"First, simplify Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) through voluntary and proactive licensing by IPR holders. But this alone won’t increase production. Unlike drug manufacture, vaccine production involves a complex manufacturing process with multiple components and steps. IPR holders would need to provide technology partnerships to accompany IP licenses, proactively share know-how and sub-contract to manufacturers without undue geographic or volume restrictions. This challenge requires not forced IP waivers but proactive partnership and cooperation. Recent manufacturing partnerships such as Pfizer-BioNTech; AZ-SII, J&J-Merck and J&J-Aspen are encouraging examples. UNICEF urges others to follow suit, to increase the scale and geographic diversity of manufacturing capacity.
“While markets alone can’t guarantee innovation benefits all, voluntary licensing, pooled funds and multilateral mechanisms such as COVAX are an effective and realistic way for product developers and manufacturers to collaborate, innovate, and encourage equitable access.

“Second, we need to end vaccine nationalism. Governments should remove direct and indirect export- and import-control measures that block, restrict or slow down exports of COVID-19 vaccines, ingredients and supplies. Viruses respect no borders. Defeating COVID-19 in each of our home countries also means defeating it around the world by ensuring a steady flow of vaccines and supplies to all.

“Finally, Governments that have contracted to receive more ‘future doses’ than required to vaccinate their entire adult populations this year, should immediately loan, release or donate most or all excess contracted doses for 2021 to COVAX, so they can be allocated equitably among other countries.

“In addition, countries with a sufficient, current supply of manufactured doses should consider donating at least 5% of their available manufactured doses right away, and commit to making further contributions on a continued, rolling basis throughout the year, scaling up their contributions in line with rising supply. Confirming these dose-sharing commitments now will enhance predictability, accelerate equitable access, and help stabilize the global vaccine market.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear to us all that no one is safe until everyone is safe. But equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines is within our grasp. We have proven that the world can rally to do the unthinkable, and we need to do it again. The sooner we do, the sooner our lives, and the lives of our children, will go back to normal.”

Coronavirus [COVID-19] - WHO
Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)
https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Weekly Epidemiological and Operational updates
Last update: 23 January 2021
Confirmed cases :: 134 308 070 [week ago: 129 902 402] [two weeks ago: 125 781 957]
Confirmed deaths :: 2 907 944 [week ago: 2 831 815] [two weeks ago: 2 759 432]
Countries, areas or territories with cases :: 223

Weekly operational update on COVID-19 - 5 April 2021
Overview
In this edition of the Weekly Operational Update on COVID-19, highlights of country-level actions and WHO support to Member States include:
:: Training on the collection and electronic reporting of COVID-19 data in Burundi
:: Strengthening operational support and logistics in the western Balkans
:: WHO hears from some of the first to be vaccinated in Somalia
:: The Solomon Islands begins their COVID-19 vaccination campaign with doses supplied by the COVAX Facility
:: Outcomes on a global study of digital crisis interaction among Gen Z and Millennials
:: The Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) 2021 resource requirements and progress made to continue investing in the COVID-19 response and for building the architecture to prepare for, prevent and mitigate future health emergencies
:: Updates on WHO/PAHO procured items, Partners Platform, participation in the Unity Studies, and select indicators from the COVID-19 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

**Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 – 6 April 2021**

*Overview*

Globally, new COVID-19 cases rose for a sixth consecutive week, with over 4 million new cases reported in the last week. The number of new deaths also increased by 11% compared to last week, with over 71 000 new deaths reported.

[No variants of concern overview included]

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**WHO – COVID Vaccines EUAL, Prequalification**

**Draft landscape and tracker of COVID-19 candidate vaccines**

9 April 2021 | Publication

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

The landscape is updated regularly - twice a week (Tuesday and Friday, 17:00 CET).

**Download:** [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/blue-print/12.03.2021-novel-coronavirus_landscape_covid-19.xlsx.zip?sfvrsn=c2a25511_3&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/blue-print/12.03.2021-novel-coronavirus_landscape_covid-19.xlsx.zip?sfvrsn=c2a25511_3&download=true)

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**Status of COVID-19 Vaccines within WHO EUL/PQ evaluation process 07 April 2021**

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

[click on the link above for full scale view]
COVID Vaccine Developer/Manufacturer Announcements [organizations from WHO EUL/PQ listing above]

**AstraZeneca**
*Press Releases* - No new digest announcements identified

**Bharat Biotech, India**
*Press Releases* - No new digest announcements identified

**BioCubaFarma – Cuba**
*Últimas Noticias*

*Inicia aplicación de la segunda dosis de vacunas cubanas contra la COVID-19.* [Application of the second dose of Phase III clinical trials of the vaccine candidates Soberana 02 and Abdala begins] 05/04/2021 13:56:23
CanSinoBIO

*News*

Apr 08, 2021

**CanSinoBIO Announces Approval for its Single-Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Convidecia™ in Chile**

Clover Biopharmaceuticals - China

*News* - No new digest announcements identified

Gamaleya National Center

*Latest News and Events* - No new digest announcements identified  [See Russia/RFID below]

IMBCAMS, China

*Home* - No new digest announcements identified

Janssen/JNJ

*Press Releases*

Apr 02, 2021  United States

**Johnson & Johnson Expands Phase 2a Clinical Trial of COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate to Include Adolescents**

Expansion of ongoing trial to include adolescents 12-17 years of age reflects commitment to people of all ages affected by pandemic

Moderna

*Press Releases*

April 7, 2021

**Moderna Highlights Publication of Antibody Persistence Data of its COVID-19 Vaccine out to 6 Months in the New England Journal of Medicine**

April 6, 2021

**Moderna and Catalent Announce Long-Term Strategic Collaboration for Dedicated Vial Filling of Moderna’s COVID-19 Vaccine and Clinical Portfolio**

Novavax

*Press Releases*

**Novavax Initiates COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trial Crossover**

Apr 05, 2021 at 4:05 PM EDT

:: Crossover allows participants to continue in trials and remain blinded
:: Ensures that all trial participants receive active vaccine
:: South Africa and UK crossover arms initiated; US/Mexico PREVENT-19 crossover planned
Pfizer
Recent Press Releases - No new digest announcements identified

Serum Institute of India
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - No new digest announcements identified

Sinopharm/WIBPBIBP
News - No new digest announcements identified

Sinovac
Press Releases
Summary of Clinical Trail Data of Sinovac’s COVID-19 Vaccine (CoronaVac®)
Date: 2021-04-03

Sinovac Announced Buildup of Two Billion Annual Capacity of Its COVID-19 Vaccine
Date: 2021-04-02
... announced that the third production line of CoronaVac®, its COVID-19 vaccine, was completed and put into commercial production. Including this new production line, Sinovac’s annual capacity of CoronaVac® has reached 2 billion doses. At this time, over 200 million doses of CoronaVac have been delivered to over 20 countries, including China. It is estimated that over 100 million doses of CoronaVac have been administered during the vaccination rollout in different countries...

Vector State Research Centre of Viralogy and Biotechnology
Home - No new digest announcements identified

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

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UNICEF COVID-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard :: Agreements Table Accessed 10 Apr 2021
An overview of information collected from publicly announced bilateral and multilateral supply agreements [Agreements view from 2021-03-14 to date]
Our World in Data

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccinations – Fully Vaccinated Population Percentage

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Vaccine</th>
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<td>Bharat Biotech</td>
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<td>Inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine</td>
<td>Beijing Institute of Biological Products (CNBG)</td>
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<td>Government purchase</td>
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<td>Sinovac</td>
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Our World in Data

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccinations – Fully Vaccinated Population Percentage

Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19, Apr 9, 2021
Share of the total population that have received all doses prescribed by the vaccination protocol. This data is only available for countries which report the breakdown of doses administered by first and second doses.

Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data - Last updated 10 April, 09:52 (London time)
OurWorldinData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

Dec 27, 2020  •  Apr 9, 2021
U.S.: COVID-19 Vaccines – Announcements/Regulatory Actions/Deployment

White House [U.S.]

Briefing Room

Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials
April 09, 2021 • Press Briefings

Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials
April 07, 2021 • Press Briefings

Remarks by President Biden Marking the 150 Millionth COVID-19 Vaccine Shot
April 06, 2021 • Speeches and Remarks

Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials
April 05, 2021 • Press Briefings

COVID Data Tracker  April 3, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States

Overall US COVID-19 Vaccine | Deliveries and Administration; Maps, charts, and data provided by CDC, updated daily by 8 pm ET
Represents all vaccine partners including jurisdictional partner clinics, retail pharmacies, long-term care facilities, dialysis centers, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Health Resources and Services Administration partner sites, and federal entity facilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People Vaccinated</th>
<th>At Least One Dose</th>
<th>Fully Vaccinated</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of Total Population</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population ≥ 18 Years of Age</td>
<td>113,743,870</td>
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<td>% of Population ≥ 18 Years of Age</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population ≥ 65 Years of Age</td>
<td>42,353,525</td>
<td>32,463,063</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of Population ≥ 65 Years of Age</td>
<td>77.4%</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

EMA
PRAC conclusion on very rare cases of unusual blood clots with low blood platelets with Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine)

EMA’s safety committee (PRAC) has concluded that unusual blood clots with low blood platelets should be listed as very rare side effects of Vaxzevria (previously COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca). In reaching its conclusion, the committee took into consideration all currently available evidence, including the advice from an ad hoc expert group.

EMA is reminding healthcare professionals and people receiving the vaccine to remain aware of the possibility of blood clots combined with low levels of blood platelets occurring very rarely within 2 weeks of vaccination...

PRAC reviews signal of capillary leak syndrome with Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine)

PRAC has started a review of a safety signal to assess reports of capillary leak syndrome in people who were vaccinated with Vaxzevria (previously COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca).

Five cases of this very rare disorder, characterised by leakage of fluid from blood vessels causing tissue swelling and a drop in blood pressure, were reported in the EudraVigilance database. At this stage, it is not yet clear whether there is a causal association between vaccination and the reports of capillary leak syndrome. These reports point to a ‘safety signal’ - information on new or changed adverse events that may potentially be associated with a medicine and that warrants further investigation...

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European Commission

European Commission [to 10 Apr 2021]

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

Latest

Press release 7 April 2021

Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants

The Commission is mobilising €123 million from Horizon Europe, the new EU research and innovation programme, for urgent research into coronavirus variants. This first emergency funding under Horizon Europe adds to a range of EU-funded research and innovation actions to fight the coronavirus and contributes to the Commission's overall action to prevent, mitigate and respond to the impact of coronavirus variants, in line with the new European bio-defence preparedness plan HERA Incubator...

