



# COVID-19 vaccines

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The world is in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic. As WHO and partners work together on the response -- tracking the pandemic, advising on critical interventions, distributing vital medical supplies to those in need--- they are racing to develop and deploy safe and effective vaccines.

Vaccines save millions of lives each year. Vaccines work by training and preparing the body's natural defences --- the immune system--- to recognize and fight off the viruses and bacteria they target. If the body is exposed to those disease-causing germs later, the body is immediately ready to destroy them, preventing illness.

There are currently more than 50 COVID-19 vaccine candidates in trials. WHO is working in collaboration with scientists, business, and global health organizations through the ACT Accelerator to speed up the pandemic response. When a safe and effective vaccine is found, COVAX (led by WHO, GAVI and CEPI) will facilitate the equitable access and distribution of these vaccines to protect people in all countries. People most at risk will be prioritized. While we work towards rolling out a safe and effective vaccine fairly, we must continue the essential public health actions to suppress transmission and reduce mortality.

## **R&D Blueprint**

The R&D Blueprint was activated to accelerate diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics for this novel coronavirus. The Blueprint aims to improve coordination between scientists and global health professionals, accelerate the research and development process, and develop new norms and standards to learn from and improve upon the global response.

## **Draft landscape of COVID-19 vaccine candidates**

The draft landscape of COVID-19 vaccine candidates contains information on vaccine candidates collected through public information (e.g. clinical trial registries) and information that were directly provided by vaccine developers to WHO. The landscape is generally updated twice a week, based on the latest information, including those we receive from

scientists and research

## Learn more

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**COVAX**

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**COVID-19**

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**ACT-Accelerator**

## Questions & Answers

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**Q&A on vaccines**

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**Q&A on vaccine safety**

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**Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Vaccines**

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**Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): COVID-19 Vaccine research and development**

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**Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): COVID-19 Vaccine access and allocation**

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## Preparations for delivery

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## **Vaccine target product profile**

WHO has published the target product profiles for COVID-19 vaccines, which describes the preferred and minimally acceptable profiles for human vaccines for long term protection of persons at high ongoing risk of COVID-19, and for reactive use in outbreak settings with rapid onset of immunity. We have also published the criteria for prioritization of vaccines for clinical trials.

## **Criteria for COVID-19 vaccine prioritization**

The proposed attributes and criteria provide considerations for the evaluation and prioritization of COVID-19 candidate vaccines to be considered for further development by WHO. The target audience includes vaccine scientists, product developers, manufacturers, regulators and funding agencies.

# COVAX Facility

The COVAX Facility is the global procurement mechanism of COVAX. The COVAX Facility will make investments across a broad portfolio of promising vaccine candidates (including those being supported by [CEPI](#)) to make sure at-risk investment in manufacturing happens now. This means the COVAX Facility, by pooling purchasing power from all countries that participate, will have rapid access to doses of safe and effective vaccines as soon as they receive regulatory approval. Guided by an [allocation framework](#) being developed by WHO, the COVAX Facility will then equitably distribute these doses to help protect the most at-risk groups in all participating countries.

[Fair allocation mechanism for COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility](#)

[WHO SAGE values framework for the allocation and prioritization of COVID-19 vaccination](#)

# COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC)

The COVAX AMC is the financing instrument that will support the participation of 92 lower-middle and low-income economies in the COVAX Facility. The COVAX AMC is critical to ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, regardless of income level – and requires an urgent investment of US\$ 2 billion, from sovereign donors, philanthropies and the private sector, by the end of 2020.

[COVAX Advance Market Commitment mechanism explained](#)

# Country readiness & delivery

WHO is working with partners Gavi and UNICEF to ensure that the infrastructure is in place, and the technical support available, to make sure COVID-19 vaccines can be safely delivered to all those who need them.

[COVID-19 Vaccine Country Readiness and Delivery](#)

**Read our "Vaccines Explained" series**

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**How do vaccines work?**

**How are vaccines developed?**

## Manufacturing, safety and quality control of vaccines

### Latest vaccine news

[All →](#)

2 December 2020\_ | Departmental news

**Profile: Dr Collins Tabu, Head of Immunization Programme, Ministry of Health, Kenya**

15 November 2020\_ | Departmental news

**MVIP update – 1 million doses administered, Kenya 1st anniversary cooperation for vaccine access**

### Feature stories

[All →](#)

8 December 2020

## **Manufacturing, safety and quality control of vaccines**

8 December 2020

## **How are vaccines developed?**

8 December 2020

## **How do vaccines work?**



7 December 2020

## Tips for professional reporting on COVID-19 vaccines

# Multimedia

[All →](#)

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10 December 2020

## Science in 5: Episode #16 - How vaccines work

3 December 2020

## Science in 5: Episode #15 - COVID-19 - Vaccine distribution

19 November 2020

## **Science in 5: Episode #13 - Vaccine trials**

11 November 2020

## **Live Q&A on COVID-19 vaccines with Dr Soumya Swaminathan and Kate O'Brien**

# **Combat misinformation**

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## **Let's flatten the infodemic curve**

## **Latest trusted updates on each COVID-19 vaccine in development**

## **Report misinformation about COVID-19**

## **Mythbusters**

## **Responsible media reporting on COVID-19 Vaccines**

### **Other resources**

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## **Related health topics**

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### **Vaccines and immunization**

### **Coronavirus**

# Publications

[All →](#)

10 December 2020

## **Evidence to recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines: Evidence framework**

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19 November 2020

## **Temperature-sensitive health products in the Expanded Programme on Immunization cold chain**

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15 October 2020

## **Behavioural considerations for acceptance and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines**

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6 October 2020

## **What we know about COVID-19 vaccine development**

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9 September 2020

## **Fair allocation mechanism for COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility**

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