



2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Final Compliance Report

Prepared by

Kaylin Dawe, Jae Yoon Mary Noh and the G20 Research Group

University of Toronto

Toronto

and

Alexander Ignatov and the Center for International Institutions Research

Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration,

Moscow

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Feedback, as always, is welcome and is kept anonymous.

We encourage readers to send comments to

G20@utoronto.ca

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14. Health Preparedness and Response

“2020-18: We commit to advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.80 (90%)	

Background

Advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response is fundamental to a comprehensive response to the spread of infectious diseases. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that the global community must take consistent action in all stages of pandemics in order to provide a comprehensive response to global health emergencies and minimize their social and economic repercussions. The World Health Organization (WHO), in particular, emphasized the need to execute preparedness in order to “strengthen the capacity of governments, institutions, and communities to withstand public health emergencies.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 members stated its support in implementing International Health Regulations (IHR) to “prevent, detect, report early and rapidly respond to infectious diseases,” as well as “do[ing] what is necessary to ensure the international effort can extinguish the outbreak.”⁶⁰⁶⁹ The G20 leaders’ emphasis and priority on health this year was in the context of the Ebola virus outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.⁶⁰⁷⁰ The G20 members also reaffirmed their commitment to follow applicable WHO recommended measures. Lastly, the G20 members agreed to

⁶⁰⁶⁹ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

⁶⁰⁷⁰ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

address longer-term systemic issues and gaps in capability, preparedness and response capacity that expose the global economy to the impacts of infectious disease.”⁶⁰⁷¹

In 2017, the G20 health ministers met for the first time and published the Berlin Declaration. The G20 health ministers acknowledged the global interconnectedness of societies, governments, and economies and that an infectious disease can have repercussions socially, economically, and politically.⁶⁰⁷² The Berlin Declaration also recognized the G20’s “unique position to lead by example and foster global preparedness for and responsiveness to health crises.”⁶⁰⁷³ The G20 leaders therefore committed to foster global preparedness to health crises by supporting initiatives that strengthen countries’ health systems, “particularly where they are weak and conditions for access to treatment and healthcare are poor.”⁶⁰⁷⁴

In 2018, G20 leaders proclaimed that they would “continue to strengthen core capacities required by International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) for prevention, detection and response to public health emergencies, while recognizing the critical role played by WHO in this regard.”⁶⁰⁷⁵ However, this remained a fairly broad statement that failed to consider and attempt to foresee how pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response to public health emergencies might be hindered by institutional design problems inherent in international organizations, such as the WHO.

In 2019, the leaders stated that they would “strengthen health systems with a focus on quality, including through enhancing health workforce and human resources for policy development,” and that they would “promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address...prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.”⁶⁰⁷⁶ The G20 health members also published the Okayama Declaration that reiterated the importance of global health emergency preparedness, prevention, detection, and response and to, therefore, comply with the IHR and to continue to support the WHO’s role in overseeing IHR implementation.⁶⁰⁷⁷

Any policy measures that were introduced have proven to be only partially effective in successfully preparing for and responding to the health impacts of pandemics like COVID-19 on the human population. Furthermore, the phrase “promote healthy and active ageing” was unclear in that it failed to acknowledge the unique health needs of each population group and the appropriate level of preparedness and response required to address them. In 2020, the leaders vowed to “take all necessary health measures and seek to ensure adequate financing to contain the pandemic and protect people, especially the most vulnerable.”⁶⁰⁷⁸ While much progress has been made by G20

⁶⁰⁷¹ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

⁶⁰⁷² Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers: Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow, G20 Information Centre (Berlin) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

⁶⁰⁷³ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers: Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow, G20 Information Centre (Berlin) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

⁶⁰⁷⁴ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁶⁰⁷⁵ G20 Leaders’ Health Commitments, 2008-2019, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-health.html>

⁶⁰⁷⁶ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2019-06-29-g20_leaders-dirigeants_g20.aspx

⁶⁰⁷⁷ Okayama Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, G20 Information Centre (Okayama) 20 October 2019. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health.html>

⁶⁰⁷⁸ Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 March 2020. Access Date 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

members to combat and respond to COVID-19, seniors and vulnerable people remain linked to the largest number of infections, hospitalizations and deaths.⁶⁰⁷⁹

World leaders recognize that health and the spread of infectious diseases is affected by a variety of economic, environmental and social determinants. In order to appropriately prepare and respond to these factors, “increasing attention should go to ensuring that health policies benefit the least well-off.”⁶⁰⁸⁰ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has stated that the international community has a responsibility to prepare for potential health crises, through strengthening “the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction, and management of national and global health risks.”⁶⁰⁸¹ Indeed, a recent McKinsey report found that government policy which effectively contains the health impacts of COVID-19 might lead to faster economic growth, rebound and recovery.⁶⁰⁸² Consequently, at the 2020 Summit in Riyadh, G20 leaders agreed that they would continue to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response, while taking into account the unique situation of each member country.

Commitment Features

In this commitment, there are four targets. These are advancing global pandemic: preparedness, prevention detection and response.

“Commit” is understood to mean to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or an organization) to a certain course or policy⁶⁰⁸³ “Advanc[ing]” is understood to mean move or push forward, make progress, give active support to, promote, cause an event to occur at an earlier date.⁶⁰⁸⁴ “Global” is understood to mean relating to the whole world, world-wide⁶⁰⁸⁵ “Pandemic” refers to an outbreak of a disease prevalent globally or in the whole world.⁶⁰⁸⁶ In the context of this commitment, it is mainly referring to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Preparedness” refers to a state of readiness.⁶⁰⁸⁷ Preparedness, in the context of global health emergencies, refers to planning processes prior to the emergence of global health emergencies that attempt to minimize its human mortality, social disruption and economic consequences. Examples of “preparedness,” as recommended by the WHO, include but are not limited to funding to anticipated preparedness planning, establishing organizations responsible for producing pandemic preparedness plans, establishing a core national pandemic planning committee, identifying individuals and

⁶⁰⁷⁹ Risk for COVID-19 Infection, Hospitalization, and Death by Age Group, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Washington, DC) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-age.html>

⁶⁰⁸⁰ Health for Everyone? Social Inequalities in Health and Health Systems, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/3c8385d0-en.pdf>

⁶⁰⁸¹ Strengthening health systems during a pandemic: The role of development finance, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=134_134620-xueji119ph

⁶⁰⁸² Nine scenarios for the COVID-19 economy, McKinsey & Company (Toronto) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/strategy-and-corporate-finance/our-insights/nine-scenarios-for-the-covid-19-economy#>

⁶⁰⁸³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁶⁰⁸⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁶⁰⁸⁵ Global, Oxford Languages (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/global>

⁶⁰⁸⁶ Pandemic, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/pandemic_1

⁶⁰⁸⁷ Preparedness, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/preparedness>

organizations that will contribute to planning such as national, regional public health authorities, national virologists, and nongovernmental organizations.⁶⁰⁸⁸ Preparedness, in this commitment, is not limited to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Actions for preparedness may be intended for future possible global health emergencies beyond this compliance cycle.

“Prevention” the action of stopping something from happening or arising.⁶⁰⁸⁹ “Prevention, in the context of this commitment, refers to actions G20 members take in preventing their citizens from being infected with infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Examples of “prevention include but are not limited to administering regular sanitization in public settings, implementing COVID-19 information campaigns that prevent the spread of COVID-19, enforcing social distancing rules, and imposing travel restrictions and stay-at-home orders.

“Detection” refers to the action or process of identifying the presence of something concealed.⁶⁰⁹⁰ Examples of “detection” include but are not limited to detecting and investigating the first evidence of sustained human-human transmission of a virus with pandemic potential, investigating and assessing the earliest cases of a disease, establishing organisations that specialize in reporting and surveillance, characterizing the features of the new disease and establishing more accessible testing centers.

“Response” refers to a reaction to something.⁶⁰⁹¹ Response, in the context of this commitment, refers to actions a G20 member takes in reaction to global health emergencies, especially the COVID-19 pandemic, and its relevant repercussions to society, economy, and people’s health. Examples of “response” include but are not limited to distributing personal protective equipment to hospitals, providing targeted health service accessibility to vulnerable segments of society, vaccinating health-care workers, and supporting the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator initiative (through financing, collaboration, personnel development, exchange of best practices).

The commitment has a current component, “We commit to,” and also a near-future-oriented component “advancing global pandemic...⁶⁰⁹²” The structure of the commitment therefore provides member states with urgency and necessity. The clause, “we commit to” is substantially politically binding. Member states have already come to terms with the fact that they have already and continue to make significant commitment “to advancing global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response.” In the immediate future, i.e. in the compliance period, and they will continue to advance efforts in the four aforementioned areas.

The commitment discretely refers to the member states with “we,” thereby referring to the fact that all member states are included and that they will aid each other in combatting the pandemic.⁶⁰⁹³

As well, this commitment has a depth component of how strong the action taken by the G20 member is. A G20 member must take significant action on either the domestic or international level for full compliance. If a G20 member only takes partial action on one or both levels, it would only be

⁶⁰⁸⁸ WHO checklist for influenza pandemic preparedness planning, World Health Organisation (Geneva) 2005. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/influenza/resources/documents/FluCheck6web.pdf>

⁶⁰⁸⁹ Prevention, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/prevention?q=prevention>

⁶⁰⁹⁰ Detection, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/detection?q=detection>

⁶⁰⁹¹ Response, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/response?q=response>

⁶⁰⁹² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁶⁰⁹³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

considered partial compliance. Partial actions could include verbal reaffirmation of the commitment or attending meetings that discuss global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response. For strong actions, a G20 would have to initiate a program or new law, contribute financial or technical assistance or implement policy changes to implementing specific measures to promote a country or partnership's capacity to advance global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response.

Full compliance, therefore, requires the G20 member to take strong action in all four areas or strong action in three areas and some action in the other. Partial compliance requires the G20 member to take strong action in one or two areas and some action in the other, or some combination of this to demonstrate compliance with at least half or 50% of this commitment. Anything less than this is a -1 for non-compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member taken insufficient action to advance global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response.
0	The G20 member has taken some action to advance global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response.
+1	The G20 member has taken strong action to advance global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response.