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

Meeting

Virtual Conference: Expanding Africa’s Vaccine Manufacturing

Date: 12 April 2021 – 13 April 2021

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

Russia: Sputnik V – "the first registered COVID-19 vaccine"
https://sputnikvaccine.com/newsroom/pressreleases/
Press Releases
RDIF and Panacea Biotec agree to produce 100 million doses of Sputnik V vaccine in India per year
Moscow, April 5, 2021 – The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF, Russia’s sovereign wealth fund), and Panacea Biotec, one of the leading vaccine and pharmaceutical producers in India, announce cooperation to produce 100 million doses per year of Sputnik V, the world’s first registered vaccine against coronavirus.
Production of Sputnik V at Panacea Biotec sites will help facilitate global supply of Sputnik V to international partners of RDIF...

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

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
https://www.mohfw.gov.in/
07.04.2021
Guidelines for COVID-19 Vaccination at WorkPlace
..., the prioritized group of beneficiaries for COVID-19 vaccination has been expanded to cover general population aged 45 years and above from 1st April 2021.b.Asubstantial proportion of population aged between 45-59 years (in some cases up to 65 years) are in the organized sector of the economy. They are involved in formal occupation in offices (government and private), in manufacturing and services etc...

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

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

[See China CDC section below]
COVID Vaccination: Incentives/Mandates/Certificates/Passports

WHO – Call for public comments: Interim guidance for developing a Smart Vaccination Certificate – Release Candidate 1
19 March 2021  Call for consultation
Interim Guidance pdf: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/interim-guidance-svc_20210319_final.pdf?sfvrsn=b95db77d_11&download=true

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

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

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

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

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

Emergencies
POLIO

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Polio this week as of 07 April 2021
:: The GPEI has published a new document meant to provide guidance on tOPV temperature management procedures, which differ from those used in mOPV2 response to poliovirus type 2 events and outbreaks. The document is available here.

Summary of new WPV and cVDPV viruses this week (AFP cases and ES positives):
:: Afghanistan: five cVDPV2 cases and eight cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
:: Pakistan: two WPV1 and three cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
:: Burkina Faso: one cVDPV2 case
:: Côte d'Ivoire: four cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
:: Liberia: one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample
:: Sierra Leone: one cVDPV2 case

WHO/OCHA Emergencies

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

WHO Grade 3 Emergencies [to 10 Apr 2021]
Democratic Republic of the Congo - No new digest announcements [Last apparent update: 12 Jan 2021]
Mozambique floods - No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 3 November 2020]
Nigeria - No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 29 Jun 2020]
Somalia - No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 17 July 2020]
South Sudan - No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 4 February 2020]
Syrian Arab Republic - No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 24 October 2020]
Yemen - No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 30 June 2020]

WHO Grade 2 Emergencies [to 10 Apr 2021]
Malawi
:: The Malaria Vaccine Pilot Implementation Programme two years on in Malawi - Increases... 07 April 2021

Afghanistan - No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 5 July 2020]
Angola - No new digest announcements identified [Last apparent update: 16 March 2021]
Burkina Faso - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 01 avril 2021]
Burundi - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 04 July 2019]
Cameroon - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 22 August 2019]
Central African Republic - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 12 June 2018]
Ethiopia - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 22 August 2019]
Iran floods 2019 - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 2 March 2020]
Iraq - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 25 March 2021]
Libya - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 7 October 2019]
MERS-CoV - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 8 July 2019]
Mozambique - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 03 November 2020]
Myanmar - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 23 March 2021]
Niger - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 06 mars 2021]
occupied Palestinian territory - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 4 September 2019]
HIV in Pakistan - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 27 August 2019]
Sao Tome and Principe Necrotizing Cellulitis (2017) - No new digest announcements
Sudan - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 24 June 2020]
Ukraine - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 1 May 2019]
Zimbabwe - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 10 May 2019]

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**WHO Grade 1 Emergencies**  [to 10 Apr 2021]
Chad - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 30 June 2018]
Djibouti - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 25 novembre 2020]
Kenya - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 06 March 2021]
Mali - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 3 May 2017]
Namibia - viral hepatitis - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 20 July 2018]
Tanzania - No new digest announcements identified  [Last apparent update: 21 October 2020]

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**UN OCHA – Current Emergencies**
COVID-19 - No new digest announcements identified

:::

**WHO & Regional Offices**  [to 10 Apr 2021]
8 April 2021  News release
**COVAX reaches over 100 economies, 42 days after first international delivery**
[See Milestones above for detail]

8 April 2021  Departmental news
Meeting of the Guidelines Development Group (GDG) for the update and consolidation of guidelines for safe abortion care

7 April 2021  Departmental news
WHO launches Progress Indicators to measure access to assistive technology

7 April 2021  Statement
Interim statement of the COVID-19 subcommittee of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

...Based on current information, a causal relationship between the vaccine and the occurrence of blood clots with low platelets is considered plausible but is not confirmed. Specialised studies are needed to fully understand the potential relationship between vaccination and possible risk factors. The GACVS subcommittee will continue to gather and review further data, as it has done since the beginning of the COVID vaccine programme...

7 April 2021  Joint News Release
Alisson Becker and WHO Foundation launch campaign to raise resources and support treatment for COVID-19 patients starting in the Americas

6 April 2021  News release
WHO urges countries to build a fairer, healthier world post-COVID-19

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:: 9th Meeting of the WHO Expert Working Group of the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System for Surveillance of Antiviral Susceptibility
:: Executive summary of the 11th Meeting of the WHO Working Group for the Molecular Detection and Subtyping of Influenza Viruses and the use of next-generation sequencing in the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System

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WHO Regional Offices
Selected Press Releases, Announcements
WHO African Region AFRO

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

No new digest content identified

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO
:: 6 April 2021  News release  Address inequities to build a fairer, healthier world: WHO

WHO European Region EURO
:: Uzbekistan strengthens its health system in the midst of COVID-19 crisis 07-04-2021
:: Ensuring safe schooling during COVID-19 07-04-2021
:: Strong chain of care links sectors to deliver essential health services and leave no one behind in Romania 07-04-2021
World Health Day: Putting equity at the heart of COVID-19 recovery 06-04-2021
Opportunity for improvement as new WHO report sheds light on promotion of unsuitable baby foods in Poland 06-04-2021

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO
Vaccines now effective weapon against COVID-19 in all countries of the Region 7 April 2021
Islamic Republic of Iran receives first delivery of COVID-19 vaccines through COVAX Facility 6 April 2021

WHO Western Pacific Region
Virtual press conference on World Health Day and COVID-19 in the Western Pacific 7 April 2021
Building a fairer, healthier world - Address by WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, Dr Takeshi Kasai, on the occasion of World Health Day 2021, the theme of which is "Building a fairer, healthier world"

CDC/ACIP [U.S.] [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.cdc.gov/media/index.html
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html
Latest News Releases, Announcements

CDC Awards $3 Billion to Expand COVID-19 Vaccine Programs
Wednesday, April 7, 2021
Funding can be used for innovative partnerships with community-based organizations to increase vaccine uptake, including in underserved populations

Nearly 80 percent of teachers, school staff, and childcare workers receive at least one shot of COVID-19 vaccine
Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)- CDC
Selected Resources

Overall US COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Update as of Fri, 09 Apr 2021 06:00:00 EST

Africa CDC  [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.africacdc.org/
Meeting
Virtual Conference: Expanding Africa’s Vaccine Manufacturing
Date: 12 April 2021 – 13 April 2021
China CDC
http://www.chinacdc.cn/en/
No new digest content identified.

National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://en.nhc.gov.cn/
News
April 10: Daily briefing on novel coronavirus cases in China
On April 9, 31 provincial-level regions and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps on the Chinese mainland reported 14 new cases of confirmed infections.

Recap of Xi’s remarks on China’s crucial battle against COVID-19 in Wuhan, Hubei
2021-04-09

2021-04-07

70% of Chinese expected to get vaccinated by year-end
2021-04-09
Nearly 70 percent of Chinese are expected to receive COVID-19 vaccines by the end of this year, said Feng Duojia, president of the China Association for Vaccines.
China's annual manufacturing capacity for COVID-19 vaccines will reach about 5 billion doses in 2022, he said during an online forum held on Wednesday...

Beijing vaccination effort expands to students
2021-04-06

National Medical Products Administration – PRC [to 10 Apr 2021]
News
Over 149m COVID-19 vaccine doses administered across China
2021-04-09
More than 149 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered across China as of Wednesday, the National Health Commission said on April 9.

Sinovac, Sinopharm show safety, efficacy: WHO
2021-04-06
Chinese vaccine makers Sinopharm and Sinovac have presented data on their COVID-19 vaccines demonstrating safety and good efficacy against symptomatic COVID-19 disease, a vaccine expert from the World Health Organization (WHO) has said recently.

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

Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group  [to 10 Apr 2021]
News
No new digest content identified.

BARDA – U.S. Department of HHS  [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.phe.gov/about/barda/Pages/default.aspx
News
No new digest content identified.

BMGF - Gates Foundation  [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.gatesfoundation.org/ideas/media-center
Press Releases and Statements
No new digest content identified.

Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute  [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.gatesmri.org/
The Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute is a non-profit biotech organization. Our mission is to develop products to fight malaria, tuberculosis, and diarrheal diseases—three major causes of mortality, poverty, and inequality in developing countries. The world has unprecedented scientific tools at its disposal; now is the time to use them to save the lives of the world's poorest people
No new digest content identified.

CARB-X  [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://carb-x.org/
News
04.06.2021
CARB-X is funding Novel Microdevices to develop a rapid and portable diagnostic for sexually transmitted diseases including antibiotic-resistant infections
CARB-X is awarding Novel Microdevices, Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland, USA, up to $3.6 million in non-dilutive funding, and, subject to available funding, up to an additional $10.2 million if certain project
milestones are met, to develop a new rapid molecular test to diagnose sexually-transmitted bacterial infections, including Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae.

Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy – GE2P2 Global Foundation [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.net/
News/Analysis/Statements
:: Past weekly editions of Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review are available here.

CEPI – Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://cepi.net/
Latest News
Do we need to update our tools assessing COVID-19 vaccine performance to work against the novel variants?
CEPI, the National Institute of Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are on the search for partners to investigate.
09 Apr 2021

Covax reaches over 100 economies, 42 days after first international delivery
More than 38 million doses of vaccines from manufacturers AstraZeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech and Serum Institute of India (SII) have now been delivered.
08 Apr 2021
[See COVAX above for detail]

DARPA – Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.darpa.mil/news
News
No new digest content identified.

Duke Global Health Innovation Center [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://dukeghic.org/
WEEKLY COVID VACCINE RESEARCH UPDATE
FRIDAY, April 2, 2021

EDCTP [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.edctp.org/
The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) aims to accelerate the development of new or improved drugs, vaccines, microbicides and diagnostics against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as well as other poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on phase II and III clinical trials
No new digest content identified.

