

The Global Picture for Manufacturing a COVID-19 Vaccine

Scientists around the globe are racing to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, which could stop the pandemic and jumpstart economic recovery. Just 10% of vaccines typically make it through all three trial phases, suggesting that only a fraction of the 27 vaccines currently in human trials will prove to be safe and effective. That's why the [World Health Organization](#) has encouraged multiple vaccine approaches, and billions in funding have poured in to support the work of pharmaceutical companies and medical research labs.

Global efforts: With the prospects for a vaccine by 2021 looking promising, global attention has moved to the pressing need to manufacture and distribute billions of doses. The Serum Institute in India – the world's largest vaccine producer – recently announced plans to manufacture hundreds of millions of doses of a still-unproven Oxford University vaccine. Russia has fast-tracked its own vaccine candidate and [announced](#) a mass-vaccination campaign as early as October.

Wealthy countries have already jumped at the chance to secure their supply. The U.K. closed deals with four drug-makers, including a [deal](#) last week with vaccine developers Sanofi and GSK to provide 60 million vaccine doses. The United States announced \$2.1 billion in funding for the partnership, tied to an agreement for 100 million doses. [Japan](#) tied up with Pfizer to treat 60 million people, while the EU announced plans earlier this year to use [\\$2.7 billion](#) in emergency funding for advance purchases of promising vaccine candidates. Many countries have also struck multiple deals with the leading vaccine developers to hedge their bets.

The big picture: For Americans, billions in investments and longstanding leadership in the healthcare field mean that the United States [will not need to depend on other countries](#) for a vaccine. That's good news for business. But the globalization of trade means that continued outbreaks anywhere in the world will pose major risks. The private sector and governments will need to work together to ensure that vaccine agreements support expanded access to the vaccine for everyone – not just the countries who can afford to make early investments.

–Myron Brilliant, Executive Vice President, Head of International Affairs