*Compliance Director: Natasha Pirzada
Lead Analyst: Miranda Bocci*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 30 November 2020, Argentina published decree 956/2020 in the Boletín Oficial that stipulated conditions for the extension of lockdown status for the Buenos Aires metropolitan region until 20 December 2020.⁶⁰⁹⁴ The measures issued in the decree restrict peoples movement, preventing big gatherings and encouraging a strict social distancing of at least 1.5 meters between individuals.⁶⁰⁹⁵ Travel restrictions, such as forbidding entry to non-resident individuals and demanding a negative COVID-19 test also continued to be put in place to reduce the chances of spreading the virus.⁶⁰⁹⁶

On 4 December 2020, Argentinian senators passed a “millionaires tax” that would target those with assets worth more than ARS200 million, which adds up to about 12,000 people.⁶⁰⁹⁷ Those impacted by the taxes would have to pay up to a 3.5 per cent tax on assets in Argentina and up to 5.25 per cent on assets outside the country.⁶⁰⁹⁸ The money raised from these taxes would be allocated between medical supplies, relief for small and medium-sized businesses, social developments, scholarships for students, and natural gas projects.⁶⁰⁹⁹

⁶⁰⁹⁴ Argentina-Buenos Aires Lockdown Status Extended, KPMG (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/12/flash-alert-2020-477.html>

⁶⁰⁹⁵ Argentina-Buenos Aires Lockdown Status Extended, KPMG (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/12/flash-alert-2020-477.html>

⁶⁰⁹⁶ Argentina-Buenos Aires Lockdown Status Extended, KPMG (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/12/flash-alert-2020-477.html>

⁶⁰⁹⁷ COVID: Argentina Passes Tax on Wealthy to Pay for Virus Measures, BBC (Buenos Aires) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-55199058>

⁶⁰⁹⁸ COVID: Argentina Passes Tax on Wealthy to Pay for Virus Measures, BBC (Buenos Aires) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-55199058>

⁶⁰⁹⁹ COVID: Argentina Passes Tax on Wealthy to Pay for Virus Measures, BBC (Buenos Aires) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-55199058>

On 10 December 2020, President Alberto Fernandez disclosed a national vaccination plan in partnership with Russia's Sputnik COVID-19 vaccine.⁶¹⁰⁰ The plan included the goal of administering 60 million doses across Argentina in the first six months of 2021 to the elderly, health care workers, and military officials.⁶¹⁰¹

On 20 December 2020, Argentina published decree 1033/2020 that established social, preventive and distancing measures.⁶¹⁰² The measures addressed social distancing, economic activities, sports activities, quarantining procedures and prohibited social gatherings.⁶¹⁰³ Social gatherings of more than 20 people in closed places and more than 100 people in outdoor spaces were prohibited.⁶¹⁰⁴ The decree also mandated that employers guarantee safety and hygiene conditions to maintain the health of their employees.⁶¹⁰⁵

On 24 December 2020, Argentina published decree 2252/2020 in the Boletín Oficial that announced the closure of the Argentinian border.⁶¹⁰⁶ The measures issued in the decree suspended flights from and to the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Denmark, Italy and Holland. Following the issuance of this decree, only Argentinian citizens and residents would be permitted to cross the land borders.⁶¹⁰⁷ All ports of entry would be suspended to foreign nationals, but international cargo and medical and humanitarian aid would be exempt from these measures.⁶¹⁰⁸

On 29 December 2020, Minister of Health of the Nation Ginés González García and the Federal Health Council began the vaccination campaign, by administering the vaccines to health care workers.⁶¹⁰⁹ It was the last meeting of the year, a holiday for Argentines and also the start of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.⁶¹¹⁰ The Minister's counterpart from the province of Santa Fe, Sonia Martorano, was reported to have said that "we lived with great emotion, it is a historic day and

⁶¹⁰⁰ Coronavirus: how is the mega vaccination plan designed by the Government (Olivos) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.ambito.com/politica/vacunacion/coronavirus-como-es-el-megaplan-que-disena-el-gobierno-n5150581>

⁶¹⁰¹ Coronavirus: how is the mega vaccination plan designed by the Government (Olivos) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.ambito.com/politica/vacunacion/coronavirus-como-es-el-megaplan-que-disena-el-gobierno-n5150581>

⁶¹⁰² Social, Preventive and Compulsory Distancing and Social, Preventive and Compulsory Isolation, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2021. Access Date: April 25, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238890/20201221>

⁶¹⁰³ Social, Preventive and Compulsory Distancing and Social, Preventive and Compulsory Isolation, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2021. Access Date: April 25, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238890/20201221>

⁶¹⁰⁴ Social, Preventive and Compulsory Distancing and Social, Preventive and Compulsory Isolation, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2021. Access Date: April 25, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238890/20201221>

⁶¹⁰⁵ Social, Preventive and Compulsory Distancing and Social, Preventive and Compulsory Isolation, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2021. Access Date: April 25, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238890/20201221>

⁶¹⁰⁶ Administrative Decision 2252/2020 Border Closure, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239143/20201224>

⁶¹⁰⁷ Administrative Decision 2252/2020 Border Closure, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2020. Access Date: April 20, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239143/20201224>

⁶¹⁰⁸ Administrative Decision 2252/2020 Border Closure, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2020. Access Date: April 20, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239143/20201224>

⁶¹⁰⁹ The Country's Health Ministers Celebrate the Start of Vaccination Against COVID-19, Argentina Unida 29 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministros-de-salud-del-pais-celebran-el-inicio-de-la-vacunacion-contra-la-covid-19>

⁶¹¹⁰ The Country's Health Ministers Celebrate the Start of Vaccination Against COVID-19, Argentina Unida 29 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministros-de-salud-del-pais-celebran-el-inicio-de-la-vacunacion-contra-la-covid-19>

we had a lot of support from health personnel.” It was noted that 700 people had already been vaccinated in public and private institutions.⁶¹¹¹

On 30 December 2020, Argentina authorized the Astra-Zeneca Oxford vaccine, after approving the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine earlier.⁶¹¹² The government released its plan of purchasing 22 million doses of the Astra-Zeneca Oxford vaccine in the first few months of 2021 and an additional 750,000 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines in December 2020.⁶¹¹³ It is the first Latin American country to authorize the British vaccine and according to the resolution of the National Administration of Medicines, Food and Medical Technology, “the mentioned product presents an acceptable benefit-risk balance, allowing to support the granting of the registration and conditional authorization of the product for the requested indication.”⁶¹¹⁴

On 16 January 2021, Science, Technology & Innovation Minister Roberto Salvarezza reported that the SARS-CoV-2 variant had been detected in a traveller from the United Kingdom.⁶¹¹⁵ The British variant was first reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) in December 2020 and after being found in dozens of other countries is believed to be more easily transmitted because of a mutation of a spike protein that latches on to humans.⁶¹¹⁶

On 30 January 2021, President Fernández issued his 18th official quarantine announcement.⁶¹¹⁷ He officially announced the renewal social distancing measures for the month of February and also reaffirmed the return of school children to their classes.⁶¹¹⁸

On 1 February 2021, Argentina extended the shutdown of the air, land, and sea borders to foreigners to prevent travelers from spreading the virus in the country.⁶¹¹⁹

On 9 February 2021, Argentina’s drug regulator authorized the emergency use of the Chinese-made COVID-19 vaccine Sinopharm.⁶¹²⁰ Argentina expected 1 million doses to arrive in the following days.⁶¹²¹

⁶¹¹¹ The Country’s Health Ministers Celebrate the Start of Vaccination Against COVID-19, Argentina Unida 29 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministros-de-salud-del-pais-celebran-el-inicio-de-la-vacunacion-contra-la-covid-19>

⁶¹¹² Argentina authorizes use of British AstraZeneca vaccine (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/noticias-65af4c7b83246f579dc3319424482c02>

⁶¹¹³ Argentina authorizes use of British AstraZeneca vaccine (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/noticias-65af4c7b83246f579dc3319424482c02>

⁶¹¹⁴ Argentina authorizes use of British AstraZeneca vaccine (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/noticias-65af4c7b83246f579dc3319424482c02>

⁶¹¹⁵ Argentina detects first case of British coronavirus variant (Buenos Aires) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/argentina-detects-first-case-of-british-coronavirus-variant.phtml>

⁶¹¹⁶ Argentina detects first case of British coronavirus variant (Buenos Aires) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/argentina-detects-first-case-of-british-coronavirus-variant.phtml>

⁶¹¹⁷ No change except classes: Social distancing to be extended until March 1 (Buenos Aires) 30 January 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/no-change-except-classes-social-distancing-to-be-extended-until-march-1.phtml>

⁶¹¹⁸ No change except classes: Social distancing to be extended until March 1 (Buenos Aires) 30 January 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/no-change-except-classes-social-distancing-to-be-extended-until-march-1.phtml>

⁶¹¹⁹ Legislation and Official Notices: National Direction of Migration, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/240290/20210201>

⁶¹²⁰ Argentina Approves Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-argentina-vaccine-idUSKBN2AL0P9>

⁶¹²¹ Argentina Approves Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-argentina-vaccine-idUSKBN2AL0P9>

On 17 March 2021, Argentina launched a new digital services to manage the pandemic: the Cuidar Escuelas platform.⁶¹²² This platform would allow for the registration of COVID-19 cases in educational institutions, would provide the digital vaccination card and would allow those who worked in educational institutions to register for vaccines.⁶¹²³ The platform was developed with the goal of early detection of COVID-19 cases and to control and monitor the cases in educational institutions.⁶¹²⁴

On 25 March 2021, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team held a meeting with Argentina's Economy Minister, Martín Guzmán and his team to discuss a new economic plan.⁶¹²⁵ Argentina and the IMF team agreed that there was a need for macroeconomic sustainability and planning for post-COVID recovery.⁶¹²⁶ The discussions allowed the officials and the IMF team to recognize the significance of policies to boost exports and productivity, which would stabilize the Argentinian economy.⁶¹²⁷

On 25 March 2021, Argentina announced its decision to suspend flights from Brazil, Chile, and Mexico to prevent different COVID-19 strains from entering Argentina.⁶¹²⁸ Argentinians who return from other countries would continue to be required to complete testing and mandatory isolation.⁶¹²⁹

On 28 March 2021, Argentina received the first shipment of vaccines acquired through the COVAX Mechanism, which is a global fund that works towards the equitable distribution of vaccines around the globe.⁶¹³⁰ Argentina received 218,000 doses of the Astra Zeneca/Oxford vaccine which would be added to the ongoing vaccination campaign.⁶¹³¹

On 8 April 2021, Minister of Health Carla Vizotti and the Minister of Defense Augustin Rossi thanked the United States Southern Command Admiral, Craig S. Faller, for the donation of three mobile hospitals for USD3.5 million to Argentina.⁶¹³² The admiral has been reported to have said that “since the COVID-19 crisis began, Southern Command has worked closely with its Argentine partners. Together, we have made 15 humanitarian assistance donations related to COVID-19 to

⁶¹²² The National Government Launched New Digital Services for the Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health. 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-nuevos-servicios-digitales-para-la-gestion-de-la-pandemia-de>

⁶¹²³ The National Government Launched New Digital Services for the Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health. 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-nuevos-servicios-digitales-para-la-gestion-de-la-pandemia-de>

⁶¹²⁴ The National Government Launched New Digital Services for the Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health. 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-nuevos-servicios-digitales-para-la-gestion-de-la-pandemia-de>

⁶¹²⁵ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, IMF (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

⁶¹²⁶ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, IMF (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

⁶¹²⁷ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, IMF (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

⁶¹²⁸ Argentina Suspends Flights From Brazil, Chile, and Mexico Due to Worsening Pandemic, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/salud-coronavirus-argentina-vuelos-idLTAKBN2BI02H>

⁶¹²⁹ Argentina Suspends Flights From Brazil, Chile, and Mexico Due to Worsening Pandemic, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/salud-coronavirus-argentina-vuelos-idLTAKBN2BI02H>

⁶¹³⁰ Argentina Receives First of COVID-19 Vaccines Through COVAX Mechanism, UNICEF (Buenos Aires) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/press-releases/argentina-receives-first-covid-19-vaccines-through-covax-mechanism>

⁶¹³¹ Argentina Receives First of COVID-19 Vaccines Through COVAX Mechanism, UNICEF (Buenos Aires) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/press-releases/argentina-receives-first-covid-19-vaccines-through-covax-mechanism>

⁶¹³² US Southern Command Chief Craig Faller donated \$ 3.5 million mobile hospitals to fight COVID-19 (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.infobae.com/politica/2021/04/08/el-jefe-del-comando-sur-de-los-estados-unidos-craig-faller-dono-hospitales-moviles-por-usd-35-millones-para-la-lucha-contra-el-covid-19/>

support Argentina's response to the pandemic, providing protective equipment, medical supplies, and monitoring and detection tools."⁶¹³³

On 8 April 2021, Minister Vizzotti held a meeting to analyze the progress and the implementation of the vaccination strategy against COVID-19 in older adults.⁶¹³⁴ They agreed to increase the speed of the vaccination rollout and promised to hold four different vaccination posts throughout the city, with more to follow.⁶¹³⁵ The Ministry of Health also agreed to work towards strengthening testing procedures and to work towards early detection.⁶¹³⁶

On 27 April 2021, Minister Vizzotti and Minister of Productive Development Matías Kulfas, held a meeting to work towards of the goal of guaranteeing medicinal oxygen during the second wave of COVID-19.⁶¹³⁷ The officials recognized that the current use of oxygen was between two to three times higher than last year.⁶¹³⁸ Some strategies discussed to optimize oxygen use included training medical staff in the rational use of oxygen, carrying out infrastructure improvements in hospitals and prioritizing the use of oxygen in the health care sector.⁶¹³⁹

