

COVID-19 Medical Treatments are an International Affair

Around the globe, companies and research institutions are working to develop a COVID-19 vaccine and effective medical treatments. The common threat has spurred unprecedented international health cooperation and billions in [new funding](#). Still, leaders in developing countries remain concerned that they will be left behind in the race for a vaccine, despite [pledges of global access](#) to innovative medical treatments.

More than 500 vaccines, antivirals, and other treatments for COVID-19 are under development today, according to the [Biotechnology Innovation Organization](#) (BIO), including 131 different vaccines. While scientists across countries and companies are collaborating on many of these projects, it is notable that 245 of these therapies are being developed by U.S. companies. No other country accounts for more than 40 of the total.

As a leader in the public health space, the first priority of the United States will rightfully be to protect our citizens. But with a pandemic that transcends borders, we will not be safe – and the global economy will remain in turmoil – if the coronavirus remains a threat in less-developed nations. And if the [past precedent](#) of global pandemics like H1N1 is any guide, the first wave of manufactured vaccines are likely to remain concentrated in the wealthy countries that lead development.

The United States can and should harness our deep expertise and capacity for innovation to [lead the way](#) on vaccine development. But we can't do it alone. We must continue to work with countries around the globe to support development of vaccines and therapeutics and scale up medical manufacturing capacity. Vaccine manufacturing also relies on global supply chains, with ingredients and components sourced from around the world. That makes it more critical than ever to ensure that these supply chains are resilient, and urge our partners to [remove export restrictions](#).

—Myron Brilliant, Executive Vice President and Head of International Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce