

Biopharmaceutical industry welcomes COVID-19 vaccine-sharing pledges but warn challenges remain to urgently address vaccine inequity

- G7 country dose sharing announcements on the back of the G20 pledges combined with vaccine makers commitment to make available 3,5 billion extra doses are an important starting point towards achieving vaccine equity.
- Innovative vaccine manufacturers and biotech companies at the forefront producing COVID-19 vaccines are confident if scarcity of raw materials and trade barriers are addressed that they will be able to produce at least 10 billion by the end of 2021, which will be enough doses to vaccinate the world's adult population.
- The doses pledged to LMICs need to be efficiently distributed, in appropriate quantities to assist uptake and to avoid further surges of the coronavirus pandemic.

Geneva, 11 June 2021: Recent announcements today by G7 countries and last month by G20 countries of over 1 billion doses to be made available to low- and middle-income (LMIC) countries in 2020 and 2021 is an important step towards advancing fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines around the world. Thankfully, the doses are available, not least because the global biopharmaceutical industry is on track to produce at least 10 billion doses by end 2021¹ of which 3,5 billion doses have been made in new commitments for COVAX last month at the G20 Global Health Summit. But vaccine equity will only be achieved if the doses are distributed efficiently and with due regard to the capacity of different LMICs to roll out their immunization plans across their priority populations.

Organizations representing the innovative vaccine manufacturers and biotech companies involved in the historic scaling up of vaccines manufacturing announced on 19th May 2021 their "[Five steps to urgently advance COVID-19 vaccine equity](#)", where they committed to working with governments, IGOs and NGOs to support stepping up dose sharing, continue efforts to optimize production, call out trade barriers to be eliminated, support country readiness, and continue driving innovation.

"This weekend's announcements from the G7 in the UK send a welcome and very important signal to the world: that it is not acceptable to deepen inequity by ignoring that whole swathes of the world have yet to vaccinate their healthcare workers and their most vulnerable populations, while a dozen of countries have sufficient doses to be considering vaccinating school children. Enlightened self interest which recognizes that sustained dose sharing across the globe is the only way out of this global health crisis" says Thomas Cueni, Director General of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations ([IFPMA](#)).

To date, 2 billion doses have been pledged in Q1 2021 by innovative vaccine manufacturers and biotech companies, a further 3,5 billion doses were pledged at cost or discounted to LMICs to COVAX or other established mechanisms at the G20 (May 2021). As manufacturing output picks up momentum, industry is confident that it will make the estimated 10 billion plus dose target by the end of 2021; with over 2,2 billion doses already produced by the end of May. But reaching the World Health Organization's targets of 10% of the world's population vaccinated by September and 30% by the end of the year depends swift translation of the pledges into action that allows a planned efficient and sustained roll out. According to UNICEF, G7 countries could donate 20% of available vaccines to COVAX now, without any significant delay in current plans to vaccinate their adult population.

¹ Airfinity data.

The current pledges of over 1 billion doses to COVAX are welcome, but it will be important to work closely with LMICs to ensure that they are ready and able to deploy available doses within their shelf life.

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Note to editors:

Organizations representing the innovative vaccine manufacturers and biotech companies: ABPI, The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), The International Council of Biotechnology Associations (ICBA), International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA), The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) and Vaccines Europe.

Pledges facts and figures:

Recent announcements of governments on dose sharing:

- In addition to the announced 500 million doses on 10 June, the USA has already shared 4 million doses with Canada and Mexico and it has pledged to share 80 million vaccine doses² (60 million of the AZ vaccine and an additional 20 million Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson) by the end of June. The first 25 million will be shared as follows: 75% through COVAX, incl. 6m for Latin America and Caribbean, 7m for South & Southeast Asia, 5m for Africa. Remaining doses (over 6m) will be shared directly with countries experiencing surges, those in crisis, and other partners, incl. Canada, Mexico, India, and the Republic of Korea.
- The European Union announced a pledge to donate 100 million vaccine doses to poorer countries.
- The United Kingdom pledged 100 million vaccine doses on 11 June 2021
- Other announcement of dose sharing through the COVAX mechanism³:
 - France will donate at least 5% of its EU APA doses to COVAX in 2021, including 500k by June; First shared doses delivered in April
 - New Zealand is sharing 1.6 million of its COVAX doses in 2021. To be delivered in June
 - Spain announced it will share 5-10% of its doses via COVAX in 2021, leveraging Team Europe framework - 15 million vaccine doses donated by Spain to the COVAX Facility (on top of the 7.5 million previously pledged)
 - 30 million vaccine doses produced in Japan to the COVAX Facility, other countries and economies
 - 4 million vaccine doses donated by Belgium to the COVAX Facility
 - 3 million vaccine doses donated by Denmark primarily to the COVAX Facility
 - 2 million vaccine doses donated by Sweden to the COVAX Facility (on top of the 1 million previously pledged)
 - UAE announced donation of 1 million doses via COVAX
 - Portugal will share 5% of its doses

² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/03/statement-by-president-joe-biden-on-global-vaccine-distribution/>

³ https://www.gavi.org/sites/default/files/covid/covax/COVAX_Principles-COVID-19-Vaccine-Doses-COVAX.pdf



news release

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