Emory Vaccine Center [to 10 Apr 2021]
European Commission [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://europa.eu/rapid/search-result.htm?query=18&locale=en&page=1

Latest
Press release 7 April 2021
**Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants**
The Commission is mobilising €123 million from Horizon Europe, the new EU research and innovation programme, for urgent research into coronavirus variants. This first emergency funding under Horizon Europe adds to a range of EU-funded research and innovation actions to fight the coronavirus and contributes to the Commission's overall action to prevent, mitigate and respond to the impact of coronavirus variants, in line with the new European bio-defence preparedness plan HERA Incubator...

European Medicines Agency [to 10 Apr 2021]

News & Press Releases
**News: Meeting highlights from the Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) 6-9 April 2021 (new)**
PRAC, Last updated: 09/04/2021

**News: AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine: EMA finds possible link to very rare cases of unusual blood clots with low blood platelets (new)**
PRAC, Last updated: 07/04/2021

European Vaccine Initiative [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.euvaccine.eu/

Latest News
No new digest content identified.

FDA [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/default.htm

Press Announcements | Selected Details
**April 9, 2021 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: April 9, 2021**

**April 6, 2021 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: April 6, 2021**


Fondation Merieux [to 10 Apr 2021]
Mérieux Foundation co-organized event

Vaccine Acceptance webinars: managing vaccine misinformation in the midst of a pandemic
April 15, 2021 - Virtual Event

Gavi [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.gavi.org/
News Releases
8 April 2021

COVAX reaches over 100 economies, 42 days after first international deliver
[See COVAX above for detail]

GHIT Fund [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.ghitfund.org/newsroom/press
GHIT was set up in 212 with the aim of developing new tools to tackle infectious diseases that
No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 10 Apr 2021]
News & Stories
News

Global Fund Thanks Germany for EUR 140 million Contribution
08 April 2021
The Global Fund applauds Germany's leadership in the global response to COVID-19 and warmly welcomes an additional contribution of EUR 140 million to support Global Fund efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in low- and middle-income countries and mitigate the impact on HIV, tuberculosis and malaria programs, including through deploying diagnostic tests and protecting front-line health workers.

Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness [GloPID-R] [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.glopid-r.org/news/
News

GloPID-R observer CEPI launches funding call to develop broadly protective coronavirus vaccines
09/04/2021
With the emergence of novel SARS-CoV-2 variants and the threat of future coronavirus outbreaks, GloPID-R observer the Coalition for Epidemic...

Call for comments on the Zika virus (ZIKV) Research and Development (R&D) Roadmap
08/04/2021
A call for comments has been launched on the draft Zika virus (ZIKV) Research and Development (R&D) Roadmap developed by...

**Research priorities for Long Covid: BMC Medicine commentary highlights the need for global research coordination and stronger health systems**
07/04/2021
To ensure that Long Covid does not become the lasting legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic, research must be based on...

**Hilleman Laboratories** [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.hillemanlabs.org/
No new digest content identified.

**Human Vaccines Project** [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.humanvaccinesproject.org/media/press-releases/
No new digest content identified.
[Website not loading at inquiry]

**IAVI** [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.iavi.org/newsroom
PRESS RELEASES/FEATURES
No new digest content identified.

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

**ICRC** [to 10 Apr 2021]
Selected News Releases, Statements, Reports
**The Potential Human Cost of the Use of Weapons in Outer Space and the Protection Afforded by International Humanitarian Law**
While space objects have been employed for military purposes since the dawn of the space era, the weaponization of outer space would increase the likelihood of hostilities in outer space, with potentially significant impacts for civilians on earth.
09 April 2021

**The international community must redouble its efforts to address the challenges facing mine action**
Statement of the ICRC to the UNSC about mine action and sustaining peace: Stronger partnerships for better delivery.
08-04-2021 | Statement
International Humanitarian Law Bibliography
The ICRC International Humanitarian Law Bibliography lists references to English and French publications on international humanitarian law.
06-04-2021 | Article

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

IFFIm
http://www.iffim.org/
Press Releases/Announcements
No new digest content identified.

IFRC  [to 10 Apr 2021]
Selected Press Releases, Announcements
Middle East and North Africa
New Red Cross Red Crescent analysis shows deep inequalities in COVID-19 response across Middle East and North Africa
Beirut, 8 April 2021 (IFRC) – The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is seeking “urgent and sizeable investment” to ensure the region’s pandemic response leaves no one behind...

... New analysis released today by the IFRC highlights significant inequalities in COVID-19 vaccination rates across the MENA region. According to this analysis:
:: Less than 5 per cent of vaccine doses administered in MENA Region have been administered in the eight countries facing severe or very severe humanitarian crises.
:: Only a third (37 per cent) of doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in MENA Region have been reported administered in countries experiencing any type of humanitarian crisis, whether conflict, complex emergencies, displacement, or others.
:: Among MENA countries that have administered any vaccine doses, the country reporting the most doses per capita, UAE, reports having administered 510 times more doses per capita than Algeria.

Hossam Khalil Elsharkawi, Regional Director of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), said: “The Middle East and North Africa hosts some of the world’s most protracted humanitarian crises. This analysis shows that people in these settings are more likely than the general population to be infected, are more likely to die once infected, and are least likely to be appropriately supported through the response, including through vaccination campaigns.

“While there is clearly a growing recognition of the importance of equitable vaccine access, this is not yet translating into investment in all the systems that are needed to turn this ambition into a reality. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement plan focuses on reaching the last mile and ensuring that no one is left behind. To continue to play this role, we need urgent and sizeable investment.”...
**Institut Pasteur** [to 10 Apr 2021]

*Press release*

**06.04.2021**

**Light shed on the coordination of neural stem cell activation**

In all adult vertebrates, neural stem cells can be recruited to produce new neurons in the brain.

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**IRC International Rescue Committee** [to 10 Apr 2021]

*Media highlights [Selected]*

*Press Release*

**As wealthy countries look toward a return to normalcy, many impacted by conflict and crisis are experiencing significant increases in COVID-19 cases and deaths with little hope for a vaccine this year**

April 7, 2021

:: With the emergence of more contagious and more deadly variants, many crisis-affected countries are experiencing significant upticks in COVID-19 cases and deaths.

:: Places like Kenya, Venezuela, Yemen, Ethiopia, and northeast Syria seeing average daily case increases of 322%, 91%, 379%, 289%, and 529% respectively between early and late March.

:: This World Health Day, we call on the international community to focus their investments on strengthening health systems in crisis-affected countries and to **donate excess vaccine doses through the COVAX Facility.**

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**IVAC** [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/ivac/index.html

*Updates; Events*

**World Immunization Week 2021 Webinar**

April 2021

Immunization Agenda 2030: Equitable Health Access for All During World Immunization Week 2021, the International Vaccine Access Center will co-host a panel event with Shot@Life to highlight how COVID-19 has exposed and exacerbated global health inequities, and how the new Immunization Agenda 2030 Framework for Action charts a path to equitable immunization coverage for everyone.

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**IVI** [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.ivi.int/

*Selected IVI News, Announcements, Events*

No new digest content identified.

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**JEE Alliance** [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.jeealliance.org/

Selected News and Events

No new digest content identified.
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security  [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/news/center-news/
Center News
No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières  [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.msf.org/
Latest [Selected Announcements
DRC Ebola outbreaks
DRC’s twelfth Ebola outbreak
Crisis Update 8 Apr 2021

National Academy of Medicine - USA  [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://nam.edu/programs/
Accessed 3 April 2021
Selected News/Programs
Expert Papers from the National Academy of Medicine Identify Lessons Learned and Compelling Needs for Public Health and Care Systems after COVID-19
April 7, 2021
In response to the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the American health system, the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) convened experts in nine sectors of health, health care, and biomedical research to review how each sector was impacted by COVID-19, identify challenges encountered in combating the pandemic, and outline what opportunities exist to reinforce, revitalize, […]

Advancing Pandemic and Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Preparedness and Response
An International Committee will inform and facilitate efforts to advance global influenza pandemic preparedness. This International Committee will provide an iterative, interactive, multi-disciplinary, expert-informed process for assessing the global impact that capabilities, technologies, processes, and policies developed for COVID-19 could have on pandemic and seasonal influenza global preparedness and response, especially regarding vaccine development.

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

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

National Vaccine Program Office - U.S. HHS  [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.hhs.gov/vaccines/about/index.html
Upcoming Meetings/Latest Updates
No new digest content identified.
NIH [to 10 Apr 2021]
News Releases
NIH experts call for accelerated research to address concurrent HIV and COVID-19 pandemics
April 8, 2021 — The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting people with or at risk for HIV indirectly and directly.

NIH begins study of allergic reactions to Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines
April 7, 2021 — A clinical trial is underway to determine whether people who are highly allergic or have a mast cell disorder are at increased risk for an immediate, systemic allergic reaction to the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines...

UN OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.unocha.org/
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

PATH [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.path.org/media-center/
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

Sabin Vaccine Institute [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.sabin.org/updates/pressreleases
Statements and Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

UNAIDS [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.unaids.org/en
Selected Press Releases/Reports/Statements
6 April 2021
Keeping girls in school reduces new HIV infections

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter.html
Latest from News Centre
UN calls for urgent action on debt, vaccines, around the world
Posted on April 10, 2021
Washington — The United Nations called this week for expanded debt relief to all developing countries that request it and faster, more equitable COVID-19 vaccinations to tackle “unprecedented” fallout from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“To avoid a development crisis, the world must avoid a debt crisis,” UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner said on behalf of the United Nations in statements to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Development Committee and to the International Monetary and Financial Committee Board of Governors, gathered virtually for their yearly Spring Meetings. “This is no time for austerity.”

Speaking on behalf of the UN Secretary-General, Steiner also noted that that 84 percent of COVID-19 vaccines administered so far have gone to wealthier countries and urged swift measures to close major gaps in vaccine funding and production for poor countries.

While the world’s largest economies have mobilized an historic US$18 trillion in fiscal support, keeping people and economies afloat amid surging poverty, joblessness, and hunger, many developing countries cannot invest in recovery and resilience because of financing constraints, Steiner said.

“The least developed countries have spent 580 times less in per capita terms on their COVID-19 response than advanced economies. This division is starkly reflected in global access to vaccines. The work is not done until vaccines are in arms around the world and until the divergent paths of recovery correct course.”...

**UNESCO** [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://en.unesco.org/news

*Selected Latest News*

**Let’s discuss the ethical considerations of COVID-19 vaccination rollout: Making the COVID-19 vaccine a global public good**
08/04/2021

UNESCO, in partnership with Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), the South African National Bioethics Committee, the Coalition of African National Medical Associations and World Health Organisation (WHO), will host a series of online workshops to discuss the equitable and timely allocation of COVID-19 vaccines in Africa.

