

## Top news:

- WIPO has launched the COVID-19 IP tracker which aims to help all stakeholders navigate changes implemented by the worldwide IP community as it adjusts to the COVID-19 pandemic & The US Patent and Trademark Office has launched a COVID-19 patent platform.
- WHO urges countries to investigate any other early suspicious cases after a report suggested that COVID-19 had emerged in France already in December, weeks sooner than previously thought
- Pfizer and BioNTech announced that their potential coronavirus vaccine began human trials in the United States, after the first cohort of subjects was dosed late last month in Germany
- GAVI proposed to set up an Advance Market Commitment (AMC) for COVID-19 vaccines in order to accelerate affordability
- EMA outlined how it plans to reduce timelines to approve medicines and vaccines for coronavirus.

## ACCESS & IP

- **WIPO:** [WIPO Launches Tool to Track IP Policy Information in Member States during COVID-19 Pandemic](#). “The COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker is an information repository that will help all stakeholders navigate changes implemented by the worldwide IP community as it adjusts to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said WIPO Director General Francis Gurry.
- **WIPO:** [USPTO launches COVID-19 patent platform](#). The US Patent and Trademark Office has launched a platform aimed at supporting patent owners wanting to license technology related to the “prevention, treatment, and diagnosis” of COVID-19.
- **Gavi:** [What Is An Advance Market Commitment And How Could It Help Beat Covid-19?](#) GAVI proposed to set up an Advance Market Commitment (AMC) for COVID-19 vaccines. An AMC would not be used to fund development of vaccines. Instead, push and pull mechanisms would accelerate availability by ramping up production and procurement, in advance while the most promising and suitable vaccines were still in development. The programme for pneumococcal vaccines could act as a template for the COVID-19 AMC.

## GLOBAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

- **Market Insider:** [Goldman Sachs says the global economy has likely bottomed out already as coronavirus lockdown efforts pay off](#). Although the bank estimated that global gross domestic product had fallen 16% since January, it expects a V-shaped and U-shaped economic recovery, depending on the time frame.
- **The Guardian:** [Inflation collapses around the world amid coronavirus pandemic](#). In a reflection of evaporating demand from consumers and businesses as governments impose tough lockdown measures to limit the spread of the virus, inflation across the OECD area dropped to 1.7% in March from 2.3% in February, the largest deceleration since the 2008 financial crisis.
- **World Economic Forum:** [How will COVID-19 affect China's Belt and Road Initiative?](#) As the ripple effects of the coronavirus are felt across the globe, the nature, pace and scope of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) activity will also be affected, both in the near and longer-term future.

- **New Humanitarian:** [Africa's coronavirus safety nets cannot cover all](#). Many African countries moved rapidly to curb the initial spread of coronavirus, but they have been slower to cushion their citizens from its economic impact.

## GLOBAL HEALTH IMPACT

- **EurActiv:** [COVID-19 pandemic hinders access to care for patients with rare diseases](#). Nine out of ten people living with rare diseases across Europe have been adversely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, including three out of ten who said that this has caused “life-threatening” disruption, according to a recent study by EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe.

## VACCINE/ TREATMENT DEVELOPMENT

### IFPMA members

- **Fierce Biotech:** [Pfizer, BioNTech dose first U.S. subject with COVID-19 vaccine](#). The dose-escalation stage of the trial will enroll up to 360 subjects, initially out of sites in New York and Maryland. The U.S. clinical trial is studying four variants of the vaccine, code-named a1, b1, b2 and c2, to quickly determine which combination of mRNA format and target antigen holds the most promise.
- **CNBC:** [WHO says it will engage US to make remdesivir coronavirus treatment more widely available](#). The WHO said it will speak with the U.S. government and Gilead Sciences on how antiviral drug remdesivir could be made more widely available to treat COVID-19 as data emerges of its effectiveness.
- **The New Indian Express:** [India to try 1000 doses of Remdesivir to treat coronavirus, but can't make it for now](#). India has received 1,000 doses of Remdesivir, approved by the US FDA for Covid-19 treatment, as part of solidarity trials by the WHO happening across the globe, but the country's pharma companies will have to wait for the patent route chosen by Gilead to start production.

