The race to produce a vaccine for the latest coronavirus

Scientists have produced vaccines against other viruses, including two other coronaviruses—SARS (Severe Acute ***Respiratory*** Syndrome) and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome)—using gene sequencing. The vaccine research on these two cousins of the novel coronavirus has come in handy in recent weeks.

respiratory　呼吸的

Even if a vaccine is developed and approved, the rapid rise in cases of the coronavirus in China and its spread to other countries has created a new urgency: planning ahead for ways to make massive quantities of a vaccine quickly. There are not many factories that can mass-produce vaccines, so new vaccines often wait in a long queue.

Even if a vaccine can be produced in sufficient quantities, getting it to the people who need it, regardless of where they live, can still be a problem. This is a problem Richard Hatchett, the head of CEPI, knows all too well; he worked at the White House on medical preparedness during a flu ***pandemic*** in 2009. The outbreak had a very low ***mortality*** rate, but exporting any vaccine before it was available to American citizens quickly became a vexed issue.

pandemic　瘟疫　　mortality　死亡数

The urgency behind the search for treatments for the novel coronavirus is understandable. Such efforts were effective in the case of Ebola. People are willing to rush vaccines and drugs into use for a disease with a ***fatality rate*** around 70%, as Ebola's was. The calculus is different for one that kills 2% (or less) of those infected. Should ***hasty*** decisions lead to products that are not completely safe, people's faith in vaccines could be damaged. If so, the harm done to the world's health could rival the worst feared of the coronavirus.

fatality　死亡；宿命　　hasty　草率的；匆忙的