The first workshop will take place on 14 April 2021 and will present the UNESCO Statement on Global Equity and Solidarity, and the Africa CDC’s Framework for the Fair, Equitable and Timely Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccines in Africa. How can ethical principles such as Global Solidarity, Equity, or Ubuntu be translated into Immunisation Policies and Plans in Africa?... Join the discussion. Register [here](#).

**UNESCO launches 2021 survey on public access to information**
07/04/2021

UNESCO has kicked off a global survey on public access to information, putting into practice its status as the custodian agency in the UN for monitoring the right to access to information.

Using Sustainable development indicator 16.10.2, the new survey will track progress on how states are adopting and implementing legally binding guarantees for public access to information.

The 2021 survey on Access to Information will be launched during the World Bank online consultation for the next “World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives”.

Previous surveys by UNESCO have raised awareness that states as the duty-bearers responsible for ensuring access to information and data are often themselves in a position of having very limited data about performance of the very institutions charged with this duty.
The launch of the new survey will help to generate new data and further pinpoint where progress is needed. It will also be an opportunity to share concrete examples on how data on the monitoring of SDG 16.10.2 can improve lives and links to other SDGs...

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 10 Apr 2021]
Selected Announcements
UNHCR calls for equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for refugees
7 Apr 2021
On World Health Day, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is calling for concerted international action and solidarity to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccinations, including for refugees and other forcibly displaced and stateless people.
UNHCR is encouraged by the fact that 153 States have adopted vaccination strategies that include refugees. Yet, in many parts of the world, actual immunization remains a challenge, largely due to the unequal availability of vaccines and the capacity of health systems.
“The blatant imbalances observed in vaccine-sharing among States are counter-productive and shortsighted. A ‘my country first’ approach just cannot work in a pandemic that knows no borders,” said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.
To date, some 20 countries are known to have begun inoculating refugees on an equal footing to citizens. Recent examples include Serbia and Nepal, which came on the heels of other States, such as Rwanda and Jordan.
“We commend these countries for their exemplary dedication and leadership. By including refugees in their vaccine distribution, they mitigate the risks associated with exclusion and discrimination,” Grandi said. Such risks range from consequences for the overall public health situation to limited access to services or curtailed freedom of movement...

UNICEF [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.unicef.org/media/press-releases
Selected press releases, news notes and statements
Press release 04/08/2021
COVAX reaches over 100 economies, 42 days after first international delivery
[See COVAX above for detail]

Statement 04/06/2021
We need speed and simplicity to remove barriers to the acquisition, manufacture and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines globally
Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore
[See COVAX above for detail]

Unitaid [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://unitaid.org/
Featured News
No new digest content identified.
**Vaccination Acceptance Research Network (VARN)** [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://vaccineacceptance.org/news.html#header1-2r

*Announcements*

*No new digest content identified.*

**Vaccine Confidence Project** [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.vaccineconfidence.org/

*News, Research and Reports*

**Coronavirus global impact**

Launched April 2, 2020 and recurring every 3 days, Premise Data is utilizing its global network of Contributors to assess economic, social, and health sentiment surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19).

*[Data arrays do not seem to loading]*

**Vaccine Education Center – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia** [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center

*News*

*No new digest content identified.*

**Wellcome Trust** [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://wellcome.ac.uk/news

*News and reports*

**Explainer**

*What are 'adverse events' and 'emergency use authorisation' in relation to vaccination?*

8 April 2021

**Explainer**

*What drugs are working as treatments for Covid-19?*

6 April 2021

**The Wistar Institute** [to 10 Apr 2021]

*Press Releases*

*No new digest content identified.*

**WFPHA: World Federation of Public Health Associations** [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.wfpha.org/

*Latest News*

*No new digest content identified.*

**World Bank** [to 10 Apr 2021]

*Selected News, Announcements*
**World Bank’s Response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in Africa**

... The World Bank has taken fast action to help African countries strengthen their pandemic response and health care systems and is now stepping up its support on vaccine purchase and deployment.

With the vaccine roll-out underway in many African countries, ensuring an adequate supply of vaccines is a priority for the region. The World Bank estimates that every month of delay costs the African continent $13.8 billion in lost gross domestic product.

**Currently, the World Bank is preparing emergency vaccine financing projects in more than 30 African countries including Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Rwanda, and Senegal - amounting to a total of $1.85 billion.** These projects focus on ensuring countries have available financial resources to equitably access vaccines; conducting readiness assessments to identify gaps and take measures to make sure vaccines reach as many people as possible; reinforcing infrastructure including cold chain equipment, trained human resources, and transport; establishing data collection systems to monitor the impact of vaccination efforts; as well as supporting behavior change campaigns to address vaccine hesitancy and increase demand.

The emergency vaccine financing follows the development of COVID-19 emergency projects in 36 countries (amounting to $988 million) which focus on strengthening prevention, expanding testing and providing medical equipment such as portable ventilators, personal protective equipment and masks, as well as building healthcare facilities, and strengthening community engagement, health systems and coordination. Additional resources (about $190 million) are being leveraged through project restructuring and existing health operations...

Date: April 08, 2021 Type: Factsheet

**The World Bank Approves US$150 Million to Support COVID-19 Vaccination in Ecuador**

WASHINGTON D.C., April 5, 2021 – The World Bank Board of Directors approved US$150 million in additional financing for the COVID-19 Emergency Response Project in Ecuador. This is the first World Bank-financed operation in Latin America and the Caribbean for COVID-19 vaccine procurement. The new resources will be used to purchase and distribute vaccines and to support pandemic management in the country...

Date: April 05, 2021 Type: Press Release Language: English

**World Customs Organization – WCO** [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.wcoomd.org/

*Latest News – Selected Items*

*No new digest content identified.*

**World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)** [to 10 Apr 2021]

*Press Releases*

*No new digest content identified.*

**WTO - World Trade Organisation** [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news_e.htm

*WTO News and Events*
No new digest content identified.

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**ARM [Alliance for Regenerative Medicine]** [to 10 Apr 2021]
Press Releases - Alliance for Regenerative Medicine (alliancerm.org)
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

**BIO** [to 10 Apr 2021]
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

**DCVMN – Developing Country Vaccine Manufacturers Network** [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.dcvmn.org/
News; Upcoming events
No new digest content identified.

**ICBA – International Council of Biotechnology Associations** [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://internationalbiotech.org/news/
News
No new digest content identified.

**IFPMA** [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.ifpma.org/resources/news-releases/
Selected Press Releases, Statements, Publications
**BIO-IFPMA Comment on COVAX No-Fault Compensation Program for COVAX Advance Market Commitment Eligible Economies**
Geneva, 9 April 2021 – We commend COVAX on the launch of its Web Portal for the no-fault compensation program (NFC) for the 92 low- and middle-income countries eligible for support under the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC). The development of this international NFC system is a historic achievement, and the program will play a crucial role in advancing the prompt, equitable, and responsible administration of COVID-19 vaccines. We recognize the immense challenges the World Health Organization (WHO) faced in designing this first-of-its-kind international system, and we appreciate that the program incorporates many of the critical design elements associated with highly-effective NFC systems. We recommend two refinements that will maximize the effectiveness and success of this impressive program.

First, we support the WHO’s decision to limit compensation to serious adverse events but suggest that the COVAX NFC program cover all serious adverse events, not just permanent serious adverse events. Doing so would align with successful national NFC systems, and would also
align with the definition of “serious adverse event” adopted by International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH).

**Why is this refinement important to the effectiveness and success of the program?** Serious adverse events of any kind have only rarely been associated with vaccines, but those few that do occur even more seldom result in permanent injuries. For example, anaphylaxis is a very rare but serious event that, with proper treatment, is normally resolved within a relatively short time. It clearly fits the standard ICH definition of a serious adverse event, yet it would not always be eligible for compensation under the WHO program as currently designed. Excluding people who experience such events would deprive them of fair compensation and could undercut public confidence in the NFC program.

**Second, COVAX should ensure that the COVAX program is agile enough to respond to rapidly-changing global developments—such as the rise of new COVID-19 variants—including through potential extensions of the program’s coverage term.** We understand that the COVAX NFC program currently has an eligibility cutoff date of June 30, 2022 and includes additional coverage limitations tied to the date upon which vaccines receive initial regulatory authorization and the date upon which countries first receive vaccine doses.

**Why is this refinement important to the effectiveness and success of the program?** While these coverage term restrictions may currently be appropriate, the rise of new variants and other global developments could require the introduction of new and/or modified vaccines and may significantly alter the timelines for global vaccine distribution. Given the unpredictability of these developments, we request that the COVAX acknowledge its willingness to extend the program’s coverage term as necessary in the coming months and years.

Effective NFC systems should advance two core goals:
:: They should provide vaccine recipients with access to prompt, fair, and transparent compensation for any serious adverse events associated with vaccinations. By achieving this goal, well-designed systems can greatly enhance vaccine confidence and expedite vaccine uptake.
:: NFC systems should mitigate the risks of time-consuming and resource-intensive vaccine liability litigation. Reducing costly litigation provides governments and other stakeholders with the financial security necessary to carry out robust vaccination programs, while still providing vaccine recipients with timely access to compensation. This goal is particularly important in low- and middle-income countries, were the financial risks posed by liability litigation can severely limit the implementation of vaccination programs. By implementing the above refinements, COVAX will best be able to ensure that its program advances both of these goals.

We again commend COVAX on the announcement of its historic NFC program. By implementing the above recommendations, the COVAX will be able to best ensure that this program plays an effective role in enhancing global vaccination efforts for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to further collaborating with the COVAX partners to advance our shared public health goals, and we welcome any opportunity to further discuss these recommendations.

**PhRMA** [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.phrma.org/
*Selected Press Releases, Statements*
Key excerpts: PhRMA submits comments to NIST in effort to safeguard intellectual property protections
April 9, 2021
PhRMA submits comments to NIST in effort to safeguard Intellectual Property protections

Earlier this week PhRMA submitted comments to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) regarding the proposed rulemaking on implementing regulations of the Bayh-Dole Act. Passed in 1980, the Bayh-Dole Act was a landmark piece of bipartisan legislation that established a uniform framework across the federal government to encourage technology transfer between universities and the private sector that has facilitated timely and efficient commercialization of early-stage research. Since its passage, it has fueled unprecedented innovation across the United States...

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Journal Watch

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

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

AJOB Empirical Bioethics
Volume 12, 2020 Issue 1
https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uabr21/current
[Reviewed earlier]

AMA Journal of Ethics
Volume 23, Number 3  Apr 2021
https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/issue/compassionate-force

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

Correctional facilities are an underutilized venue for reaching young adults who have not vaccinated for human papillomavirus (HPV). The objective of this study was to identify factors that are associated with jail and local health department (LHD) interest in partnering to offer HPV vaccinations to young adults in jail.