### Others

- **EMA:** [EMA Outlines Shortened Timeline For Covid-19 Therapies](#). The EMA outlined how it plans to reduce timelines to approve medicines and vaccines for coronavirus “while ensuring robust scientific opinions are reached.”
- **The Brussels Times:** [Dutch scientists discover antibody with potential to fight COVID-19](#). Cell culture tests conducted by scientists from Utrecht and Rotterdam showed that at least one type of antibody produced by genetically modified mice halted the virus' infection of a cell, meaning it “may offer potential for prevention and treatment of COVID-19.”
- **CNBC:** [Japan sending Fujifilm's flu drug favipiravir to over 40 countries for COVID-19 trials](#). Chinese researchers said Fujifilm's flu drug favipiravir (Avigan) was “clearly effective” in treating Covid-19. Now Japan is shipping favipiravir to 43 countries for clinical trials and testing it with mild and moderate patients.
- **Business Insider:** [Israel's government research agency says it successfully isolated a key coronavirus antibody, paving the way for a possible breakthrough treatment](#). In a joint statement with the Israel Institute for Biological Research, Naftali Bennet of the Israeli government's research said the agency briefed him with its “significant breakthrough” when he visited the facilities.

### New partnerships

- **Fierce Biotech:** [CDC launches nationwide public-private effort to coordinate coronavirus sequencing](#). The CDC launched a wide-ranging consortium—including dozens of state and federal labs, academic research centers, non-profit organizations and industry

companies—to rapidly expand the use of whole genome sequencing against the novel coronavirus. The goal of the project is to publish real-time data in the public domain tracking the virus' transmission and the evolution of COVID-19. This could also provide new targets for therapeutic and diagnostic tests.

## DIAGNOSTICS

- **STAT News:** [New CRISPR-based test for Covid-19 could be a simple, cheap at-home diagnostic, scientists say](#). A team headed by biologist Feng Zhang of the McGovern Institute at MIT and the Broad Institute has repurposed the genome-editing tool CRISPR into a test able to quickly detect as few as 100 coronavirus particles in a swab or saliva sample.
- **Al Jazeera:** [Germany won't use antibody tests until ethics are debated](#). Germany has secured millions of coronavirus antibody tests, but it will only use them after taking advice from the nation's ethics council. Roche won approval from the US Food and Drug Administration for its testing kits over the weekend and has agreed to a deal with Germany to supply three million tests in May, and five million a month thereafter.
- **New York Times:** [F.D.A. Orders Companies to Submit Antibody Test Data](#). The FDA announced that companies selling coronavirus antibody tests must submit data proving accuracy within the next 10 days or face removal from the market.
- **The Motley Fool:** [Approvals and Orders for Co-Diagnostics' COVID-19 Test Kits Are on the Rise](#). The Centre for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which regulates all U.S. laboratory testing performed on humans, has also approved the sale of the test to roughly 260,000 clinical laboratories across the country.
- **Forbes:** [Abbott Labs Eclipses 1.4 Million Rapid Coronavirus Tests Shipped Across U.S.](#) Abbott Laboratories has shipped 1.4 million of its highly touted “rapid” molecular tests for the Coronavirus strain COVID-19 in the last month across the U.S., keeping ahead of its commitments to ramp up production.

## CLINICAL TRIALS

- **STAT News:** [Efforts to beat back the coronavirus are critical. They're also making clinical trials harder](#). When public health officials succeed in stamping out outbreaks, they also make it more difficult for researchers to find the volunteers they need for clinical trials. Earlier trials of drugs and vaccines for Zika and Ebola were stymied by such obstacles.

## DISEASE PROGRESSION

- **Bloomberg:** [France Discovers Undiagnosed Coronavirus Patient From Last Year](#). A patient hospitalized with flu-like symptoms at the end of December in France turned out to have had Covid-19, a finding that suggests the new coronavirus was spreading there at least a month earlier than official records show.
- **Reuters:** [WHO urges countries to investigate early COVID-19 cases](#). The WHO that a report that COVID-19 had emerged in December in France, sooner than previously thought, was “not surprising”, and urged countries to investigate any other early suspicious cases. The findings help to better understand the potential virus circulation of COVID-19,” said WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier.

## WHO - COVID-19 UPDATE, 5 May

No media briefing by Dr Tedros today.

**WHO PAHO:** [PAHO Director leads media briefing on COVID-19 in the Americas.](#)

- It has now been three months since the first cases of #COVID19 were reported in the Americas. Since then, the virus has spread to every country in our region, resulting in more than 1,4 million cases and 79,590 deaths, as of May 4.
- There are many areas of the world where the number of cases is doubling in just a few days. In the US, Canada, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Chile & Mexico we are seeing cases double in 4 days or less.
- This is a concerning indicator that tells us that transmission is still very in those countries, and they should implement the full range of public health measures available –extensive testing, contact tracing, isolating cases &of course, social distancing