On 1 May 2021, Minister of Health Carla Vizzotti, received 250 new respirators to strengthen the response against the second wave of COVID-19.⁶¹⁴⁰ The respirators will be distributed to different jurisdictions based on demand and number of respirators per inhabitant.⁶¹⁴¹ The Government of Argentina has distributed 3,682 respirators since the beginning of the pandemic and will distribute 296 more respirators in the upcoming year.⁶¹⁴²

⁶¹³³ US Southern Command Chief Craig Faller donated \$ 3.5 million mobile hospitals to fight COVID-19 (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.infobae.com/politica/2021/04/08/el-jefe-del-comando-sur-de-los-estados-unidos-craig-faller-dono-hospitales-moviles-por-usd-35-millones-para-la-lucha-contra-el-covid-19/>

⁶¹³⁴ Vizzotti an Volnovich Analyzed the Implementation of Vaccination Strategies Against SARS-CoV-2 and Infuenza in Older Adults, Ministry of Health, 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-volnovich-analizaron-la-implementacion-de-las-estrategias-de-vacunacion-contra>

⁶¹³⁵ Vizzotti an Volnovich Analyzed the Implementation of Vaccination Strategies Against SARS-CoV-2 and Infuenza in Older Adults, Ministry of Health, 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-volnovich-analizaron-la-implementacion-de-las-estrategias-de-vacunacion-contra>

⁶¹³⁶ Vizzotti an Volnovich Analyzed the Implementation of Vaccination Strategies Against SARS-CoV-2 and Infuenza in Older Adults, Ministry of Health, 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-volnovich-analizaron-la-implementacion-de-las-estrategias-de-vacunacion-contra>

⁶¹³⁷ Cafiero, Vizzotti, and Kulfas Met With Oxygen Supplier Businessmen to Guarantee Supply, Argentina Unida 27 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-vizzotti-y-kulfas-se-reunieron-con-empresarios-proveedores-de-oxigeno-para>

⁶¹³⁸ Cafiero, Vizzotti, and Kulfas Met With Oxygen Supplier Businessmen to Guarantee Supply, Argentina Unida 27 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-vizzotti-y-kulfas-se-reunieron-con-empresarios-proveedores-de-oxigeno-para>

⁶¹³⁹ Cafiero, Vizzotti, and Kulfas Met With Oxygen Supplier Businessmen to Guarantee Supply, Argentina Unida 27 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-vizzotti-y-kulfas-se-reunieron-con-empresarios-proveedores-de-oxigeno-para>

⁶¹⁴⁰ Vizzotti Received 250 New Respirators to Reinforce the Care of COVID-19 Cases Throughout the Country, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-recibio-250-nuevos-respiradores-para-reforzar-la-atencion-de-casos-de-covid-19-en>

⁶¹⁴¹ Vizzotti Received 250 New Respirators to Reinforce the Care of COVID-19 Cases Throughout the Country, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-recibio-250-nuevos-respiradores-para-reforzar-la-atencion-de-casos-de-covid-19-en>

⁶¹⁴² Vizzotti Received 250 New Respirators to Reinforce the Care of COVID-19 Cases Throughout the Country, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-recibio-250-nuevos-respiradores-para-reforzar-la-atencion-de-casos-de-covid-19-en>

On 11 May 2021, national health authorities received 2,200,000 out of 4,400,000 antigen tests for COVID-19, which will be distributed to all jurisdictions.⁶¹⁴³ The tests provide a quick result and do not require complex equipment.⁶¹⁴⁴ This purchase by the Ministry of Health will therefore ensure diagnosis of COVID-19 and also help mitigate its transmission throughout the community.⁶¹⁴⁵

On 24 May 2021, the Minister of Health, and the presidential advisor, Cecilia Nicolini, attended a meeting with the Mexican Secretary of Health, Jorge Alcocer Verla, to enhance the response to the second wave of COVID-19.⁶¹⁴⁶ Authorities from the health, science and innovation sector of both countries attended the meeting to exchange experiences on how to improve access to vaccines in the Latin American region.⁶¹⁴⁷ The G20 members also discussed clinical research, development of the health sector, cooperation in the science and technology sector, and immunizations.⁶¹⁴⁸

On 5 June 2021, the Minister of Health and other health ministers revealed the next steps of the vaccination plan against COVID-19.⁶¹⁴⁹ They proposed that once the groups defined in the Strategic Vaccination Plan have been vaccinated, other groups without risks be incorporated into the plan.⁶¹⁵⁰

On 25 June 2021, national health teams visited the Mendoza and San Luis provinces to study pandemic efforts.⁶¹⁵¹ They discussed approaches to COVID-19, as well as strategies to control border crossings to prevent the entry of infected travellers.⁶¹⁵²

⁶¹⁴³ Health Received More than 2 Million Antigen Tests for COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-recibio-mas-de-2-millones-de-test-de-antigenos-para-covid-19>

⁶¹⁴⁴ Health Received More than 2 Million Antigen Tests for COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-recibio-mas-de-2-millones-de-test-de-antigenos-para-covid-19>

⁶¹⁴⁵ Health Received More than 2 Million Antigen Tests for COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-recibio-mas-de-2-millones-de-test-de-antigenos-para-covid-19>

⁶¹⁴⁶ Vizzotti and Nicolini Led a Binational Meeting in Mexico with Health, Science and Social Security Authorities of Both Countries to Enhance Response to the Second Wave of COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-encabezaron-en-mexico-encuentro-binacional-con-autoridades-de-salud>

⁶¹⁴⁷ Vizzotti and Nicolini Led a Binational Meeting in Mexico with Health, Science and Social Security Authorities of Both Countries to Enhance Response to the Second Wave of COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-encabezaron-en-mexico-encuentro-binacional-con-autoridades-de-salud>

⁶¹⁴⁸ Vizzotti and Nicolini Led a Binational Meeting in Mexico with Health, Science and Social Security Authorities of Both Countries to Enhance Response to the Second Wave of COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-encabezaron-en-mexico-encuentro-binacional-con-autoridades-de-salud>

⁶¹⁴⁹ Vizzotti and Health Ministers from Around the Country Defined the Next Steps of the Vaccination Plan Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-ministros-de-salud-de-todo-el-pais-definieron-los-proximos-pasos-del-plan-de>

⁶¹⁵⁰ Vizzotti and Health Ministers from Around the Country Defined the Next Steps of the Vaccination Plan Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-ministros-de-salud-de-todo-el-pais-definieron-los-proximos-pasos-del-plan-de>

⁶¹⁵¹ National Health Teams Visited Mendoza and San Luis to Monitor the Management of the Pandemic in the Provinces, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/equipos-de-salud-nacionales-visitaron-mendoza-y-san-luis-para-acompanar-la-gestion-de-la>

On 1 July 2021, the Minister of Health ordered researchers to begin a study on the efficacy and safety of the combination of different COVID-19 vaccines.⁶¹⁵³ The Minister recognized the need to deliver a solid response to the population at a time of uncertainty.⁶¹⁵⁴ The study will explore the effects of mixing the different vaccines available and its effects on the new variants.⁶¹⁵⁵

On 7 July 2021, government officials held a meeting at the Ministry of Health headquarters to design a new public platform that will provide data on COVID-19 vaccines.⁶¹⁵⁶ The platform will also provide information about the distribution of vaccines, their effectiveness, and the number administered to the public.⁶¹⁵⁷

On 9 July 2021, the Government of Argentina extended the border closure until 6 August 2021.⁶¹⁵⁸ According to this ban, passengers on direct flights from India, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Africa and Chile are barred from entering.⁶¹⁵⁹ This will curb the spread of COVID-19.⁶¹⁶⁰

On 11 July 2021, the Minister of Health signed an agreement with Moderna Inc. for the supply of 20 million doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.⁶¹⁶¹ The storage conditions of the Moderna vaccine are similar to those already available in Argentina, which is convenient as the vaccines can be distributed immediately after they arrive in the country.⁶¹⁶²

On 27 July 2021, the Federal Health Council and the Ministry of Health signed agreements to implement the National Program for Healthy Cities, Municipalities, and Communities, which would

⁶¹⁵² National Health Teams Visited Mendoza and San Luis to Monitor the Management of the Pandemic in the Provinces, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/equipos-de-salud-nacionales-visitaron-mendoza-y-san-luis-para-acompanar-la-gestion-de-la>

⁶¹⁵³ The Ministry of Health of the Nation Convened Research Groups to Study Combined Schemes of Vaccines Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-salud-de-la-nacion-convoco-grupos-de-investigacion-para-estudiar-esquemas>

⁶¹⁵⁴ The Ministry of Health of the Nation Convened Research Groups to Study Combined Schemes of Vaccines Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-salud-de-la-nacion-convoco-grupos-de-investigacion-para-estudiar-esquemas>

⁶¹⁵⁵ The Ministry of Health of the Nation Convened Research Groups to Study Combined Schemes of Vaccines Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-salud-de-la-nacion-convoco-grupos-de-investigacion-para-estudiar-esquemas>

⁶¹⁵⁶ Development of an Open Platform for Public Access to Information on COVID-19 Vaccines Advances, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/avanza-el-desarrollo-de-una-plataforma-abierta-de-acceso-publico-la-informacion-sobre>

⁶¹⁵⁷ Development of an Open Platform for Public Access to Information on COVID-19 Vaccines Advances, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/avanza-el-desarrollo-de-una-plataforma-abierta-de-acceso-publico-la-informacion-sobre>

⁶¹⁵⁸ Border Closure Extension, Official Bulletin Argentina Republic (Buenos Aires) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/246738/20210709>

⁶¹⁵⁹ Border Closure Extension, Official Bulletin Argentina Republic (Buenos Aires) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/246738/20210709>

⁶¹⁶⁰ Border Closure Extension, Official Bulletin Argentina Republic (Buenos Aires) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/246738/20210709>

⁶¹⁶¹ Argentina Signed an Agreement with Moderna for the Supply of 20 Million COVID-19 Vaccine, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-firmo-un-acuerdo-con-moderna-por-el-suministro-de-20-millones-de-vacuna-covid-19>

⁶¹⁶² Argentina Signed an Agreement with Moderna for the Supply of 20 Million COVID-19 Vaccine, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-firmo-un-acuerdo-con-moderna-por-el-suministro-de-20-millones-de-vacuna-covid-19>

lead to the investment of ARS2,200 million between 2021 and 2022.⁶¹⁶³ The program aims to promote an equitable approach to healthcare, including working on the social determinants of the health of the population.⁶¹⁶⁴

On 2 August 2021, the Federal Health Council officially launched vaccinations for prioritized adolescents that fall between the 12-17 age group.⁶¹⁶⁵ Adolescents that fall in the target population include those with diabetes, obesity, malnutrition, and chronic kidney disease.⁶¹⁶⁶

On 10 August 2021, authorities of the Ministry of Health sent equipment to San Martin de La Plata hospital to guarantee access to quality health care.⁶¹⁶⁷ Some of the equipment included to be included in the second delivery were electrocardiographs, and scalpels, with hospital beds and stretchers.⁶¹⁶⁸

On 24 August 2021, Minister of Health Carla Vizzotti, arrived from Russia with a shipment of 1.4 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine.⁶¹⁶⁹ During her trip, Vizzotti discussed the applications of vaccines and the Delta variant.⁶¹⁷⁰

On 6 September 2021, My Argentina became the official travel document that would certify vaccination against COVID-19 and could be used for those travelling between countries.⁶¹⁷¹ The app

⁶¹⁶³ Nation Invests 2,200 Millions Pesos to Strengthen Health Promotion and Management in Municipalities Throughout the Country, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nacion-invierte-2200-millones-de-pesos-para-fortalecer-la-promocion-y-la-gestion-de-la>