Authors: Amanda Emerson, Molly Allison, Lisa Saldana, Patricia J. Kelly and Megha Ramaswamy
Citation: BMC Health Services Research 2021 21:309
Content type: Research article
Published on: 7 April 2021

BMC Infectious Diseases

Under consent: participation of people with HIV in an Ebola vaccine trial in Canada

Little is known about volunteers from Northern research settings who participate in vaccine trials of highly infectious diseases with no approved treatments. This article explores the motivations of HIV immunocompromised study participants in Canada who volunteered in a Phase II clinical trial that evaluated the safety and immunogenicity of an Ebola vaccine candidate.

Authors: Pierre-Marie David, Benjamin Mathiot, Oumy Thiongane and Janice E. Graham
Citation: BMC Medical Ethics 2021 22:42
Content type: Research article
Published on: 9 April 2021
Public health practitioner perspectives on dealing with measles outbreaks if high anti-vaccination sentiment is present

Communities with low vaccination rates are at greater risk during outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases. Most Australian parents support vaccines, but some refuse and are often judged harshly by their comm...

Authors: Penelope Robinson, Kerrie Wiley and Chris Degeling
Citation: BMC Public Health 2021 21:578
Content type: Research article
Published on: 9 April 2021

Unwillingness to engage in behaviors that protect against COVID-19: the role of conspiracy beliefs, trust, and endorsement of complementary and alternative medicine

We investigated if people’s response to the official recommendations during the COVID-19 pandemic is associated with conspiracy beliefs related to COVID-19, a distrust in the sources providing information on C...

Authors: Anna Soveri, Linda C. Karlsson, Jan Antfolk, Mikael Lindfelt and Stephan Lewandowsky
Citation: BMC Public Health 2021 21:684
Content type: Research article
Published on: 8 April 2021

Measles vaccine coverage among children born to Somali immigrants in Norway

Despite overall good vaccination coverage in many countries, vaccine hesitancy has hindered full coverage and exposed groups to the risk of outbreaks. Somali immigrant groups have been known to have low measles...

Authors: Sherin Marie Jenness, Preben Aavitsland, Richard Aubrey White and Brita Askeland Winje
Citation: BMC Public Health 2021 21:668
Content type: Research article
Published on: 7 April 2021

BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine
April 2021 - Volume 26 - 2
https://ebm.bmj.com/content/26/2
[Reviewed earlier]

**BMJ Open**
April 2021 - Volume 11 - 4
https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/11/4
[Reviewed earlier]

**Bulletin of the World Health Organization**
Volume 99, Number 4, April 2021, 241-320
[Reviewed earlier]

**Cell**
Apr 01, 2021 Volume 184 Issue 7 p1651-1940
https://www.cell.com/cell/issue?pii=S0092-8674(20)X0008-0
[New issue; No digest content identified]

**Child Care, Health and Development**
Volume 47, Issue 3 Pages: 297-410 May 2021
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13652214/current
[New issue; No digest content identified]

**Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics**
Volume 109, Issue 3 Pages: 547-781 March 2021
https://ascpt.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15326535/current
[Reviewed earlier]

**Clinical Therapeutics**
Volume 43 Issue 2 p211-430, e33-e56
http://www.clinicaltherapeutics.com/current
[Reviewed earlier]

**Clinical Trials**
Volume 18 Issue 2, April 2021
https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ctja/18/2
[Reviewed earlier]

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

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

Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases
April 2021 - Volume 34 - Issue 2
https://journals.lww.com/co-infectiousdiseases/pages/currenttoc.aspx
[Reviewed earlier]

Current Protocols in Human Genetics
Volume 108, Issue 1  December 2020
https://currentprotocols.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/19348258/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Developing World Bioethics
Volume 21, Issue 1  Pages: i, 1-54  March 2021
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14718847/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice
Volume 31, Issue 2, 2021
http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cdip20/current
[New issue; No digest content identified]
Mismatched expectations
Frank Gannon
Public funding for basic research rests on a delicate balance between scientists, governments and the public. COVID could further shift this equilibrium towards translation and application.

Postvaccination COVID-19 among Healthcare Workers, Israel [PDF - 1004 KB - 3 pages]
S. Amit et al.
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) symptoms can be mistaken for vaccine-related side effects during initial days after immunization. Among 4,081 vaccinated healthcare workers in Israel, 22 (0.54%) developed COVID-19 from 1–10 days (median 3.5 days) after immunization. Clinicians should not dismiss postvaccination symptoms as vaccine-related and should promptly test for COVID-19.
Research ethics and pandemics • IRBs and AI research
[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health
Volume 31, Issue 1, February 2021
https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/issue/31/1
[Reviewed earlier]

Expert Review of Vaccines
Vol 20 (2) 2021
https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ierv20/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Gates Open Research
https://gatesopenresearch.org/browse/articles
[Accessed 10 Apr 2021]
[No new digest content identified]

Genome Medicine
https://genomemedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles
[Accessed 10 Apr 2021]
[No new digest content identified]

Global Health Action
Volume 14, Issue 1 (2021)
https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/zgha20/current?nav=tocList
[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)
Vol. 9, No. 1 April 01, 2021
http://www.ghspjournal.org/content/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Global Public Health
Volume 16, Issue 4 (2021)
http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgph20/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health
A review of prospective pathways and impacts of COVID-19 on the accessibility, safety, quality, and affordability of essential medicines and vaccines for universal health coverage in Africa

The ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has the potential to reverse progress towards global targets. This study examines the risks that the COVID-19 pandemic poses to equitable access to e...

Authors: Floriano Amimo, Ben Lambert, Anthony Magit and Masahiro Hashizume

Citation: Globalization and Health 2021 17:42

Content type: Review

Published on: 8 April 2021
Humanitarian Exchange Magazine
Number 78, October 2020
Disability inclusion in humanitarian action
by HPN October 2020
The theme of this edition of Humanitarian Exchange, co-edited with Sherin Alsheikh Ahmed from Islamic Relief Worldwide, is disability inclusion in humanitarian action. Persons with disabilities are not only disproportionately impacted by conflicts, disasters and other emergencies, but also face barriers to accessing humanitarian assistance. At the same time, global commitments and standards and the IASC Guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action all emphasise how persons with disabilities are also active agents of change. Disability and age-focused organisations have led on testing and demonstrating how inclusion can be done better. Yet despite this progress, challenges to effective inclusion remain.

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

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

Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics (formerly Human Vaccines)
Volume 17, Issue 3, 2021
https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/khvi20/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Infectious Agents and Cancer
http://www.infectagentscancer.com/content
[Accessed 10 Apr 2021]
[No new digest content identified]
Infectious Diseases of Poverty
http://www.idpjournal.com/content
[Accessed 10 Apr 2021]
[No new digest content identified]

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

International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health
Vol 8, No 4 (2021)  April 2021
https://www.ijcmph.com/index.php/ijcmph/issue/view/75
Original Research Articles
Community perception and determinants of willingness to uptake COVID-19 vaccines among residents of Osun State, South-West Nigeria
Patrick A. Akinyemi, Olusola Fajobi, Israel A. Owoade, Olanrewaju T. Elugbaju, Funmilola O. Wuraola

Knowledge and practices towards cervical cancer prevention and HPV vaccination among MBBS graduates
Kanika Bansal, Ravish Ranjan, Meena Rajput, Shiba .

International Journal of Epidemiology
Volume 50, Issue 1, February 2021
https://academic.oup.com/ije/issue
[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare
Volume 14 Issue 1  2021
https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2056-4902/vol/14/iss/1
Table of Contents
[Reviewed earlier]

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

JAMA
April 6, 2021, Vol 325, No. 13, Pages 1239-1356
https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/currentissue
Research Letter

Emergence of a Novel SARS-CoV-2 Variant in Southern California

Wenjuan Zhang, PhD; Brian D. Davis, BSc; Stephanie S. Chen, BSc; et al.
free access has active quiz has multimedia has audio

This research describes findings of sequencing and phylogenetic analyses of SARS-CoV-2 isolates from symptomatic patients cared for at Cedar-Sinai Medical Center in November-December 2020 during a regional surge in cases and hospitalizations.

Editorial

SARS-CoV-2 Viral Variants—Tackling a Moving Target

John R. Mascola, MD; Barney S. Graham, MD, PhD; Anthony S. Fauci, MD

COVID-19: Beyond Tomorrow

The Potential Future of the COVID-19 PandemicWill SARS-CoV-2 Become a Recurrent Seasonal Infection?

Christopher J. L. Murray, MD; Peter Piot, MD
has audio

This Viewpoint discusses the prospect that COVID-19 could become a recurrent seasonal disease like influenza and proposes strategies to mitigate the consequences for communities and health systems, including changes in surveillance, medical and public health response, and socioeconomic programs.

Approaches for Optimal Use of Different COVID-19 VaccinesIssues of Viral Variants and Vaccine Efficacy

John P. Moore, PhD
has active quiz has multimedia has audio

This Viewpoint proposes ways to maximize vaccine efficacy and allocation given the rise of coronavirus variants and authorization of a Johnson & Johnson vaccine, including reserving the latter for younger healthier populations, boosting it with a single-dose messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccination, and single mRNA immunization of people with prior documented SARS-CoV-2 infection.

JAMA Insights

SARS-CoV-2 Vaccines

C. Buddy Creech, MD, MPH; Shannon C. Walker, MD; Robert J. Samuels, MBChB
free access has active quiz has audio

This JAMA Insights clinical review explains different approaches to SARS-CoV-2 vaccine development, including inactivated and protein subunit, viral vector, and mRNA immunization strategies, and summarizes safety and efficacy data for global products authorized for use or in later-stage clinical trials.

JAMA Network

COVID-19 Update  April 10, 2021

These articles on COVID-19 were published across the JAMA Network in the last week.
The Complicated Legacy of Cassandra Callender
Ethics, Decision-making, and the Role of Adolescents
Jonathan M. Marron, MD, MPH; Elaine C. Meyer, PhD, RN, MBE; Kerri O. Kennedy, MA, BSN, RN
This Viewpoint discusses the role of adolescents in decisions about their health care, particularly potentially life-saving interventions.

A Survey of Camp Leadership to Assess Immunization Requirements, Policies, and Practices in a National Cohort of Summer Camps
Carissa Bunke, MD; Natalie Schellpfeffer, MD; Barry Garst, PhD; et al.
This study surveys a national cohort of summer camp leadership to assess camps’ immunization requirements, policies, and practices.

