

# THE ALCIVAX

**Alcimed** assesses COVAX projections vs. the reality, the renewed IP debate, and investment for increasing Africa's vaccine access.

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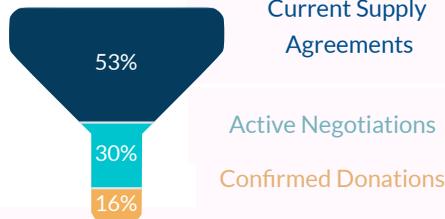
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## COVAX: Promises, Progress, & Potential

The main outlet for middle income and poor countries to purchase/source COVID vaccines is with COVAX, the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. COVAX facilities had aimed to supply 2 B doses of vaccine in 2021.

**0.5%** OF PROMISED DOSES (95M) HAVE BEEN SHIPPED TO 134 PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES

**Covax Supply**



The COVAX global supply forecast out just 2 weeks ago projects states that COVAX has active plans to secure 93% of the originally projected doses available by the end of 2021 and 5.6 B doses by the end of 2022. As the 2021 supply was only supposed to cover 20% of each participant country, it is likely that

most people in COVAX countries will not receive fully vaccinated till 2024.



## Trade-Related Aspects of IP Rights (TRIPS)

The long wait for countries to have vaccinated enough of their population to fully reopen, like the US, EU, and UK are on the road to doing now, has revived calls for the WTO to consider waiving intellectual property rights to COVID-19 related vaccines or treatments. Here's a timeline of the COVID-19 TRIPS discussions:

-  **October 2020** | South Africa and India first proposed the waiver
-  **May 25, 2021** | Revised proposal submitted with growing support
-  **June 4, 2021** | EU submits its own proposal with no waiver
-  **June 29, 2021** | WTO TRIPS Symposium
-  **July 6, 2021** | WTO TRIPS council informal meeting to discuss COVID IP

The major difference between the two proposals is that South Africa and India are proposing IP waivers that will make it possible to manufacture locally. The EU proposal focuses on limiting export restrictions so that while vaccine remains largely manufactured in Europe and North America, more doses can be sent to countries that need them.

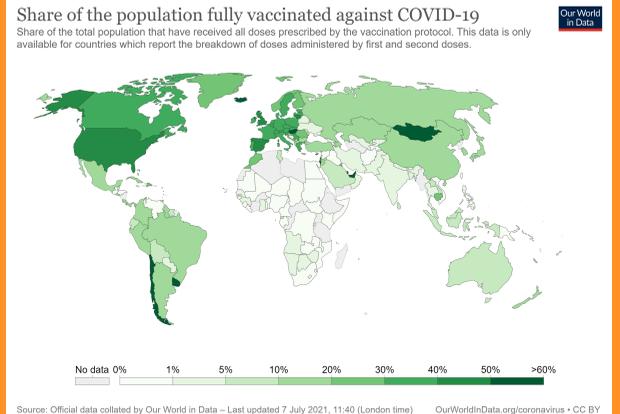
A lot to the complexity for TRIPS discussions comes with mRNA technology, it's complex supply chain the manufacturing know how to pull it off. One potential easement to the current discussion is the positive Phase 3 data for Covax in an inactivated heat killed vaccine from India which is far easier to manufacturer and does not have the cold chain or storage issues that have plagued mRNA vaccines.



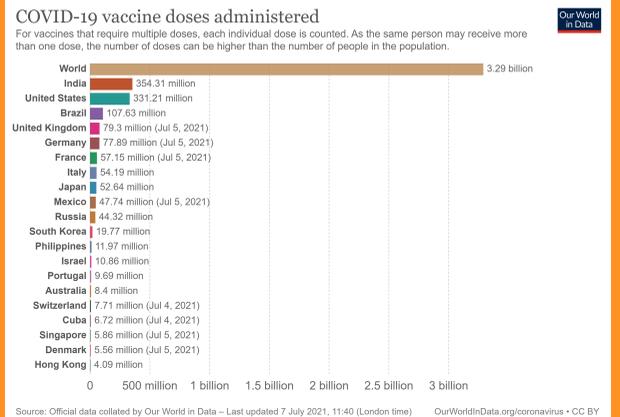
Image Credit: [Don Landgren](#)

## The COVID Vaccine Race In Graphs

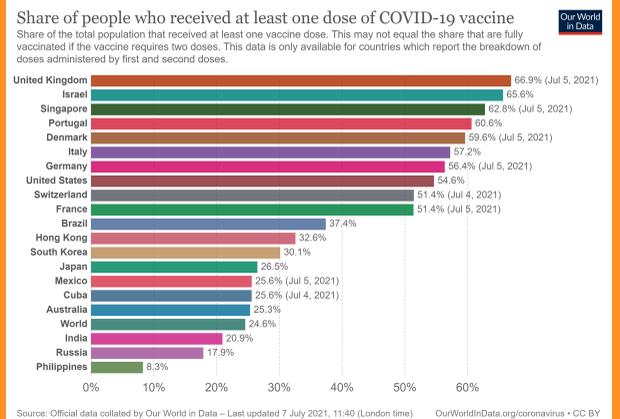
Of the 24.6% of the world that has received a dose, the map illustrates the distribution gap.