⁶¹⁶⁴ Nation Invests 2,200 Millions Pesos to Strengthen Health Promotion and Management in Municipalities Throughout the Country, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nacion-invierte-2200-millones-de-pesos-para-fortalecer-la-promocion-y-la-gestion-de-la>

⁶¹⁶⁵ The Country's Health Ministers Launched Vaccinations Against COVID-19 in Prioritized Adolescents, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministros-de-salud-del-pais-lanzaron-la-vacunacion-contra-covid-19-en-adolescentes>

⁶¹⁶⁶ The Country's Health Ministers Launched Vaccinations Against COVID-19 in Prioritized Adolescents, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministros-de-salud-del-pais-lanzaron-la-vacunacion-contra-covid-19-en-adolescentes>

⁶¹⁶⁷ Delivery of Hospital Equipment for More Than 50 Million Pesos to the San Martin de La Plata Hospital, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/entrega-de-equipamiento-hospitalario-por-mas-de-50-millones-de-pesos-al-hospital-san-martin>

⁶¹⁶⁸ Delivery of Hospital Equipment for More Than 50 Million Pesos to the San Martin de La Plata Hospital, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/entrega-de-equipamiento-hospitalario-por-mas-de-50-millones-de-pesos-al-hospital-san-martin>

⁶¹⁶⁹ The Minister of the Health Arrived from the Russian Federation with 1.4 Million Doses of Sputnik V Vaccine, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-ministra-de-salud-llego-de-la-federacion-rusa-con-14-millones-de-dosis-de-vacuna-sputnik>

⁶¹⁷⁰ The Minister of the Health Arrived from the Russian Federation with 1.4 Million Doses of Sputnik V Vaccine, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-ministra-de-salud-llego-de-la-federacion-rusa-con-14-millones-de-dosis-de-vacuna-sputnik>

⁶¹⁷¹ The Digital Vaccination Credential of Mi Argentina will be the International Vaccination Accreditation Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-credencial-de-vacunacion-digital-de-mi-argentina-sera-la-acreditacion-internacional-de-0>

is available in both English and Spanish, and the vaccination credentials are available under the My Documents tab, where citizens can also add other forms of ID.⁶¹⁷²

Argentina has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response. This was demonstrated by actions such as enacting a tax that will help fight COVID-19, administering a vaccination campaign and extended a shutdown to travelers. Moreover, Presidential advisor, Cecilia Nicolini met with other G20 members to discuss further health sector development

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ujala Iqbal

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic, preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 16 December 2020, Australia announced an AUD57.8 million investment for aged care as part of its National Partnership on COVID-19 Response Initiative. This will include funding for training and support in infection prevention and control.⁶¹⁷³ Another plan, the AUD11.1 million, Serious Incident Response Scheme to protect senior Australians from abuse and neglect will improve quality and safety at the individual service and broader system level.⁶¹⁷⁴ By reducing preventable incidents from recurring this scheme requires residential aged care providers to manage all incidents with a focus on the safety and wellbeing of citizens.⁶¹⁷⁵ Additionally, investment of AUD15.7 million was announced for allied health services for facilities affected by COVID-19 outbreaks.⁶¹⁷⁶

On 8 January 2021, the National Cabinet of Australia met to discuss Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, topics included the Vaccination Policy and also new domestic and international aviation measures to control the spread of COVID-19 and its emerging variants.⁶¹⁷⁷ The Vaccination Policy will include a nationally consistent roll out policy, helping especially aged workers. The travel protocols domestically require that all travelers and air crew wear masks. Internationally, the protocols require that incoming international travelers present negative COVID-19 tests prior to departure and that air crew take a COVID-19 test every seven days and continue to quarantine between international flights.⁶¹⁷⁸

⁶¹⁷² The Digital Vaccination Credential of Mi Argentina will be the International Vaccination Accreditation Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-credencial-de-vacunacion-digital-de-mi-argentina-sera-la-acreditacion-internacional-de-0>

⁶¹⁷³ Record Investment in Home Care Packages Continues, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/record-investment-home-care-packages-continues>

⁶¹⁷⁴ Record Investment in Home Care Packages Continues, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/record-investment-home-care-packages-continues>

⁶¹⁷⁵ Record Investment in Home Care Packages Continues, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/record-investment-home-care-packages-continues>

⁶¹⁷⁶ Record Investment in Home Care Packages Continues, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/record-investment-home-care-packages-continues>

⁶¹⁷⁷ Statement – National Cabinet, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/statement-national-cabinet>

⁶¹⁷⁸ Statement – National Cabinet, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/statement-national-cabinet>

On 25 January 2021, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of Australia provisionally approved the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for national use.⁶¹⁷⁹ Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the TGA approval was an important step in the fight against COVID-19 and was reported to have said, “Our priority has always been to keep Australians safe and protect lives and livelihoods. Today’s approval is another big step forward for our community, particularly in the protection of our most vulnerable people.”⁶¹⁸⁰

On 29 January 2021, Minister of Health Greg Hunt responded to help the Australians in the UK who had flights booked with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) flag carrier Emirates.⁶¹⁸¹ The UK had banned flights to the UAE, to the anguish of Australians who were waiting for months to get home from Britain via the UAE. The Australian government announced it would charter an extra 20 dedicated repatriation flights for Australians after Emirates temporarily suspended them.⁶¹⁸² Minister Hunt also added that medical officials would re-examine the next week whether to lift the suspension on quarantine-free travel from New Zealand after the South African virus strain emerged in Auckland.⁶¹⁸³

On 3 February 2021, Minister Hunt, announced that the Australian government is working with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, General Practices, state and territory governments, Primary Health Networks, General Practitioner-led Respiratory Clinics and community pharmacies to ensure that citizens living in regional, rural and remote locations have access to COVID-19 vaccination.⁶¹⁸⁴ This joint national effort will integrate over 2,000 vaccine sites across Australia. “We are working hard to ensure site readiness including specific handling requirements and sufficient cold chain capacity in locations that will be handling frozen vaccines,” Minister Hunt was reported to have said.⁶¹⁸⁵

On 4 February 2021, the Department of Health announced the rollout of a COVID-19 vaccination public information campaign to deliver key information about the COVID-19 vaccination program to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The AUD31 million campaign includes communication activities, such as media advertising in 32 different languages, as well as community engagement initiatives.⁶¹⁸⁶ Messages will target specific multicultural groups to ensure everyone in Australia has a full understanding of the vaccination program. Many people from CALD

⁶¹⁷⁹ Pfizer Vaccine Approved, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/pfizer-vaccine-approved>

⁶¹⁸⁰ Pfizer Vaccine Approved, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/pfizer-vaccine-approved>

⁶¹⁸¹ Stranded Aussies face more chaos after Britain bans UAE flights (Sydney) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/stranded-aussies-face-more-chaos-after-britain-bans-uae-flights-20210129-p56xru>

⁶¹⁸² Stranded Aussies face more chaos after Britain bans UAE flights (Sydney) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/stranded-aussies-face-more-chaos-after-britain-bans-uae-flights-20210129-p56xru>

⁶¹⁸³ Stranded Aussies face more chaos after Britain bans UAE flights (Sydney) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/stranded-aussies-face-more-chaos-after-britain-bans-uae-flights-20210129-p56xru>

⁶¹⁸⁴ COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout for Regional, Rural and Remote Australians, Department of Health (Canberra) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-vaccine-rollout-for-regional-rural-and-remote-australians>

⁶¹⁸⁵ COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout for Regional, Rural and Remote Australians, Department of Health (Canberra) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-vaccine-rollout-for-regional-rural-and-remote-australians>

⁶¹⁸⁶ COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign to Support Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Audiences, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-vaccine-campaign-to-support-culturally-and-linguistically-diverse-audiences>

backgrounds, especially the aged within these communities will be the first groups to be vaccinated. It is critical that these communities receive translated information that is culturally appropriate.⁶¹⁸⁷

On 8 February 2021, the Australian Government partnered with the Australian College of Nursing to develop and deliver the free and accredited training modules for all COVID-19 vaccination providers. They introduced the COVID-19 – Pfizer – Training Program, which provides free training modules for the COVID-19 vaccination workforce. It covers topics such as multi-dose handling, handling the storage of vaccines, safety, surveillance monitoring, and reporting for adverse events after immunization. The goal of the program is to build a workforce competent in delivering the vaccine.⁶¹⁸⁸

On 16 February 2021, the TGA of Australia provisionally approved the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for national use.⁶¹⁸⁹ Although, initially the AstraZeneca vaccine will be initially imported from overseas, it will be manufactured locally in due time. Australia is one of the few countries where the vaccine will be manufactured. “The TGA has found the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to be safe and effective and I welcome their thorough assessment process,” Prime Minister Morrison said.⁶¹⁹⁰

On 21 February 2021, Prime Minister Morrison and Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly received their first does of the Pfizer vaccine, marking the beginning of Australia’s vaccination program.⁶¹⁹¹ Prime Minister Morrison remarked that, “This is a historic day for Australia. From tomorrow, tens of thousands of Australians over the course of the next week can confidently come forward from those key priority groups that have been defined, to ensure that we move into this next phase of how we’ve been preparing and dealing with COVID-19.”⁶¹⁹²

On 14 March 2021, Australia announced an investment of AUD1.1 billion to extend the country’s COVID-19 health response and suppression strategy until 31 December 2021. Australia’s suppression strategy has been the most successful among OECD countries, having one of the lowest mortality rates. The investment will be used to fund COVID-19 testing and treatment, telehealth services, electronic prescription services, mental health services and aged care facilities.⁶¹⁹³

On 14 March 2021, Australia announced the addition of a new webpage on its Department of Health website aimed at addressing misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine and vaccine hesitancy, as part of its AUD31 million education campaign.⁶¹⁹⁴

⁶¹⁸⁷ COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign to Support Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Audiences, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-vaccine-campaign-to-support-culturally-and-linguistically-diverse-audiences>

⁶¹⁸⁸ First COVID-19 Vaccine – Pfizer – Training Program, Department of Health (Canberra) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/first-covid-19-vaccine-pfizer-training-program>

⁶¹⁸⁹ TGA Approves AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine, Department of Health (Canberra) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/tga-approves-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶¹⁹⁰ TGA Approves AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine, Department of Health (Canberra) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/tga-approves-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶¹⁹¹ COVID-19 vaccines begin as Prime Minister receives Pfizer immunisation (Sydney) 21 February 2021, Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/covid-19-vaccines-begin-as-prime-minister-receives-pfizer-immunisation-20210221-p574cw.html>

⁶¹⁹² COVID-19 vaccines begin as Prime Minister receives Pfizer immunisation (Sydney) 21 February 2021, Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/covid-19-vaccines-begin-as-prime-minister-receives-pfizer-immunisation-20210221-p574cw.html>

⁶¹⁹³ Over \$1.1 billion to extend Australia’s COVID-19 health response, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 14 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/over-11-billion-extend-australias-covid-19-health-response>

⁶¹⁹⁴ Is it true? Countering the misinformation on COVID-19 Vaccines, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 14 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/it-true-countering-misinformation-covid-19-vaccines>

On 17 March 2021, Australia announced it would be supporting Papua New Guinea in addressing a COVID-19 spike in the country. Australia agreed to partner with Papua New Guinea on a comprehensive support package to respond to the crises, including the delivery of 8,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines from Australia's supply.⁶¹⁹⁵ Early vaccine assistance will be coordinated with Papua New Guinea's response, which has included their COVID-19 National Pandemic Response taskforce.⁶¹⁹⁶

On 22 March 2021, Australia announced new restrictions on social gatherings, in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.⁶¹⁹⁷ Beginning on 23 March 2021, gathering places such as pubs, gyms, cinemas, nightclubs, restaurants and cafes, and places of worship were closed.⁶¹⁹⁸ In addition, the government restricted non-essential gatherings to 500 people in outdoor spaces and 100 people in indoor spaces.⁶¹⁹⁹ Restrictions on entering aged home care facilities were also implemented.⁶²⁰⁰ The restrictions are expected to be in effect for six months, with reviews of the regulations taking place on a monthly basis.⁶²⁰¹