JBI Evidence Synthesis
March 2021 - Volume 19 - Issue 3
https://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/Pages/currenttoc.aspx
[Reviewed earlier]
Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics  
Volume 16 Issue 1-2, February-April 2021  
http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/jre/current  
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health  
April 2021 - Volume 75 - 4  
https://jech.bmj.com/content/75/4  
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine  
Volume 14, Issue 1  Pages: 1-81  February 2021  
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/17565391/current  
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Ethics  
Volume 16, Issue 2, 2020  
http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/current  
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved (JHCPU)  
Volume 32, Number 1, February 2021  
https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/43951  
Table of Contents  
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health  
Volume 23, issue 2, April 2021  
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies  
Volume 19, 2021, Issue 1  
https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wimm20/current  
Current Conflicts over Migration, Belonging and Membership: Classificatory Struggles Revisited  
[Reviewed earlier]
Journal of Infectious Diseases
Volume 223, Issue 4, 15 February 2021
https://academic.oup.com/jid/issue/223/4
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics
March 2021 - Volume 47 - 3
http://jme.bmj.com/content/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews
Volume 8, Issue 1 (2021)
https://digitalrepository.aurorahealthcare.org/jpcrr/
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Pediatrics
Volume 231  p1-304
http://www.jpeds.com/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice
https://joppp.biomedcentral.com/
[Accessed 10 Apr 2021]
[No new digest content identified]

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

Journal of Public Health Policy
Volume 42, issue 1, March 2021
https://link.springer.com/journal/41271/volumes-and-issues/42-1
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Refugee & Global Health
Volume 4, Issue 1 (2021)
https://ir.library.louisville.edu/rgh/
[Reviewed earlier]
The Lancet
Apr 10, 2021 Volume 397 Number 10282 p1325-1418
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current

Editorial
China’s response to COVID-19: a chance for collaboration
The Lancet

Comment
Pandemic moves and countermoves: vaccines and viral variants
Rogier W Sanders, Menno D de Jong

Articles
Efficacy of ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 (AZD1222) vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern 202012/01 (B.1.1.7): an exploratory analysis of a randomised controlled trial
Katherine R W Emary, et al on behalf of the COVID-19 Genomics UK consortium, the AMPHEUS Project, and the Oxford COVID-19 Vaccine Trial Group
Open Access

Series
Maternal and Child Undernutrition Progress
Revisiting maternal and child undernutrition in low-income and middle-income countries: variable progress towards an unfinished agenda
Cesar G Victora, Parul Christian, Luis Paulo Vidaletti, Giovanna Gatica-Domínguez, Purnima Menon, Robert E Black

Maternal and Child Undernutrition Progress
Mobilising evidence, data, and resources to achieve global maternal and child undernutrition targets and the Sustainable Development Goals: an agenda for action
Rebecca A Heidkamp, et al
The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health
Apr 2021 Volume 5 Number 4 p233-308, e9-e11
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/issue/current
[Reviewed earlier]

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

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

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

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

Lancet Respiratory Medicine
Apr 2021 Volume 9 Number 4 p319-434, e30-e46
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/issue/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal
Volume 25, issue 4, April 2021
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Medical Decision Making (MDM)
Volume 41 Issue 3, April 2021
http://mdm.sagepub.com/content/current
[Reviewed earlier]
**The Milbank Quarterly**  
*A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy*  
Volume 99, Issue 1  
Pages: 1-327  
March 2021  
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14680009/current  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Nature**  
Volume 592 Issue 7853, 8 April 2021  
https://www.nature.com/nature/volumes/592/issues/7853  
Editorial | 06 April 2021  
*The world must learn from COVID before diving into a pandemic treaty*  
A treaty might help countries to prepare for the next pandemic — but first they must study what went wrong during this one.  
[See Milestones above for full text]

**Perspective** | 07 April 2021 | Open Access  
The **NIH Somatic Cell Genome Editing program**  
This Perspective discusses how the Somatic Cell Genome Editing Consortium aims to accelerate the implementation of safe and effective genome-editing therapies in the clinic.  
Krishanu Saha, Erik J. Sontheimer & Jiangbing Zhou

**Abstract**  
The move from reading to writing the human genome offers new opportunities to improve human health. The United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) Somatic Cell Genome Editing (SCGE) Consortium aims to accelerate the development of safer and more-effective methods to edit the genomes of disease-relevant somatic cells in patients, even in tissues that are difficult to reach. Here we discuss the consortium’s plans to develop and benchmark approaches to induce and measure genome modifications, and to define downstream functional consequences of genome editing within human cells. Central to this effort is a rigorous and innovative approach that requires validation of the technology through third-party testing in small and large animals. New genome editors, delivery technologies and methods for tracking edited cells in vivo, as well as newly developed animal models and human biological systems, will be assembled—along with validated datasets—into an SCGE Toolkit, which will be disseminated widely to the biomedical research community. We visualize this toolkit—and the knowledge generated by its applications—as a means to accelerate the clinical development of new therapies for a wide range of conditions.

**Article** | 01 February 2021  
The **BNT162b vaccines protect rhesus macaques from SARS-CoV-2**  
BNT162b1 and BNT162b2 are two candidate mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 that elicit high virus-entry inhibition titres in mice, elicit high virus-neutralizing titres in rhesus macaques and protect macaques from SARS-CoV-2 challenge.  
Annette B. Vogel, Isis Kanevsky & Ugur Sahin

**Nature Biotechnology**  
Volume 39 Issue 3, March 2021  
https://www.nature.com/nbt/volumes/39/issues/3
Advancing development of medicines by academia and non-profit research organizations in the European Union

Providing support for medicine development by academics and clinical researchers is a priority for the European Medicines Agency. The recent launch of free scientific advice to academia and non-profit
research organizations developing orphan medicines can help align research with regulatory requirements early during medicine development and enhance the chances of success. 
Rosa Gonzalez-Quevedo, Constantinos Ziogas & Anthony Humphreys

**New England Journal of Medicine**  
April 8, 2021 Vol. 384 No. 14  
http://www.nejm.org/toc/nejm/medical-journal

**Perspective**  
*From Vaccine Nationalism to Vaccine Equity — Finding a Path Forward*

I.T. Katz, R. Weintraub, L.-G. Bekker, and A.M. Brandt

The global effort to develop safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines has yielded remarkable results, owing in part to early, decisive investments in clinical discovery through efforts such as Operation Warp Speed. These achievements highlight the payoff of stable, long-term support of basic research and immunology: our scientific community was prepared to act. Now, as the global community faces scarce supply, we confront a distressing reality: our current global vaccination rates of roughly 6.7 million doses per day translate to achieving herd immunity (70 to 85% of the population having received a two-dose vaccine) in approximately 4.6 years. Vaccine distribution remains nonexistent in many of the poorest countries, and experts anticipate that 80% of the population in low-resource settings will not receive a vaccine this year. Although investment in discovery is critical, the long-term neglect of public health and global delivery strategies has left us poorly equipped to end this pandemic.

The complex bottlenecks in allocating and disseminating newly approved vaccines require urgent attention. They include ensuring production capacity, supply chains, human resources, and health infrastructures to deliver vaccines safely, effectively, and quickly. Barriers to vaccine uptake are augmented by mistrust, misinformation, and historical legacies affecting vaccine confidence. Even wealthy countries have faced formidable obstacles and made critical missteps in implementing mass-vaccination programs.

Furthermore, the early competitive procurement of vaccines by the United States and purchases by other high-resource countries have fed a widespread assumption that each country will be solely responsible for its own population. Such vaccine nationalism perpetuates the long history of powerful countries securing vaccines and therapeutics at the expense of less-wealthy countries; it is short-sighted, ineffective, and deadly. Ultimately, wealthy countries have a critical interest in assisting global vaccination, especially in countries that will need supportive partnerships to ensure supply and delivery. Moreover, an uncoordinated patchwork of immunity could exacerbate the rise of escape variants that could alter vaccines’ effectiveness.

These inequalities reveal a fundamentally flawed view of global health, and our global economy more broadly, in which vaccines and essential medications are treated as a market commodity rather than as a public good. We have seen similar policies enacted during past pandemics. During the height of the HIV epidemic, for example, most low-resource countries could not access lifesaving antiretroviral therapy because of the prohibitively high prices set by the pharmaceutical industry and the belief within United Nations agencies and among major donors that the focus in these settings should be on prevention instead of treatment. The commodification of global public goods reinforces widespread inequities in access and exacerbates vast disparities in health and economic well-being. Ultimately, addressing critical constraints is both a moral issue and one of national security that requires bold, decisive action to ensure expansion of supply, distribution, and delivery of Covid-19 vaccines.
The United States, under the Biden administration, and the G7 nations have committed support for global vaccine procurement through the Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) program, which supplies vaccines to low- and middle-income countries, but this funding alone remains inadequate. Currently, COVAX plans to vaccinate at least 20% of the population of participating countries by the end of 2021. Though this would be a substantial achievement, it falls far short of the goal of securing global herd immunity in a timely fashion.

The United States has an opportunity to lead by building on past effective efforts and investing in strategies with proven success. The challenges of delivering costly HIV therapeutics to low-resource settings inspired the creation of programs such as the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which have been critical to ensuring global scale-up of antiretroviral therapy for populations that previously lacked access. Reflecting on the impact of PEPFAR, which was approved with bipartisan congressional support in 2003, Anthony Fauci noted on the program’s 15th anniversary that “PEPFAR has done as much as or more than any other program in enhancing the humanitarian image of the United States and has firmly established it as a key player in the response to a historic global health crisis.”

The United States could build on PEPFAR’s success by committing to what some experts have dubbed a President’s Emergency Plan for Vaccine Access and Relief (PEPVAR). Such a program could integrate global health needs into ongoing funding priorities, augment funding for vaccine production and delivery, and assist in building critical health infrastructures, while providing the Biden administration an opportunity to rejoin the global diplomatic community.

PEPVAR could use strategic lessons from the global responses to HIV, H1N1 influenza, and Ebola by engaging with multinational organizations such as the World Health Organization, as well as governments, ministries of health, and affected communities. The program could help accelerate distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, working with national governments and multilateral organizations. Unlike COVAX, whose mission is primarily to increase and improve vaccine delivery to countries that are most in need, PEPVAR could partner with, support, and accelerate existing institutional mechanisms for ensuring vaccine access. Like PEPFAR, it could focus attention on data and analytics, equitable distribution, workforce development, and future pandemic preparedness, while accelerating development of additional necessary vaccines to address potential viral variants.

The success of such programs rests on immediate expansion of the supply of approved Covid-19 vaccines. India, for example, has secured substantially more vaccine than other low- and middle-income countries thanks to a partnership between AstraZeneca and the Serum Institute of India, one of the world’s largest vaccine manufacturers. The agreement allowed AstraZeneca to leverage the Serum Institute’s manufacturing capacity in exchange for vaccine doses for Indian citizens. Other pharmaceutical companies have also entered into agreements to expand global production by means of horizontal cooperation. Novartis, for example, has announced an initial agreement to help manufacture the Pfizer–BioNTech vaccine.