The EU's vaccination rates rising more rapidly than other regions, such as Asia and North America.



Singapore and Hong Kong stand above the 25% average achieved across the rest of Asia.





# The Global Future of Vaccines

COVID-19 has certainly reminded the world of the value and importance of vaccines. In January, the World Health Assembly endorsed a vision for an [Immunization Agenda 2030](#). The main push is for everyone in the world at every age to have equal access to vaccines to promote good health and well being. One of the most ambitious goals is vaccine equity, a hot topic during the pandemic. According to the [new IA2030 scorecard](#) the key success factors will be:

## -50%

### Zero Dose Children

Decrease the number of children who receive no vaccines from 14 M to 7 M

## 500

### New Vaccine Introductions

Introductions of new or under-utilized vaccines in low and middle income countries



## Local mRNA Production

Filling those requirements may prove to be a challenge with vaccine manufacturing capacity missing from many regional markets, especially Africa. But the solution may come from COVID response. Two weeks ago the WHO announced a technology transfer hub for producing mRNA vaccines in South Africa. According to WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, "[The consortium involves a company Afrigen Biologics & Vaccines, which will act as the hub both by manufacturing mRNA vaccines itself & by providing training to a manufacturer Biovac.](#)" Manufacturing could begin in 9-12 months though which tech will be transferred is still in negotiations. With local mRNA capacity though, Africa will be well primed to increase vaccine equity across the continent.

## The Anti-Vax Peer Review

Information can spread fast, but it would appear that misinformation spreads even faster. A paper published in the journal Vaccines on June 24th, titled "[The Safety of COVID-19 Vaccinations—We Should Rethink the Policy](#)," incorrectly claimed that several deaths could be linked directly to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The fault comes from assuming that all deaths post vaccination are attributable to the vaccine itself.

The false claim made it through what appears to be a rushed or incomplete peer review process that failed to catch the gap/faulty assumption. Several of the editorial staff have resigned, including one of the founding editor-in-chiefs, over the publication of such a faulty article mostly due to it's fall out. The editors from the journal expressed the following concern: "[The major concern is the misrepresentation of the COVID-19 vaccination efforts and misrepresentation of the data.](#)" As of July the 2nd, the paper has been officially retracted. The fall out of the errant publication is already being felt in the wider community.



Image Credit: [Simcoe.com](#)

- In the first 10 days after publication the paper was read 350K times.
- This is likely related to the sharing of the paper by several prominent anti-vaxxers with hundreds of thousands of followers.
- This incident highlights how important it is during a public health crisis to not lose sight of using systems, like peer review that work simply because we are in a hurry to find the answer.



## Race for a New Flu Shot

While the COVID-19 vaccine is still in full swing, the race for a new generation of influenza vaccines is already heating up. Influenza vaccines, while immensely profitable, remain blocked at a 40-60% efficacy based on the currently technology used for their design and manufacture. Due to it's rapid development time and ability to create highly effective immune responses, the question remains as to whether it may indeed be a vital technology for the creation of more efficacious influenza vaccines.

Fresh off COVID-19 success, [Moderna is already working on it's next program, by placing a new seasonal flu vaccine in Phase 1 safety trials.](#) Moderna has previously tested pandemic flu. The is the first step in Moderna's long-term strategy to provide a single shot for protection against all seasonal respiratory viruses.

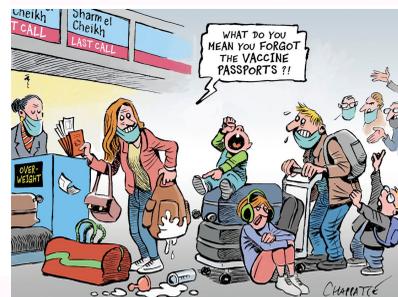


Image Credit: [Chappette](#)

[Sanofi Pasteur and Translate Bio beat them to the punch, placing their own mRNA flu vaccine in Phase 1 trials as part of the €400 million mRNA center of excellence](#) Sanofi Past announced for COVID and beyond.



## All joking aside

The [Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Xavier Bettel, is now among the list of heads of State who has been hospitalized for COVID-19.](#) He tested positive for COVID after coming in to contact with many other European leaders at the recent EU summit in Brussels. He is currently listed in serious but stable condition. COVID has also infected a large number of royalty as [Kate Middleton is now in isolation after a COVID exposure at Wimbledon last week.](#) Her husband Prince William and father in law, Prince Charles both had COVID-19 last year. Other infected royals include: Prince Joachim of Belgium, Prince Carl Philip and Princess Sofia of Sweden, Prince Christian of Denmark, and Prince Albert of Monaco.

The [Oakland Zoo vaccinated animals using a vaccine developed by Zoetis.](#) The animals, including tigers, bears, mountain lions and ferrets, get a bit of whip cream. Eight gorillas in San Diego contracted COVID from an infected zoo keeper. The San Diego primates have also now been vaccinated.



Image Credit: [AP](#)

## Le vaccin peut avoir des effets désirables: New Vaccine Side Effects Emerge.



Image Credit: [Agence régionale de santé Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur](#)

