

# Discover & Deliver: Vaccination Efforts Exceed Expectations Despite Misguided Proposals and Manufacturing Challenges

This week, the U.S. surpassed [150 million COVID-19 vaccines](#) administered.

As the vaccination campaign continues across the country, it's worth reflecting on the progress – and challenges – with global vaccine distribution efforts.

**What's new:** The international humanitarian organization CARE [estimates](#) that for every \$1 a country invests on procuring the vaccine, \$5 must be invested to distribute it. Even as countries around the world receive vaccine doses, logistical, personnel, and supply chain challenges have slowed the delivery of the vaccine in the developing world.

CARE's findings are important to keep in mind given the [recent proposal](#) by India and South Africa at the World Trade Organization (WTO) to waive intellectual property (IP) rights on all COVID-19-related medicines, technologies, and devices. The proposal was put forth by activists under the [misguided assumption that IP rights are the barrier to distribution](#).

To the contrary, IP has been critical to facilitating partnerships between private companies, governments, the academic community, and non-profits to turbocharge the discovery and delivery of the vaccine.

The issues with a [Baltimore manufacturing facility](#), which led to 15 million ruined vaccine doses, sheds light on the fact that these vaccines are incredibly complex to manufacture.

IP protection – through licensing agreements and sharing of know-how – are critical to safeguarding the quality and safety of the vaccines as the global community ramps up the largest vaccination campaign in history.

**What's next:** As we surpass 13 months living through the global pandemic, it's worth remembering that we can do so much now that we couldn't do before. Effective IP protection was critical to getting us here, which is why it's all the more important that countries reject challenges to undermine IP protection.

This will help ensure that the innovative scientific community can continue to combat COVID-19 while also preparing to tackle the next global health threat.

—**Kelly Anderson, Senior Director, Health and Drug Policy, Global Innovation Policy Center**