On 22 March 2021, the Department of Health announced the rollout of Phase 1B of the Australian government's vaccination plan.⁶²⁰² Priority groups in this phase include elderly adults over the age of 70, health care workers not vaccinated in Phase 1A, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults over the age of 55, adults with a specified medical condition, adults with a severe disability who have a specified underlying medical condition, and critical and high risk workers including defence, police, fire, emergency services and meat processing.⁶²⁰³

On 5 May 2021, the Government of Australia announced that it would increase the supply of AstraZeneca vaccines being provided to general medical practices.⁶²⁰⁴ Up to 200 doses per week will be delivered to general practices which had previously been receiving 100 doses per week, and 150 doses per week will be delivered to practices that had previously been receiving 50 doses per

⁶¹⁹⁵ Australia supporting Papua New Guinea's COVID-19 Response, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/australia-supporting-papua-new-guineas-covid-19-response>

⁶¹⁹⁶ Australia supporting Papua New Guinea's COVID-19 Response, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/australia-supporting-papua-new-guineas-covid-19-response>

⁶¹⁹⁷ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

⁶¹⁹⁸ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

⁶¹⁹⁹ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

⁶²⁰⁰ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

⁶²⁰¹ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

⁶²⁰² Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout Begins, Department of Health (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/phase-1b-covid-19-vaccination-rollout-begins>

⁶²⁰³ Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout Begins, Department of Health (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/phase-1b-covid-19-vaccination-rollout-begins>

⁶²⁰⁴ GPs to get increased supply of COVID-19 vaccines, Department of Health (Canberra) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/gps-to-get-increased-supplies-of-covid-19-vaccines>

week.⁶²⁰⁵ The AstraZeneca vaccine is approved for the vaccination of patients 50 years of age and older.⁶²⁰⁶

On 23 May 2021, the Australian Government identified India as a high risk country due to the significant increase in COVID-19 positive case numbers. The Australian Government therefore decided to implement a temporary pause on travellers from India entering Australian territory by air if the passenger had been in India within 14 days of the person's intended arrival date in Australia.⁶²⁰⁷

On 27 May 2021, the Department of Health announced that it would be inviting up to 900 additional general practices to join vaccine rollout efforts across the country, in addition to the 4400 already participating.⁶²⁰⁸ New practices can apply to deliver the vaccine through an expression of interest (EOI) process regulated by Primary Health Networks (PHNs), and territorial and national governments.⁶²⁰⁹ These additional practices will be brought into the vaccine rollout program beginning in mid-June to deliver AstraZeneca vaccines to those over the age of 50.⁶²¹⁰

On 2 June 2021, the Government of Australia announced an AUD60 million investment to extend the COVID-19 Aged Care Support Program to 30 June 2022.⁶²¹¹ Through this program, aged care facilities struggling with COVID-19 outbreaks can apply for grants to cover the cost of additional staff, personal protective equipment, cleaning and infection control supplies, and waste management.⁶²¹² The COVID-19 Aged Care Support Program was initially established on 27 March 2020.⁶²¹³

On 4 June 2021, the Department of Health announced that aged care facilities will be required to report the proportion of staff that have been partially and fully vaccinated against COVID-19, beginning on 15 June.⁶²¹⁴ While it remains voluntary for staff to be vaccinated and to disclose if they

⁶²⁰⁵ GPs to get increased supply of COVID-19 vaccines, Department of Health (Canberra) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/gps-to-get-increased-supplies-of-covid-19-vaccines>

⁶²⁰⁶ GPs to get increased supply of COVID-19 vaccines, Department of Health (Canberra) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/gps-to-get-increased-supplies-of-covid-19-vaccines>

⁶²⁰⁷ Australia bans, criminalises arrivals from COVID-hit India (Dubai) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/1/australia-bans-criminalises-arrivals-from-covid-hit-india>

⁶²⁰⁸ More GPs to join the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/more-gps-to-join-the-covid-19-vaccine-rollout>

⁶²⁰⁹ More GPs to join the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/more-gps-to-join-the-covid-19-vaccine-rollout>

⁶²¹⁰ More GPs to join the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/more-gps-to-join-the-covid-19-vaccine-rollout>

⁶²¹¹ \$60 million to continue life-saving COVID-19 support for aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/60-million-to-continue-life-saving-covid-19-support-for-aged-care-0>

⁶²¹² \$60 million to continue life-saving COVID-19 support for aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/60-million-to-continue-life-saving-covid-19-support-for-aged-care-0>

⁶²¹³ \$60 million to continue life-saving COVID-19 support for aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/60-million-to-continue-life-saving-covid-19-support-for-aged-care-0>

⁶²¹⁴ New reporting requirements on workforce COVID-19 vaccination to protect older Australians in aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/new-reporting-requirements-on-workforce-covid-19-vaccination-to-protect-older-australians-in-aged-care>

have received a vaccine, available data will be collected from each facility on a weekly basis using an online reporting tool.⁶²¹⁵ The data is intended to be used to assess the level of outbreak risk in each aged care facility.⁶²¹⁶

On 10 June 2021, the Government of Australia extended several COVID-19 emergency measures implemented under the Biosecurity Act of 2015 until 17 September 2021.⁶²¹⁷ These include mandatory pre-departure testing and mask-wearing for international flights, restrictions on the entry of cruise vessels within Australian territory, restrictions on outbound international travel for Australians, and restrictions on the business activity of retail outlets at international airports.⁶²¹⁸

On 11 June 2021, Australia announced it will commit at least 20 million vaccine doses to a global G7 push to boost access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines and pandemic preparedness in developing countries. On 23 September, Australia increased this commitment to up to 60 million doses, including sharing an additional 20 million and procuring a further 20 million doses. On 23 September 2021, more than 3.2 million of these doses have been delivered.⁶²¹⁹

On 18 June 2021, the Government of Australia announced plans to invest AUD1.2 million to ensure multicultural communities have access to information about the COVID-19 vaccination program.⁶²²⁰ This investment will provide small grants for culturally and linguistically diverse groups wishing to run information campaigns about the COVID-19 vaccine in their community.⁶²²¹ The grants will be distributed through the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council.⁶²²²

On 29 June 2021, the Government of Australia announced an emergency leave extension for people living permanently in residential aged care facilities, who want to temporarily relocate with family to reduce their risk of contracting COVID-19.⁶²²³ Typically, aged care residents are entitled to up to 52

⁶²¹⁵ New reporting requirements on workforce COVID-19 vaccination to protect older Australians in aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/new-reporting-requirements-on-workforce-covid-19-vaccination-to-protect-older-australians-in-aged-care>

⁶²¹⁶ New reporting requirements on workforce COVID-19 vaccination to protect older Australians in aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/new-reporting-requirements-on-workforce-covid-19-vaccination-to-protect-older-australians-in-aged-care>

⁶²¹⁷ COVID-19 measures extended for a further three months, Department of Health (Canberra) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 14 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-emergency-measures-extended-for-a-further-three-months>

⁶²¹⁸ COVID-19 measures extended for a further three months, Department of Health (Canberra) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 14 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-emergency-measures-extended-for-a-further-three-months>

⁶²¹⁹ Statement to the President's Global Summit to End COVID-19, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/statement-presidents-global-summit-end-covid-19-washington-dc-usa>

⁶²²⁰ Helping multicultural communities share COVID-19 vaccine info, Department of Health (Canberra) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/helping-multicultural-communities-share-covid-19-vaccine-info>

⁶²²¹ Helping multicultural communities share COVID-19 vaccine info, Department of Health (Canberra) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/helping-multicultural-communities-share-covid-19-vaccine-info>

⁶²²² Helping multicultural communities share COVID-19 vaccine info, Department of Health (Canberra) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/helping-multicultural-communities-share-covid-19-vaccine-info>

⁶²²³ Emergency leave extension for aged care residents, Department of Health (Canberra) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/emergency-leave-extension-for-aged-care-residents>

days of social leave from their facility each year.⁶²²⁴ However, emergency leave provisions introduced in May 2020 give residents the option to take additional emergency leave during COVID-19.⁶²²⁵ In addition, residents taking emergency leave will continue to receive residential care subsidies from the government.⁶²²⁶ These emergency leave provisions, which were set to expire on 30 June 2021, are now in effect until 30 June 2022.⁶²²⁷

On 2 July 2021, the Department of Health announced an AUD11 million grant program to support aged care workers in accessing the COVID-19 vaccine.⁶²²⁸ The Residential Aged Care COVID-19 Employee Vaccination Support Grant will allow residential care workers to be paid AUD80 to take time off for an off-site vaccination, and an additional AUD185 of paid leave if a worker becomes unwell after receiving the vaccine.⁶²²⁹ The grant funding aims to encourage workers who may be concerned about losing wages after being vaccinated to take paid time off work to get vaccinated.⁶²³⁰

On 15 July 2021, the Government of Australia announced additional telehealth support services for Australians living in COVID-19 hotspot areas, to ensure healthcare is still accessible when movement in communities is limited.⁶²³¹ Medicare-funded telehealth platforms will be available for doctors and other medical professionals to use to provide consultations of 20 minutes or more.⁶²³² The new service also exempts patients from a previous requirement that they must have seen the consulting physician in-person over the last 12 months.⁶²³³

On 18 July 2021, the Government of Australia announced that it would supply additional personal protective equipment (PPE) to general practitioners, community pharmacies and other healthcare providers in Greater Melbourne, Moorabool Shire, City of Greater Geelong, Surf Coast Shire,

⁶²²⁴ Emergency leave extension for aged care residents, Department of Health (Canberra) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/emergency-leave-extension-for-aged-care-residents>

⁶²²⁵ Emergency leave extension for aged care residents, Department of Health (Canberra) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/emergency-leave-extension-for-aged-care-residents>

⁶²²⁶ Emergency leave extension for aged care residents, Department of Health (Canberra) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/emergency-leave-extension-for-aged-care-residents>

⁶²²⁷ Emergency leave extension for aged care residents, Department of Health (Canberra) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/emergency-leave-extension-for-aged-care-residents>

⁶²²⁸ Support for mandatory vaccination of residential aged care workers, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/support-for-mandatory-vaccination-of-residential-aged-care-workers>

⁶²²⁹ Support for mandatory vaccination of residential aged care workers, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/support-for-mandatory-vaccination-of-residential-aged-care-workers>

⁶²³⁰ Support for mandatory vaccination of residential aged care workers, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/support-for-mandatory-vaccination-of-residential-aged-care-workers>

⁶²³¹ Additional telehealth support for Australians in COVID-19 hotspots, Department of Health (Canberra) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/additional-telehealth-support-for-australians-in-covid-19-hotspots>

⁶²³² Additional telehealth support for Australians in COVID-19 hotspots, Department of Health (Canberra) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/additional-telehealth-support-for-australians-in-covid-19-hotspots>

⁶²³³ Additional telehealth support for Australians in COVID-19 hotspots, Department of Health (Canberra) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/additional-telehealth-support-for-australians-in-covid-19-hotspots>

Borough of Queenscliff and Bass Coast Shire.⁶²³⁴ Health professionals in these areas are able to request a package of PPE from the National Medical Stockpile.⁶²³⁵ These packages aim to suppress COVID-19 infection rates across Melbourne.⁶²³⁶

On 28 July 2021, the Office of the Prime Minister announced increased financial support for workers in New South Wales as part of its expanded COVID-19 Disaster Payment program.⁶²³⁷ This program supports workers who have lost wages due to state government lockdowns or public health orders.⁶²³⁸ Those who lose 20 hours of work or more will receive AUD750 per week, and those who lose between eight and 20 hours will receive a payment of AUD450 per week.⁶²³⁹

