

Discover & Deliver: A Five Point Plan for Worldwide Vaccine Equity

As the U.S. vaccination campaign continues – with [over 60% of adults](#) having received one dose of the vaccine – calls continue for the United States to do its part to help vaccinate the rest of the world. The urgent requests are borne from a recognition that the pandemic will not be defeated anywhere until its defeated everywhere.

What's new: This week, the Biden administration announced a commitment to donate an [additional 20 million doses](#) overseas by the end of June.

In his remarks, [President Biden noted](#) “We need to lead an entirely new effort...that involves working with the pharmaceutical companies and others and partner nations to vastly increase supply.”

On Wednesday, industry leaders announced they, too, will support a new effort to enhance vaccine equity. With a [projected 11 billion vaccines doses](#) available by the end of 2021, seven of the leading biopharmaceutical industry associations [released a five step plan](#) to advance COVID-19 vaccine equity, including:

1. **Increase dose sharing:** Partner with governments to share a “meaningful proportion of their doses with low- and lower-middle income countries.”
2. **Optimize production:** Increase production without comprising safety and quality.
3. **Address trade barriers:** Encourage governments and the WTO to remove barriers to raw materials and vaccines exports.
4. **Reinforce country readiness:** Collaborate with governments to support vaccine deployment.
5. **Support future innovation:** Prioritize efforts to develop vaccines for COVID-19 variants.

Why it matters: The five-point plan makes clear that industry stands ready to support the administration's vaccine equity goals.

A proposal from some countries under consideration at the World Trade Organization is seeking to waive intellectual property protections for these lifesaving vaccines. This proposal was introduced under the [misguided assumption](#) that IP is a barrier to vaccine access and could jeopardize efforts to produce and distribute billions of doses of the desperately-needed vaccine.

As new outbreaks emerge around the world, we urge the administration to honor President Biden's words and support a new effort, one where we continue to work together to ensure vaccines reach consumers in markets large and small around the world.

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

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