



Policy Position

IFPMA Policy Principles on COVID-19 Vaccines Initiative

Our global community today faces an unprecedented health emergency, one that will overcome through science and by working together towards a common purpose: ending the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe the current crisis calls for a highly coordinated and collaborative, global effort bringing industry, public agencies, multilateral organizations, financial institutions, governments, and philanthropic foundations together into a new and equal partnership operating at pace that harnesses each of our unique capabilities to develop, produce, and deploy novel COVID-19 vaccines.

IFPMA members, which include the leading innovative biopharmaceutical companies in the vaccine field, feel both an important responsibility and a great desire to lead the charge toward the development of treatments and vaccines to help restore the health and well-being of people around the world. We are already working at unparalleled speed sparing no resources to develop safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines in record time. The decades-long investments we have made in new vaccine technologies enable us to respond swiftly to this crisis, while at the same time ensuring uninterrupted global supply of much needed existing vaccines.

The size of the endeavor to develop and deliver a vaccine calls for collective effort around a shared responsibility. We firmly believe that only a new, multi-sectoral, collaborative platform, where all partners, including IFPMA and member companies, are equal contributors to the design and implementation, will successfully develop, produce, and deploy the vaccines we need rapidly, equitably, and at scale.

This end-to-end public-private partnership should be supported by the following principles, which reflect our common vision of how the COVID-19 pandemic can effectively be tackled globally.

Research, development, and manufacturing

- Ensure continued disease surveillance and open and rapid sharing of virus information to inform vaccine development programs and national vaccination policies
- Ensure timely evidence-based prioritization of vaccine development programs and coordination that supports full development through to manufacturing scale-up
- Facilitate rapid development of robust forecasting models (including prioritized target groups) and clear, coordinated demand planning to inform decisions on clinical development, scale-up, and right-sizing of manufacturing assets for vaccines and testing
- Support collaboration to rapidly scale up manufacturing and fill & package capacity for high volume production, while preserving existing manufacturing capacity to ensure continuity of the global supply of routine vaccines
- Establish risk-sharing models, including funding for manufacturing investments and advance purchase agreements, that recognize the uncertainty of the pandemic, as the actual demand, geography, and epidemiology of the disease evolves over time
- Ensure development of appropriate infrastructure to support required manufacturing process and capital investment in work force

Availability, access, and use

- Encourage national regulatory agency collaboration and convergence across borders, including the development of regulatory reliance approaches
- Support expedite and effective product licensing approaches, recognizing that intellectual property has not been an impediment to pandemic response thus far, instead it has enabled multiple development efforts for treatments and vaccines, and can accelerate manufacturing scale-up
- Ensure equitable access for COVID-19 vaccines at global and national levels by supporting multilateral organizations and country leaders to align on allocation principles
- Support evidence-based development and implementation of vaccination program policies and deployment strategies, including readiness of immunization providers and infrastructure, and ensure post-licensure safety monitoring and information sharing
- Work with governments, manufacturers, and payers to ensure that when new vaccines are approved, they will be available and affordable
- Ensure proper balance of risks for deployment of approved pandemic vaccines at an unprecedented speed and scale. Global legal mechanisms are needed to indemnify companies during emergencies when regulatory requirements are followed
- Ensure supply to existing vaccination programs to protect public health and avoid additional burden on healthcare systems

The unique circumstances brought about by this pandemic calls for a time limited and exceptional response - a new type of partnership, one that is rapidly functional in the short term and that unites the essential multisectoral competencies on equal footing.

We stand ready to step up and bring immediately to this partnership our unique knowledge and expertise in the discovery and development of vaccines and the build-out of manufacturing capacity and distribution networks to enable production and deployment of global vaccines supply. We will partner with national regulatory agencies and the scientific community to accelerate the assessment of safety and efficacy of new vaccines. We will work with the WHO to identify the global need and priority populations, and, along with donor governments and philanthropic foundations, to address the unique challenges faced by low- and middle-income countries.

Such a partnership will lay the foundations to be better prepared in the future, and evolve ultimately to a sustainable model for epidemic preparedness globally.