Though pharmaceutical companies have preferred to use voluntary licensing agreements to control who can produce a patented good, pressure has mounted on the World Trade Organization to consider a Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver for Covid-19 vaccines. This proposal, put forward by India and South Africa and supported by more than 90 countries, would temporarily waive pharmaceutical patent protection, and substantially reduce the costs of
manufacturing vaccines globally. Opponents of a TRIPS waiver argue that intellectual property protection is key to vaccine discovery and that without it, future innovation will be limited. While recognizing that patents provide essential incentives for companies to invest in drug and vaccine discovery, we believe the context of a pandemic, combined with the $18 billion in public funding that has already supported the development of Covid-19 vaccines, may argue against patent protection at this time.

Even with patent waivers, we may simply lack sufficiently consistent manufacturing capacity globally to develop and produce the current generation of vaccines. Long-term investment strategies are critical if we are to withstand the current pandemic and be prepared for future ones. Beyond expanding short-term supply, fostering global cooperation will better situate the global economy to rapidly supply vaccines and therapeutics in the future. Such cooperation is not only a matter of social justice, it is also a sound pragmatic response to ending a pandemic in which a virus and its variants easily cross borders. With a globally coordinated strategy, epidemiology, efficacy, and ethics can be fully aligned.

Covid-19 vaccines provide a pathway out of this pandemic, but bold, innovative policies that ensure fast and fair distribution are also critical. The United States has an unusual and urgent opportunity to ensure that Covid-19 vaccines are available to all. As Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, recently explained: “A global pandemic requires a world effort to end it — none of us will be safe until everyone is safe.” The Biden administration is well positioned to take a leadership role in this next critical phase.

Vaccinating the world is not only a moral obligation to protect our neighbors, it also serves our self-interest by protecting our security, health, and economy. These goals will not be accomplished by making the world wait for wealthy countries to be vaccinated first. By investing in multilateral partnerships with a sense of shared commitment and employing a global allocation strategy that increases supply and manufacturing, we can meet the urgent challenge of Covid-19, while creating sustainable infrastructures and health systems for the future. Getting the world vaccinated may well be the critical test of our time.

**Pediatrics**
Vol. 147, Issue 4  1 Apr 2021  
[https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/](https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/)  
[Reviewed earlier]

**PharmacoEconomics**
Volume 39, issue 4, April 2021  
[Reviewed earlier]

**PLoS Genetics**
[https://journals.plos.org/plosgenetics/](https://journals.plos.org/plosgenetics/)  
(Accessed 10 Apr 2021)  
[No new digest content identified]
The impact and cost-effectiveness of introducing the 10-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine into the paediatric immunisation programme in Iceland—A population-based time series analysis
Elias Eythorsson, Tinna L. Ásgeirsdóttir, Helga Erlendsdóttir, Birgir Hrafnkelsson, Karl G. Kristinsson, Ásgeir Haraldsson
Research Article | published 08 Apr 2021 PLOS ONE
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0249497

Investigating the procurement system for understanding seasonal influenza vaccine brand availability in Europe
Anke L. Stuurman, Caterina Rizzo, Mendel Haag
Research Article | published 08 Apr 2021 PLOS ONE
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0248943
Preventive Medicine
Volume 145  April 2021
[Reviewed earlier]

Proceedings of the Royal Society B
April 14, 2021  Volume 288  Issue 1948
https://royalsocietypublishing.org/toc/rspb/current
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Public Health
Volume 192  Pages 1-74 (March 2021)
[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Ethics
Volume 13, Issue 3, November 2020
http://phe.oxfordjournals.org/content/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Reports
Volume 136 Issue 2, March/April 2021
https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/phrg/136/2
[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research
Volume 31 Issue 5, April 2021
http://qhr.sagepub.com/content/current
[Reviewed earlier]

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

Reproductive Health
http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content
[Accessed 10 Apr 2021]
[No new digest content identified]
Regulatory reliance to approve new medicinal products in Latin American and Caribbean countries
Original research | English

5 Apr 2021
Patient- and provider-related factors in the success of multidrug tuberculosis treatment in Colombia
Original research | Spanish |

Risk Analysis
Volume 41, Issue 3  Pages: 407-557  March 2021
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15396924/current
Special Issue: 40 Years of Social Sciences in Risk Research Reconsidered
[Reviewed earlier]  

Risk Management and Healthcare Policy
[Accessed 10 Apr 2021]
Original Research
Relationship Between Public Mental Health and Immune Status During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Cross-Sectional Data from Saudi Arabia
Alghamdi BS, Alatawi Y, Alshehri FS, Tayeb HO, Tarazi FI
Risk Management and Healthcare Policy 2021, 14:1439-1447

Original Research
Monitoring COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance in Kuwait During the Pandemic: Results from a National Serial Study
AlAwadhi E, Zein D, Mallallah F, Bin Haider N, Hossain A
Risk Management and Healthcare Policy 2021, 14:1413-1429
Published Date: 8 April 2021

Review
Refugee Health During the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Review of Global Policy Responses
Lupieri S
Risk Management and Healthcare Policy 2021, 14:1373-1378
Published Date: 6 April 2021

Science
The story behind COVID-19 vaccines

By Anthony S. Fauci
Science 09 Apr 2021 : 109

Amid the staggering amount of suffering and death during this historic pandemic of COVID-19, a remarkable success story stands out. The development of several highly efficacious vaccines against a previously unknown viral pathogen, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), in less than 1 year from the identification of the virus is unprecedented in the history of vaccinology. A frequently asked question is how such an extraordinary accomplishment could have been realized in such a short time frame, when timelines for other vaccines are measured in years if not decades. In fact, concern about this truncated timeline has contributed in part to the hesitancy in accepting these vaccines. What is not fully appreciated is that the starting point of the timeline for SARS-CoV-2 vaccines was not 10 January 2020, when the Chinese published the genetic sequence of the virus. Rather, it began decades earlier, out of the spotlight.

Two activities predate the successful COVID-19 vaccines: the utilization of highly adaptable vaccine platforms such as RNA (among others) and the adaptation of structural biology tools to design agents (immunogens) that powerfully stimulate the immune system. The RNA approach evolved over several years owing to the ingenuity of individual scientists, including Drew Weissman and Katalin Karikó, and the concentrated efforts of several biotech and pharmaceutical companies.

The discovery of an immunogen adaptable to the multiple platforms (messenger RNA and others) used for COVID-19 vaccines resulted from collaboration across different scientific subspecialities. At the Vaccine Research Center (VRC) of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a group led by Peter Kwong had for several years used tools of structure-based vaccine design to determine the optimal structural conformation of a trimeric protein on the surface of the virus (the envelope protein) that allows HIV to bind to cells and ultimately trigger the production of antibodies that neutralize many HIV viral strains. Although this sophisticated approach has not yet led to a successful HIV vaccine, it caught the attention of another VRC investigator, Barney Graham, who was interested in generating a vaccine for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Graham joined Jason McLellan (of Kwong’s team) to adapt a structure-based approach to an RSV vaccine. They identified the prefusion conformation of the viral spike protein as highly immunogenic and created mutations to stabilize that conformation for successful use as an immunogen. This was a huge step toward the creation of a successful RSV vaccine.

VRC researchers and colleagues then built on the RSV advances. Graham's team, including Kizzmekia Corbett, and collaborators in the laboratories of McLellan and Andrew Ward adopted this approach of mutational stabilization of prefusion proteins in their work on the spike protein of the coronaviruses that cause Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). So, when the genetic sequence of the SARS-CoV-2 became available, Graham's team lost no time in joining their long-time collaborators at Moderna to develop an RNA vaccine using a stabilized, prefusion spike protein as the immunogen. Pfizer and BioNTech, where Karikó was working, also used the RNA platform that she and Weissman had perfected and the immunogen designed by Graham to develop an RNA vaccine. Additional companies also used Graham’s immunogen in other vaccine platforms that had been evolving for years, to make SARS-CoV-2 vaccines.
SARS-CoV-2 vaccines based on the new immunogen rapidly moved to clinical trials. Several of these vaccines were tested in phase 3 efficacy trials at a time when the level of community spread of SARS-CoV-2 was extremely high, allowing vaccine efficacy endpoints of greater than 90% to be reached in a timely fashion. The speed and efficiency with which these highly efficacious vaccines were developed and their potential for saving millions of lives are due to an extraordinary multidisciplinary effort involving basic, preclinical, and clinical science that had been under way—out of the spotlight—for decades before the unfolding of the COVID-19 pandemic. When the stories and recounting of this pandemic are written, it is important that this history not be forgotten, as we are reminded once again of the societal value of a sustained and robust support of our scientific enterprise.

Policy Forum
Concrete steps to diversify the scientific workforce
By Shirley Tilghman, Bruce Alberts, Daniel Colón-Ramos, Kafui Dzirasa, Judith Kimble, Harold Varmus
Science09 Apr 2021 : 133-135 Restricted Access
Any barrier to entry weakens science and its societal impact

Science Translational Medicine
07 April 2021 Vol 13, Issue 588
https://stm.sciencemag.org/
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Social Science & Medicine
Volume 273 March 2021
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Systematic Reviews
https://systematicreviewsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles
[Accessed 10 Apr 2021]
https://stm.sciencemag.org/
Protocol
The informed consent process in health research with under-served populations: a realist review protocol
The informed consent process aims to provide potential participants with information about health research that enables them to make an informed decision as to whether they choose to participate, or not. Howev...
Authors: Eleanor Hoverd, Sophie Staniszewska and Jeremy Dale
Citation: Systematic Reviews 2021 10:103
Published on: 9 April 2021

Systematic review update
The incubation period during the pandemic of COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis
The aim of our study was to determine through a systematic review and meta-analysis the incubation period of COVID-19. It was conducted based on the preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-an...  