On 31 July 2021, Acting Government Chief Medical Officer Michael Kidd declared the City of Brisbane, Moreton Bay Region, Redland City, Logan City, City of Ipswich, Shire of Noosa, City of Gold Coast, Lockyer Valley Region, Scenic Rim Region, Somerset Region and Sunshine Coast Region Local Government Areas (LGAs) COVID-19 hotspots from 31 July to 3 August 2021.⁶²⁴⁰ As recognized hotspots, these regions will be eligible for additional governmental support, such as PPE, provisions for asymptomatic testing, assistance with contact tracing, re-prioritization of vaccine supply, Medicare-insured telehealth services and additional support for aged care centres.⁶²⁴¹

On 2 August 2021, the Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (ATAGI) recommended that children from age 12 to 15 years be prioritized for the COVID-19 vaccine.⁶²⁴² The ATAGI recommended that those with specific medical conditions that increase their risk for severe COVID-19, such as asthma, diabetes, and obesity, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and all children living in remote communities should be vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine.⁶²⁴³ The

⁶²³⁴ Personal Protective Equipment for Primary Health Networks in Victoria, Department of Health (Canberra) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/personal-protective-equipment-for-primary-health-networks-in-victoria>

⁶²³⁵ Personal Protective Equipment for Primary Health Networks in Victoria, Department of Health (Canberra) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/personal-protective-equipment-for-primary-health-networks-in-victoria>

⁶²³⁶ Personal Protective Equipment for Primary Health Networks in Victoria, Department of Health (Canberra) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/personal-protective-equipment-for-primary-health-networks-in-victoria>

⁶²³⁷ COVID-19 Disaster Support Payment Boosted, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/covid-19-disaster-support-payment-boosted>

⁶²³⁸ COVID-19 Disaster Support Payment Boosted, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/covid-19-disaster-support-payment-boosted>

⁶²³⁹ COVID-19 Disaster Support Payment Boosted, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/covid-19-disaster-support-payment-boosted>

⁶²⁴⁰ Declaration of South East Queensland as a Commonwealth hotspot, Department of Health (Canberra) 31 July 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/declaration-of-south-east-queensland-as-a-commonwealth-hotspot>

⁶²⁴¹ Declaration of South East Queensland as a Commonwealth hotspot, Department of Health (Canberra) 31 July 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/declaration-of-south-east-queensland-as-a-commonwealth-hotspot>

⁶²⁴² ATAGI statement regarding vaccination of adolescents aged 12–15 years, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-statement-regarding-vaccination-of-adolescents-aged-12-15-years>

⁶²⁴³ ATAGI statement regarding vaccination of adolescents aged 12–15 years, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-statement-regarding-vaccination-of-adolescents-aged-12-15-years>

ATAGI awaits further evidence to make recommendations on the vaccination of all other children aged 12 to 15 years.⁶²⁴⁴

On 3 August 2021, the Doherty Institute at the University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Hospital released a modelling report to advise the government on containing the virus while easing COVID-19 restrictions in the country.⁶²⁴⁵ The report included models of national COVID-19 infection rates at varying vaccination coverage levels among those aged 16 years and older.⁶²⁴⁶ The modelling report also explored the implications of extending vaccination coverage eligibility to children 12 years of age and over.⁶²⁴⁷ This report resulted in 70 per cent being set as the target vaccination coverage level before the country eases COVID-19 restrictions.⁶²⁴⁸

On 6 August 2021, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced plans to work with the Pacific Islands on vaccine certification programs.⁶²⁴⁹ This will allow recognition of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals and is an effort to allow the safe reopening of international travel.⁶²⁵⁰

On 6 August 2021, the National Cabinet agreed to a four-phase National Plan to control COVID-19 transmission as vaccination rates rise and case numbers decrease.⁶²⁵¹ Phase A focuses on continuing attempts to suppress community transmission of the virus and is the current phase of the National Plan.⁶²⁵² Phase B is initiated when 70 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated, and focuses on minimizing serious illness and fatalities from the virus with low-level restrictions such as quarantine requirements for international travelers.⁶²⁵³ Phase C of the plan is initiated when 80 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated and focuses on minimizing serious illness and fatalities with baseline restrictions such as highly targeted lockdowns.⁶²⁵⁴ Phase D will focus on minimizing COVID-19 restrictions with minor control measures and providing booster vaccinations when necessary.⁶²⁵⁵

⁶²⁴⁴ ATAGI statement regarding vaccination of adolescents aged 12–15 years, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-statement-regarding-vaccination-of-adolescents-aged-12-15-years>

⁶²⁴⁵ Release of Doherty Institute Modelling Report to advise on the National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID Response, Department of Health (Canberra) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/release-of-the-doherty-institute-modelling-report-to-advise-on-the-national-plan-to-transition-australias-national-covid-response>

⁶²⁴⁶ Doherty Modelling Report Revised 10th August 2021, Doherty Institute (Melbourne) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

https://www.doherty.edu.au/uploads/content_doc/DohertyModelling_NationalPlan_and_Addendum_20210810.pdf

⁶²⁴⁷ Doherty Modelling Report Revised 10th August 2021, Doherty Institute (Melbourne) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

https://www.doherty.edu.au/uploads/content_doc/DohertyModelling_NationalPlan_and_Addendum_20210810.pdf

⁶²⁴⁸ National Cabinet Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-11>

⁶²⁴⁹ Pacific Islands Forum, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/pacific-islands-forum-1>

⁶²⁵⁰ Pacific Islands Forum, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/pacific-islands-forum-1>

⁶²⁵¹ National Cabinet Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-11>

⁶²⁵² National Cabinet Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-11>

⁶²⁵³ National Cabinet Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-11>

⁶²⁵⁴ National Cabinet Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-11>

⁶²⁵⁵ National Cabinet Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-11>

On 9 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced that the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was approved for use in adults.⁶²⁵⁶ The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) found that the vaccine meets all standards of safety, quality and efficacy to prevent infection in those aged 18 years of age and older, and reduces the rate of severe infection and hospitalization.⁶²⁵⁷ The vaccine will require individuals to receive two doses 18 days apart.⁶²⁵⁸

On 12 August 2021, the ATAGI released a statement on the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine after reports of thrombosis and thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) were reported as adverse side effects.⁶²⁵⁹ The ATAGI reinforced the benefit of the AstraZeneca vaccine outweighed the potential adverse effects in Australians under the age of 60 and recommended that all those in this age group who do not have access to the Pfizer vaccine strongly consider immunization with the AstraZeneca vaccine.⁶²⁶⁰ It also reinforced the benefits of the Pfizer vaccine after reports of myocarditis and reaffirmed that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh risks in all eligible Australians 12 years of age and older.⁶²⁶¹

On 15 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced that it received one million doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine through an agreement with the Republic of Poland.⁶²⁶² These doses are to be delivered to Australians aged 20 to 39 years after community transmission data recently identified this age group of individuals to be key transmitters.⁶²⁶³ 53 per cent of the doses are to be delivered to 12 LGAs in Greater Sydney where infection rates continue to rise.⁶²⁶⁴

On 20 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced a pause on some flights originating from New Zealand initially scheduled from 20 August 2021 to 24 August 2021 at 11:59 PM (AEST)

⁶²⁵⁶ Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Approved for Use in Australia, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/moderna-covid-19-vaccine-approved-use-australia>

⁶²⁵⁷ Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Approved for Use in Australia, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/moderna-covid-19-vaccine-approved-use-australia>

⁶²⁵⁸ Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Approved for Use in Australia, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/moderna-covid-19-vaccine-approved-use-australia>

⁶²⁵⁹ Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) weekly COVID-19 meeting on 11 August 2021 update, Department of Health (Canberra) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-technical-advisory-group-on-immunisation-atagi-weekly-covid-19-meeting-on-11-august-2021-update>

⁶²⁶⁰ Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) weekly COVID-19 meeting on 11 August 2021 update, Department of Health (Canberra) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-technical-advisory-group-on-immunisation-atagi-weekly-covid-19-meeting-on-11-august-2021-update>

⁶²⁶¹ Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) weekly COVID-19 meeting on 11 August 2021 update, Department of Health (Canberra) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-technical-advisory-group-on-immunisation-atagi-weekly-covid-19-meeting-on-11-august-2021-update>

⁶²⁶² One Million Doses of Pfizer Vaccine from Europe Boosting Australian Supplies, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/one-million-doses-pfizer-vaccine-europe-boosting-australian-supplies>

⁶²⁶³ One Million Doses of Pfizer Vaccine from Europe Boosting Australian Supplies, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 15 August 2021. Access Date 19 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/one-million-doses-pfizer-vaccine-europe-boosting-australian-supplies>

⁶²⁶⁴ One Million Doses of Pfizer Vaccine from Europe Boosting Australian Supplies, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 15 August 2021. Access Date 19 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/one-million-doses-pfizer-vaccine-europe-boosting-australian-supplies>

after a rise in COVID-19 case numbers in New Zealand.⁶²⁶⁵ All passengers on flights originating from New Zealand during this time were required to undergo 14 days of supervised quarantine in a designated hotel.⁶²⁶⁶ On 23 August 2021, this pause on flights was extended until 11:59 PM (AEST) on 27 August 2021.⁶²⁶⁷ On 27 August, this pause was extended until 11:59PM (AEST) on 31 August 2021.⁶²⁶⁸ On 31 August, the pause was extended again until 11:59pm (AEST) on 7 September 2021.⁶²⁶⁹ On 7 September, the pause was extended again until 11:59PM (AEST) on 14 September 2021.⁶²⁷⁰

On 26 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced that it would be making Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) kits available for the detection of COVID-19 to specific providers and services in high-risk LGAs of Sydney and western New South Wales.⁶²⁷¹ These providers include residential aged care facilities, home care, and short-term restorative care, among others.⁶²⁷² The government also plans to provide training and support to these facilities to implement RAT testing as soon as possible.⁶²⁷³

On 26 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced that community and in-home aged care workers can receive COVID-19 vaccinations at designated vaccine hubs in New South Wal,⁶²⁷⁴ Victoria,⁶²⁷⁵ Queensland,⁶²⁷⁶ Perth⁶²⁷⁷ and Adelaide.⁶²⁷⁸ All healthcare providers will receive the Pfizer vaccine.⁶²⁷⁹

On 27 August 2021, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (ATAGI) recommended COVID-19 vaccination in all youth 12 years of age and older.⁶²⁸⁰ The ATAGI

⁶²⁶⁵ Pause extended on New Zealand green zone flights, Department of Health (Canberra) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/pause-extended-on-new-zealand-green-zone-flights>

⁶²⁶⁶ Pause extended on New Zealand green zone flights, Department of Health (Canberra) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/pause-extended-on-new-zealand-green-zone-flights>

⁶²⁶⁷ Pause extended on New Zealand green zone flights, Department of Health (Canberra) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/pause-extended-on-new-zealand-green-zone-flights-0>

⁶²⁶⁸ Pause extended on New Zealand green zone flights, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/pause-extended-on-new-zealand-green-zone-flights-1>

⁶²⁶⁹ Pause extended on New Zealand green zone flights, Department of Health (Canberra) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/pause-extended-on-new-zealand-green-zone-flights-2>

⁶²⁷⁰ Continued pause to New Zealand green zone flights, Department of Health (Canberra) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/continued-pause-to-new-zealand-green-zone-flights>

⁶²⁷¹ Rapid antigen testing in aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/rapid-antigen-testing-in-aged-care>

⁶²⁷² Rapid antigen testing in aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/rapid-antigen-testing-in-aged-care>

⁶²⁷³ Rapid antigen testing in aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/rapid-antigen-testing-in-aged-care>

⁶²⁷⁴ NSW aged care vaccine hubs open now, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/nsw-aged-care-vaccine-hubs-open-now>

⁶²⁷⁵ VIC aged care vaccine hubs open now, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/vic-aged-care-vaccine-hubs-open-now>

⁶²⁷⁶ QLD aged care vaccine hubs open now, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/qld-aged-care-vaccine-hubs-open-now>

