



We Must End Trade-Pact Obstructions Against Global Production of COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments

- 1. Global vaccine apartheid could cost millions of lives, push tens of millions more into poverty and spawn mutated virus variants that evade vaccines.** There can be no end to the public health disaster or economic crises anywhere if people in developing nations are not vaccinated. Outbreaks anywhere can lead to variants that spread more easily and/or infect vaccinated people.
- 2. Current production capacity can't supply enough vaccines, treatments, or diagnostic tests for the world.** Many in low- and middle-income countries [will not get vaccinated until at least 2022](#), and those in the [world's poorest may have to wait until 2024](#) for mass immunization, if it happens at all. As we enter the second quarter, about [one billion doses](#) have been produced in 2021. We need 10 to 12 billion to reach global herd immunity. Creating greater supply capacity is essential, because COVID vaccines are expected to be like flu vaccines that must be given regularly, not a one-time shot.
- 3. Monopoly protections mean that pharmaceutical corporations control how much and where vaccines, tests and treatments are made.** Patents and other exclusive controls cover all aspects of development, production and use, despite governments having invested our tax dollars far more than pharmaceutical corporations used their funds to develop these vaccines. By one estimate, governments have paid more than \$112 billion to pharmaceutical firms, mainly for COVID-19 vaccine development.
- 4. The WTO requires its 159 member nations to provide pharmaceutical firms these monopoly controls** in a text called the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property or "TRIPS".
- 5. A temporary COVID-19 emergency [waiver of some WTO TRIPS intellectual property monopoly rights](#) would remove a key obstacle now thwarting worldwide access to the formulas and technology to make vaccines, medicines and tests to prevent, treat and control COVID-19.** It would free countries to adjust policies and practices to respond to the pandemic and facilitate investment in more production capacity for vaccines, treatments and tests.
- 6. Under Trump, the U.S. blocked the WTO TRIPS waiver and, so far, President Biden has not joined the 100+ countries in support of the WTO TRIPS waiver.** Very few countries oppose.
- 7. In every region of the world, there are firms with the capacity to produce vaccines, treatments and tests and greatly increase supply if the formulas and technology are shared.** Some corporations with vaccine monopolies are contracting with these firms, but they limit how much is produced and where it can be used or sold.
- 8. During the height of the HIV-AIDS crisis, the U.S. opposed "flexibilities" in WTO rules and millions died needlessly.** The flexibilities ultimately were agreed upon to mitigate some negative impacts intellectual property rules may have on public health. But these tools are not designed to fight a global pandemic. Plus, countries that have tried using the flexibilities in the past have faced fierce U.S. opposition.
- 9. Current initiatives are not enough to immunize the majority of the world population as quickly as possible.** COVAX, a joint initiative of several international bodies, would only distribute vaccines to 20% of low- and middle-income countries' populations, while [not a single pharmaceutical firm has donated rights](#) for COVID-19 medical technologies through the WHO COVID-19 Technology Pool.
- 10. Global economic losses of [\\$9.2 trillion in 2021 are projected under the current scenario](#) of few people in developing nations being vaccinated, [with rich countries like the U.S. hardest hit](#).**

Tell President Biden to stop blocking the WTO waiver so we boost production of COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and tests, and crush the virus.

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