Authors: Wafa Dhouib, Jihen Maatoug, Imen Ayouni, Nawel Zammit, Rim Ghammem, Sihem Ben Fredj and Hassen Ghannem  

Citation: Systematic Reviews 2021 10:101  
Published on: 8 April 2021

Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics  
Volume 41, issue 5-6, December 2020  
[Reviewed earlier]

Travel Medicine and Infectious Diseases  
Volume 40  March–April 2021  
[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health  
Volume 26, Issue 4  Pages: i-iv, 385-502  April 2021  
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13653156/current  

Original Research Papers  
Meningococcal carriage among Hajj pilgrims, risk factors for carriage and records of vaccination: a study of pilgrims to Mecca  
Aabbrar Alasmari et al  
Pages: 453-461  
First Published: 08 January 2021

Vaccine  
Volume 39, Issue 14  Pages 1877-2016 (1 April 2021)  

Short communication  Full text access  
Vaccine hesitancy and anti-vaccination in the time of COVID-19: A Google Trends analysis  
Samuel Pullan, Mrinalini Dey  
Pages 1877-1881

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

Review article  Open access  
National decision-making for the introduction of new vaccines: A systematic review, 2010–2020
Review article  Abstract only
Multi-domain narrative review of vaccine hesitancy in childhood
Syarafina Hasnan, Ngiap Chuan Tan
Pages 1910-1920

Research article  Abstract only
Role of social determinants of health in pneumococcal vaccination among high-risk adults
Justin Gatwood, Chi-Yang Chiu, Sohul Shuvo, Sujith Ramachandran, ... Tracy Hagemann
Pages 1951-1962

Research article  Full text access
Willingness to pay and financing preferences for COVID-19 vaccination in China
Jiahao Wang, Yun Lyu, Haijun Zhang, Rize Jing, ... Hai Fang
Pages 1968-1976

Research article  Abstract only
Workplace influenza vaccination to reduce employee absenteeism: An economic analysis from the employers’ perspective
Frederik Verelst, Philippe Beutels, Niel Hens, Lander Willem

Vaccines — Open Access Journal
http://www.mdpi.com/journal/vaccines
(Accessed 10 Apr 2021)
Open Access  Communication
Impact of Media Coverage on Influenza Vaccine Coverage in Elderly Individuals from 2020 to 2021 in the Republic of Korea
by Yunhyung Kwon et al
Vaccines 2021, 9(4), 367; https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9040367 (registering DOI) - 10 Apr 2021
Abstract
Increased awareness of adverse events following immunization (AEFI) can disrupt vaccination programs. In South Korea, a report of alleged influenza vaccine-related deaths attracted significant media attention in 2020. We retrieved the vaccination coverage and AEFI data to determine their association with media coverage. [...]

Open Access  Article
Correcting HPV Vaccination Misinformation Online: Evaluating the HPV Vaccination NOW Social Media Campaign
by Beth Sundstrom et al
Vaccines 2021, 9(4), 352; https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9040352 - 06 Apr 2021
Abstract
The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine provides protection from six HPV-related cancers. Approximately half of South Carolina adolescents have not completed the vaccination series, representing a missed opportunity to prevent cancer. The HPV Vaccination NOW: This is Our Moment social media campaign is an [...]

Morgane Donadel, Maria Susana Panero, Lynnette Ametewee, Abigail M. Shefer
Pages 1897-1909
Open Access Review

What Is the State-of-the-Art in Clinical Trials on Vaccine Hesitancy 2015–2020?
by Carla Pires
Vaccines 2021, 9(4), 348; https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9040348 - 05 Apr 2021

Abstract
Background: Vaccine hesitancy is related to a delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination. Aim: to perform a systematic review of clinical trials on vaccine hesitancy (2015–2020). Methods: a systematic review following the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses criteria (PRISMA). [...]

Value in Health
April 2021 Volume 24 Issue 4 p463-604
https://www.valueinhealthjournal.com/current

ISPOR REPORT
Published in issue: April 2021

PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES
Jessica Willis, Dena Zeratkaar, Julia ten Hove, Peter Rosenbaum, Gabriel M. Ronen
Published online: December 28, 2020

Highlights
:: Children and adolescents should participate in content development of patient-reported outcomes about themselves.
:: Focus groups and interviews are the most frequently used qualitative methods to elicit the content of interest.
:: Play activities help children communicate their experiences and feelings.
:: There is limited consistency in how researchers undertake and report their methodologies.
:: This review highlights the value of dedicated qualitative papers to report development of patient-reported outcomes.

Conclusions
Researchers frequently involve children and adolescents in qualitative methods when developing QoL-related measures; however, there is little information about the methods used. Better reporting of methodology, improved dissemination of methods guidelines, and research into optimal ways of including children and adolescents in the process of instrument development would be useful.

* * * * *

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

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

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

**The Atlantic**  
*Accessed 10 Apr 2021*

**Ideas**  
**What America’s Vaccination Campaign Proves to the World**  
The U.S. stumbled early in the pandemic, but the vaccine rollout could reboot the country’s image.  
Apr 10, 2021  
Anne Applebaum, Staff writer at The Atlantic

**Politics**  
**Vaccine Refusal Will Come at a Cost—For All of Us**  
People who refuse to get the COVID-19 vaccine will have higher health-care costs. The rest of us will foot the bill.  
Edward-Isaac Dovere  
Apr 10. 2021

**Health**  
**A Better Solution Than Laminating Your Vaccine Card**  
Political grandstanding about vaccine passports serves no one.  
James Hamblin  
April 9, 2021

**BBC**  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)  
*Accessed 10 Apr 2021*  
[No new, unique, relevant content]

**The Economist**  
*Accessed 10 Apr 2021*  
*The Americas*
Cuba may become the smallest country to make covid-19 vaccines ...
Whether they will be approved elsewhere remains to be seen
Apr 10th 2021 edition

Financial Times
https://www.ft.com/
Accessed 10 Apr 2021
Coronavirus: Georgia pauses J&J vaccine at one site following adverse reactions — as it happened
India rejects vaccine shortage claims
April 9, 2021

Forbes
http://www.forbes.com/
Accessed 10 Apr 2021
[No new, unique, relevant content]

Foreign Affairs
http://www.foreignaffairs.com/
Accessed 10 Apr 2021
Snapshot  April 5, 2021
The New Age of Protectionism
Wealthy democratic governments have pushed liberal market principles aside in the face of vaccine shortages.
Henry Farrell and Abraham Newman

Foreign Policy
http://foreignpolicy.com/
Accessed 10 Apr 2021
China Brief
China’s Vaccine Diplomacy Has Mixed Results
Concerns about the efficacy of Sinovac and Sinopharm has dented their reputation, even among allies of Beijing.
By James Palmer
| April 7, 2021, 5:59 PM

New Yorker
http://www.newyorker.com/
Accessed 10 Apr 2021
[No new, unique, relevant content]

New York Times
http://www.nytimes.com/
Accessed 10 Apr 2021
U.S.
Incarcerated and Infected: How the Virus Tore Through the U.S. Prison System
Since March 2020, New York Times reporters have tracked every known coronavirus case in every correctional setting in the nation. More than 2,700 inmates have died.
By Eddie Burkhalter, Izzy Colón, Brendon Derr, Lazaro Gamio, Rebecca Griesbach, Ann Hinga Klein, Danya Issawi, K.b. Mensah, Derek M. Norman, Savannah Redl, Chloe Reynolds, Emily Schwing, Libby Seline, Rachel Sherman, Maura Turcotte and Timothy Williams
April 10

Asia Pacific
Complacency and Missteps Deepen a Covid-19 Crisis in India
The new wave will hurt global efforts and vaccine supplies, experts say. Researchers are scrambling to assess whether new coronavirus variants are playing a role in India.
By Mujib Mashal and Hari Kumar
April 9

Economy
I.M.F. Seminar Stresses Importance of Global Vaccinations
Jerome H. Powell, the Federal Reserve chair, and the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, emphasized the economic need for worldwide vaccinations on Thursday.
By Reuters
April 9

Washington Post
https://www.washingtonpost.com/
Accessed 10 Apr 2021

J&J vaccine problems hamper US military vaccines overseas
WASHINGTON — U.S. military leaders said Thursday that recent problems with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have made it more difficult to provide shots for forces overseas, and that vaccines have been offered to service members’ families or other tier two beneficiaries in only 40% of the military sites outside the U.S.
Apr 8, 2021

* * * *

Think Tanks et al

Brookings
http://www.brookings.edu/
Accessed 10 Apr 2021
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Center for Global Development [to 10 Apr 2021]
http://www.cgdev.org/page/press-center
Publications:

One Year Later: How Africa is Tackling the Pandemic and Preparing for a Post-COVID World

Event:
4/7/21

While the COVID-19 pandemic has setback development outcomes across the globe, Africa has felt the economic effects of the pandemic strongly. COVID-19 pushed about 30 million Africans into extreme poverty, with vulnerable groups disproportionately impacted, and the continent experienced its first recession in half a century. Fiscal deficits have reached historic highs, and the debt-to-GDP ratio Africa is expected to increase significantly to over 70 percent in 2021 from 60 percent in 2019, raising concerns of debt sustainability. At the same time, outcomes in education, routine vaccination, and equality have suffered.

April 5, 2021

A New IMF Pandemic Window Could Provide $30 Billion to Finance Vaccines for Developing Countries

While those lucky enough to live in the United States or Europe fret about the extra weeks before their vaccine jab is scheduled, 6 billion people in developing countries will need to wait months, if not years. COVID-19 vaccine production lags far behind demand, and one reason why developing countries find themselves at the back of the queue is that they were unable collectively to make the firm financial offers for advance purchases when these vaccines were still in the making.

Masood Ahmed, John Hicklin and Hannah Brown

Vaccine Financing: How a Redesigned IMF Instrument Can Provide a Shot in the Arm for the Global Pandemic Response

Publication:
A new IMF rapid credit window could provide some $30 billion to cover the vaccine financing needs for most developing countries through 2021-22. The mechanism would facilitate collective action to negotiate increased production, the main obstacle to achieving vaccine coverage and rectifying the gross inequities in current distribution. It would remain in place for future global pandemic responses.

April 5, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate: Will the US Catch Up with the Rest of the World?

As economies start opening up, the COVID Vaccine Certificate is increasingly becoming a ticket to return to normality, lifting restrictions on work, travel and leisure. Because of the formidable constraints, any US path to a CVC should start with a light touch.

Alan Gelb and Anit Mukherjee

Chatham House [to 10 Apr 2021]
https://www.chathamhouse.org/
Accessed 10 Apr 2021
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CSIS
https://www.csis.org/
Vaccine Monitor: More than Half of Rural Residents Have Gotten a COVID-19 Vaccine or Intend to Do So as Soon as Possible

More than half (54%) of rural adults say they have already gotten at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or will do so as soon as possible, as rural residents report less issues with both supply and access than those living in urban and suburban areas, according to a...

Understanding COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates

As the vaccine rollout continues across the country, a key question is whether and how far governments and employers can go to require the public and workers to get vaccinated. Our new issue brief explains the legal basis for vaccine mandates and what limitations might apply.

KFF/Post Survey Reveals the Serious Mental Health Challenges Facing Frontline Health Care Workers a Year into the COVID-19 Pandemic

About 1 in 6 Tested Positive for COVID-19, though Few Experienced Major Symptoms; Those Working in Nursing Homes or Assisted Living Facilities Most Likely to Report Testing Positive More than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, a majority of frontline health care workers say the crisis is taking a toll...

Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review is a service of the Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy (CVEP)/GE2P2 Global, which is solely responsible for its content, and is an open access publication, subject to the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/). Copyright is retained by CVEP.
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