⁶²⁷⁷ Perth aged care vaccine hubs open now, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/perth-aged-care-vaccine-hubs-open-now>

⁶²⁷⁸ Adelaide aged care vaccine hubs open now, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/adelaide-aged-care-vaccine-hub-open-now>

⁶²⁷⁹ NSW aged care vaccine hubs open now, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/nsw-aged-care-vaccine-hubs-open-now>

⁶²⁸⁰ ATAGI recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in all young adolescents in Australia, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-recommendations-on-the-use-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-all-young-adolescents-in-australia>

recommends using a two-dose schedule using the Pfizer vaccine.⁶²⁸¹ Recommendations on the use of the Moderna vaccine in this age group are yet to be finalized.⁶²⁸²

On 27 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced that all children aged 12 to 15 years will be eligible for COVID-19 vaccination on 13 September 2021.⁶²⁸³ The ATAGI has approved the use of the Pfizer vaccine in this population.⁶²⁸⁴ Bookings for the vaccine can be made through general practitioners, Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics, and Aboriginal Community Control Health Organizations.⁶²⁸⁵ Each state or territory will announce when vaccination clinics are open to this age group.⁶²⁸⁶ Prime Minister Scott Minister also announced that the Moderna vaccine will be made available to individuals aged 12 to 18 years, subject to approval from the TGA.⁶²⁸⁷ The government expects all youth aged 12 to 18 to have access to a COVID-19 vaccine during the rest of 2021.⁶²⁸⁸

On 31 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced that it will receive 500,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine through a deal with the government of Singapore to boost its vaccine program in September.⁶²⁸⁹ The vaccines will be distributed to all provinces and territories according to the size of their populations.⁶²⁹⁰ As part of the deal, Australia will supply 500,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine to Singapore in December.⁶²⁹¹

⁶²⁸¹ ATAGI recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in all young adolescents in Australia, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-recommendations-on-the-use-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-all-young-adolescents-in-australia>

⁶²⁸² ATAGI recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in all young adolescents in Australia, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-recommendations-on-the-use-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-all-young-adolescents-in-australia>

⁶²⁸³ Children aged 12 to 15 years now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/children-aged-12-15-years-now-eligible-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶²⁸⁴ Children aged 12 to 15 years now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/children-aged-12-15-years-now-eligible-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶²⁸⁵ Children aged 12 to 15 years now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/children-aged-12-15-years-now-eligible-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶²⁸⁶ Children aged 12 to 15 years now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/children-aged-12-15-years-now-eligible-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶²⁸⁷ Children aged 12 to 15 years now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/children-aged-12-15-years-now-eligible-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶²⁸⁸ Children aged 12 to 15 years now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/children-aged-12-15-years-now-eligible-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶²⁸⁹ 500,000 Pfizer-BioNTech Doses Boosts September Vaccine Rollout, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/500000-pfizer-biontech-doses-boosts-september-vaccine-rollout>

⁶²⁹⁰ 500,000 Pfizer-BioNTech Doses Boosts September Vaccine Rollout, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/500000-pfizer-biontech-doses-boosts-september-vaccine-rollout>

⁶²⁹¹ 500,000 Pfizer-BioNTech Doses Boosts September Vaccine Rollout, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/500000-pfizer-biontech-doses-boosts-september-vaccine-rollout>

On 3 September 2021, the Government of Australia announced that four million additional doses of the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine will be arriving as part of a deal with the United Kingdom.⁶²⁹² After batch testing, the doses will be distributed across the country on an equal population basis. 60 per cent will be distributed through the primary care network and 40 per cent will be distributed through the state-operated vaccination clinics.⁶²⁹³

On 24 September 2021, the leaders of the United States, Japan, India and Australia met in their first in-person person summit of the Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. ⁶²⁹⁴ Following the summit in March, the leaders released a joint statement promoting “a free, open rules-based order.” This encouraged and pledged to combine “medical, scientific, financing, manufacturing and delivery” capacity for COVID-19 vaccines, and combating climate change.⁶²⁹⁵

Australia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. It continues to expand programming to support accessibility of the COVID-19 vaccine for various communities across the country, and has engaged in partnerships to support vaccination programs in other countries. It has taken measures to improve COVID-19 detection, such as by providing RAT kits to aged care facilities, and has developed a national plan to contain the virus while easing community restrictions once target vaccination levels are reached.

Thus, Australia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Amandeep Saini

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 8 December 2020, President Jair Bolsonaro and Minister of Health Eduardo Pazuello announced that the Federal Government is investing more than BRL280 million to train around 380,000 Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics.⁶²⁹⁶ Minister Pazuello was reported to have said, “The Health with Agent program really aims to be early in discovering diseases that can be treated quickly, and to prevent them from getting worse. This is the great logic of this program. Investments in basic care for the Brazilian population is one of the priorities of this management.

⁶²⁹² Four million Pfizer doses arrive to supercharge vaccine rollout, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/four-million-pfizer-doses-arrive-super-charge-vaccine-roll-out>

⁶²⁹³ Four million Pfizer doses arrive to supercharge vaccine rollout, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/four-million-pfizer-doses-arrive-super-charge-vaccine-roll-out>

⁶²⁹⁴ Here to stay’: Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁶²⁹⁵ Here to stay’: Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁶²⁹⁶ Brazil invests R \$ 280 million for the qualification of Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-investe-r-280-milhoes-para-qualificacao-de-agentes-comunitarios-de-saude-e-agentes-de-combates-as-endemias>

This initiative will greatly improve the qualification of our service.”⁶²⁹⁷ This initiative revamps the health care system to respond to the current pandemic and to future ones that may arise.⁶²⁹⁸

On 18 December 2020, the Chamber of Foreign Trade (Camex) extended the validity of Resolution No. 17/2020, which reduced the Import Tax rate to zero for products considered essential to face the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶²⁹⁹ The objective of the measure, by maintaining the reduction of tariffs to zero, is to increase the supply of medicines, as well as supplies for the national production of goods intended to fight the pandemic, reducing the costs for the manufacture of these goods in the country and increasing availability for the Brazilian health system.⁶³⁰⁰ This tax reduction makes importing essential goods easier and faster to respond to urgent needs.⁶³⁰¹

On 6 January 2021, the Executive Management Committee of the Chamber of Foreign Trade (Gecex) decided to reduce the Import Tax to 0 per cent for five more products, including syringes and needles.⁶³⁰² The products become part of the list of temporary tariff reductions with the aim of facilitating the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶³⁰³ Building upon other products deemed essential during the pandemic and their import tax being dropped, the addition of five more products is an important step to speeding up access to necessary goods.⁶³⁰⁴

On 15 January 2021, Gecex approved the temporary reduction of the Import Tax to zero for 258 products.⁶³⁰⁵ Among other products, the measure includes vital sign monitors, oxygen sensors, tanks for storing medical gases, as well as various medical supplies that allow intensifying the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶³⁰⁶

On 16 January 2021, Gecex temporarily eliminated the import tax of more than 250 medical, hospital and personal protective equipment, necessary to fight the pandemic caused by COVID-19, such as

⁶²⁹⁷ Brazil invests R \$ 280 million for the qualification of Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasi-investe-r-280-milhoes-para-qualificacao-de-agentes-comunitarios-de-saude-e-agentes-de-combates-as-endemias>

⁶²⁹⁸ Brazil invests R \$ 280 million for the qualification of Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasi-investe-r-280-milhoes-para-qualificacao-de-agentes-comunitarios-de-saude-e-agentes-de-combates-as-endemias>

⁶²⁹⁹ Camex extends zero tariff for importing medicines and supplies against COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/dezembro-1/camex-prorroga-tarifa-zero-para-importacao-de-remedios-e-insumos-contracovid-19>

⁶³⁰⁰ Camex extends zero tariff for importing medicines and supplies against COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/dezembro-1/camex-prorroga-tarifa-zero-para-importacao-de-remedios-e-insumos-contracovid-19>

⁶³⁰¹ Camex extends zero tariff for importing medicines and supplies against COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/dezembro-1/camex-prorroga-tarifa-zero-para-importacao-de-remedios-e-insumos-contracovid-19>

⁶³⁰² Camex reduces the Import Tax and suspends anti-dumping to aid efforts to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 6 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-reduz-o-imposto-de-importacao-e-suspende-antidumping-para-auxiliar-nos-esforcos-de-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³⁰³ Camex reduces the Import Tax and suspends anti-dumping to aid efforts to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 6 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-reduz-o-imposto-de-importacao-e-suspende-antidumping-para-auxiliar-nos-esforcos-de-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³⁰⁴ Camex reduces the Import Tax and suspends anti-dumping to aid efforts to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 6 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-reduz-o-imposto-de-importacao-e-suspende-antidumping-para-auxiliar-nos-esforcos-de-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³⁰⁵ Camex expands tariff reductions and suspends anti-dumping to intensify the fight against COVID, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 15 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-amplia-reducoes-tarifarias-e-suspende-antidumping-para-intensificar-combate-a-covid>

⁶³⁰⁶ Camex expands tariff reductions and suspends anti-dumping to intensify the fight against COVID, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 15 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-amplia-reducoes-tarifarias-e-suspende-antidumping-para-intensificar-combate-a-covid>

gloves, aprons and masks.⁶³⁰⁷ Building upon previous import tax reductions, the list has been expanded to continue ensuring that Brazilians have access to necessary products and equipment.⁶³⁰⁸

On 21 January 2021, Brazil, in a meeting of the Executive Council of the World Health Organization (WHO), adopted a resolution that aims to reinforce the attention to the mental health of people during the pandemic, entitled “Preparation and response in mental health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.”⁶³⁰⁹ The document, entitled “Mental health preparedness and response in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic,” had Brazil’s active participation in the negotiations.⁶³¹⁰ The country acted as co-sponsor of the project, proposed by Thailand, in a commitment to promote the debate on mental health within the scope of multilateral discussions.⁶³¹¹

On 22 January 2021, President Bolsonaro asked Minister Pazuello to create an Epidemiological Fund to reinforce immunization against COVID-19 and halt the advance of the pandemic in the state of Amazonas.⁶³¹² The Epidemiological Fund was developed in partnership with the National Council of Health Secretaries and the National Council of Municipal Health Secretariats and allocates a quota of new doses of vaccines to the region.⁶³¹³

On 12 February 2021, the Ministry of Health implemented, at the Central Public Health Laboratories of the States, the National Network for Genetic Sequencing to investigate mutations and different strains of SARS-CoV-2 in circulation in Brazil.⁶³¹⁴ According to Secretary Arnaldo, the initiative will accelerate the investigation of COVID-19 virus mutations.⁶³¹⁵ He also stated that “The surveillance

⁶³⁰⁷ Government zeroes import tax on more than 250 items to help fight COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-zera-imposto-de-importacao-de-mais-de-250-itens-para-auxiliar-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³⁰⁸ Government zeroes import tax on more than 250 items to help fight COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-zera-imposto-de-importacao-de-mais-de-250-itens-para-auxiliar-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³⁰⁹ At WHO, Brazil reinforces the importance of mental health care in the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/na-oms-brasil-reforca-importancia-da-atencao-a-saude-mental-na-pandemia>

⁶³¹⁰ At WHO, Brazil reinforces the importance of mental health care in the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/na-oms-brasil-reforca-importancia-da-atencao-a-saude-mental-na-pandemia>

⁶³¹¹ At WHO, Brazil reinforces the importance of mental health care in the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/na-oms-brasil-reforca-importancia-da-atencao-a-saude-mental-na-pandemia>

⁶³¹² Epidemiological Fund is a strategy to curb deaths and contain the advance of the pandemic in Amazonas and other states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/fundo-epidemiologico-e-estrategia-para-frear-mortes-e-conter-o-avanco-da-pandemia-no-amazonas-e-outros-estados>

⁶³¹³ Epidemiological Fund is a strategy to curb deaths and contain the advance of the pandemic in Amazonas and other states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/fundo-epidemiologico-e-estrategia-para-frear-mortes-e-conter-o-avanco-da-pandemia-no-amazonas-e-outros-estados>

⁶³¹⁴ Ministry of Health strengthens genomic surveillance to combat mutations in the virus that causes COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 February 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-fortalece-vigilancia-genomica-para-combater-mutacoes-do-virus-causador-da-covid-19>

⁶³¹⁵ Ministry of Health strengthens genomic surveillance to combat mutations in the virus that causes COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 February 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-fortalece-vigilancia-genomica-para-combater-mutacoes-do-virus-causador-da-covid-19>

and monitoring of these mutations will help us in the response of SUS to control the pandemic in the country and to understand more and more the behavior of the virus.”⁶³¹⁶

On 2 March 2021, the Ministry of Health announced it should receive another shipment of vaccines from the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca/Oxford through the COVAX Facility consortium.⁶³¹⁷ The global alliance has allocated 10,672,800 doses to Brazil that will be distributed between February and June to further expand vaccine access to Brazilians.⁶³¹⁸

On 9 March 2021, Minister Pazuello, met with the president of the board of directors of the global vaccine alliance Gavi, José Manuel Barroso, to discuss the allocation of vaccines acquired by COVAX Facility.⁶³¹⁹ The first shipment by COVAX is expected to arrive in Brazil through the Rotating Fund of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and corresponds to the AstraZeneca/Oxford immunizer, manufactured in Korea.⁶³²⁰ The initial schedule, subject to changes, foresees 2.9 million doses in March and another 6.1 million by May.⁶³²¹

On 29 March 2021, Gecex temporarily zeroed the Import Tax on 65 more products used to fight the new coronavirus pandemic.⁶³²² This builds upon previous import tax reductions on goods and materials needed in response to the ongoing pandemic.⁶³²³

On 14 April 2021, 1,301 adult intensive care unit (ICU) beds and 35 pediatric ICU beds were authorized by the Ministry of Health for the care of critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³²⁴ Several municipalities in the states of Alagoas, Amazonas, Amapá, Bahia, Ceará, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Pará, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio Grande do Norte, Rondônia, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Sergipe and São Paulo are part of the allocations.⁶³²⁵

⁶³¹⁶ Ministry of Health strengthens genomic surveillance to combat mutations in the virus that causes COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 February 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-fortalece-vigilancia-genomica-para-combater-mutacoes-do-virus-causador-da-covid-19>

⁶³¹⁷ Brazil guarantees over 10.6 million doses of vaccines against COVID-19 through the global consortium Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 2 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-garante-mais-10-6-milhoes-de-doses-de-vacinas-contra-covid-19-por-meio-do-consorcio-global-covax-facility>

⁶³¹⁸ Brazil guarantees over 10.6 million doses of vaccines against COVID-19 through the global consortium Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 2 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-garante-mais-10-6-milhoes-de-doses-de-vacinas-contra-covid-19-por-meio-do-consorcio-global-covax-facility>

⁶³¹⁹ Minister Pazuello asks Gavi alliance for Brazil to receive vaccines by Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuella-pede-a-alianca-gavi-atencao-ao-brasil-para-recebimento-de-vacinas-pela-covax-facility>

⁶³²⁰ Minister Pazuello asks Gavi alliance for Brazil to receive vaccines by Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuella-pede-a-alianca-gavi-atencao-ao-brasil-para-recebimento-de-vacinas-pela-covax-facility>

⁶³²¹ Minister Pazuello asks Gavi alliance for Brazil to receive vaccines by Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuella-pede-a-alianca-gavi-atencao-ao-brasil-para-recebimento-de-vacinas-pela-covax-facility>

⁶³²² Camex zeroes Import Tax on 65 more products to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/camex-zera-imposto-de-importacao-de-mais-65-produtos-para-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³²³ Camex zeroes Import Tax on 65 more products to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/camex-zera-imposto-de-importacao-de-mais-65-produtos-para-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³²⁴ Health authorizes 1,300 more ICU beds COVID-19 for 16 states, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 30 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-1-3-mil-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-16-estados>

⁶³²⁵ Health authorizes 1,300 more ICU beds COVID-19 for 16 states, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 30 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-1-3-mil-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-16-estados>

On 16 April 2021, over 2.3 million orotracheal intubation drugs will be distributed by the Ministry of Health beginning on April 16.⁶³²⁶ The inputs were acquired in China and donated to the Federal Government by a group of companies formed by Petrobras, Vale, Engie, Itaú Unibanco, Klabin and Raízen.⁶³²⁷ Minister of Health Marcelo Queiroga in a press conference mentioned that the action will reinforce assistance to the Unified Health System and patient care throughout the country.⁶³²⁸ “The obligation to purchase these drugs is from states and municipalities. However, we are in an international public emergency and we have to take the necessary steps to ensure supply throughout the country, especially in smaller municipalities that are unable to purchase,” said Minister Queiroga.⁶³²⁹

On 17 April 2021, Brazil released another BRL2.6 billion for the Ministry of Health to expand the actions carried out in the fight against the pandemic.⁶³³⁰ The resource will be used to purchase medicines that make up the intubation kit and also for new beds in the ICU.⁶³³¹ Of the amount released, BRL1.2 billion will be for the opening of new ICU beds – requested by the state and municipal health departments, in order to serve critically ill patients infected with the new coronavirus.⁶³³² The financial contribution will also be used to buy intubation drugs.⁶³³³ BRL1.4 billion will be allocated so that the Ministry of Health can maintain the stock of inputs for a period of 90 days.⁶³³⁴ The other 100 million include expenses with vaccine distribution logistics, for example, and transporting patients who need care in other states and municipalities.⁶³³⁵

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 411 adult ICU beds for the care of critically ill patients with covid-19.⁶³³⁶ Several municipalities in the states of Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito

⁶³²⁶ Health will distribute 2.3 million intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 15 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-ira-distribuir-2-3-milhoes-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³²⁷ Health will distribute 2.3 million intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 15 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-ira-distribuir-2-3-milhoes-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³²⁸ Health will distribute 2.3 million intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 15 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-ira-distribuir-2-3-milhoes-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³²⁹ Health will distribute 2.3 million intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 15 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-ira-distribuir-2-3-milhoes-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³³⁰ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³³¹ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³³² Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³³³ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³³⁴ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³³⁵ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³³⁶ Health authorizes 411 more ICU COVID-19 beds for 13 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-411-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados>

Santo, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and São Paulo are part of the allocations.⁶³³⁷

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 526 beds of Pulmonary Ventilatory Support for exclusive care to confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients.⁶³³⁸ The authorizations, on an exceptional and temporary basis, are destined for the Federal District and the states of Bahia, Goiás, Minas Gerais, Paraná, São Paulo, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Amazonas and Rio Grande do Sul.⁶³³⁹

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 666 more COVID-19 ICU beds for seven states: Alagoas, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Santa Catarina and São Paulo.⁶³⁴⁰

On 22 April 2021, the Ministry of Health is allocating BRL8.3 million for the purchase of hospital medical supplies, equipment and materials for the Special Indigenous Sanitary District Yanomami.⁶³⁴¹ The inputs will be destined to expand the health care of more than 28,000 indigenous people located between the states of Amazonas and Roraima, in the middle of the Amazon rainforest and in areas of difficult access.⁶³⁴²

On 23 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized another 45 adult and five pediatric ICU beds for the care of critically ill patients with covid-19.⁶³⁴³ In total, four states are being benefited: Minas Gerais, Pernambuco, Santa Catarina and São Paulo.⁶³⁴⁴

On 28 April 2021, Minister Queiroga, reinforced that the union between the managers of the Unified Health System (SUS) is the key to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, which involves the Federal, State and Municipal governments.⁶³⁴⁵ The statement was given during the inauguration of the board

⁶³³⁷ Health authorizes 411 more ICU COVID-19 beds for 13 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-411-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados>

⁶³³⁸ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 526 more beds are authorized for ten states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-526-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-dez-estados-e-df>

⁶³³⁹ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 526 more beds are authorized for ten states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-526-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-dez-estados-e-df>

⁶³⁴⁰ 666 more COVID-19 ICU beds are authorized for seven states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mais-666-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-sao-autorizados-para-sete-estados>

⁶³⁴¹ DSEI Yanomami: Health allocates R \$ 8.3 million to purchase medicines, equipment and supplies, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/dsei-yanomami-saude-destina-r-8-3-milhoes-para-compra-de-medicamentos-equipamentos-e-insumos>

⁶³⁴² DSEI Yanomami: Health allocates R \$ 8.3 million to purchase medicines, equipment and supplies, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/dsei-yanomami-saude-destina-r-8-3-milhoes-para-compra-de-medicamentos-equipamentos-e-insumos>

⁶³⁴³ Over 50 COVID-19 ICU beds are authorized for four states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 23 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mais-50-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-sao-autorizados-para-quatro-estados>

⁶³⁴⁴ Over 50 COVID-19 ICU beds are authorized for four states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 23 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mais-50-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-sao-autorizados-para-quatro-estados>

⁶³⁴⁵ Minister Queiroga participates in possession of the board of Conass and reinforces that the union will fight the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-queiroga-participa-de-posse-da-diretoria-do-conass-e-reforca-que-a-uniao-ira-combater-a-pandemia>

of directors of the National Council of Health Secretaries, in Brasília.⁶³⁴⁶ “It cannot be just a promise, tripartite has to be a reality. We need to come together to face our only enemy, which is the virus. And the weapon we have for this is SUS,” said Queiroga.⁶³⁴⁷

On 29 April 2021, the Ministry of Health will distribute an additional 864,000 units of orotracheal intubation drugs.⁶³⁴⁸ The inputs were acquired through auctions carried out by the portfolio and also acquired through PAHO.⁶³⁴⁹ These materials were acquired to better equip medical establishments fight the pandemic and treat patients coming in and is a strong step in improving the country’s response and handling.⁶³⁵⁰

On 29 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 867 adult ICU beds and five pediatric ICU beds for the care of critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³⁵¹ Several municipalities in the states of Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Minas Gerais, Pará, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo and the Federal District are benefiting from allocations.⁶³⁵²

On 3 May 2021, the Ministry of Health, as President of the Supplementary Health Council (CONSU), in order to integrate Supplementary Health actions with those of the Unified Health System (SUS) in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, published a Public Consultation.⁶³⁵³ Any person or institution can contribute by sending suggestions and opinions about the proposal.⁶³⁵⁴

On 4 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 1,152 adult ICU beds and 51 pediatric ICU beds to care for critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³⁵⁵ Several municipalities are being benefited in the states of Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato

⁶³⁴⁶ Minister Queiroga participates in possession of the board of Conass and reinforces that the union will fight the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 28 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-queiroga-participa-de-posse-da-diretoria-do-conass-e-reforca-que-a-uniao-ira-combater-a-pandemia>

⁶³⁴⁷ Minister Queiroga participates in possession of the board of Conass and reinforces that the union will fight the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 28 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-queiroga-participa-de-posse-da-diretoria-do-conass-e-reforca-que-a-uniao-ira-combater-a-pandemia>

⁶³⁴⁸ Health distributes over 864 thousand units of intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-distribui-mais-864-mil-unidades-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³⁴⁹ Health distributes over 864 thousand units of intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-distribui-mais-864-mil-unidades-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³⁵⁰ Health distributes over 864 thousand units of intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-distribui-mais-864-mil-unidades-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³⁵¹ Health authorizes more 872 ICU beds COVID-19 for 13 states and the DF, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-872-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados-e-o-df>

⁶³⁵² Health authorizes more 872 ICU beds COVID-19 for 13 states and the DF, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-872-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados-e-o-df>

⁶³⁵³ Public Consultation of the National Supplementary Health Policy for Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 3 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/consulta-publica-da-politica-nacional-de-saude-suplementar-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³⁵⁴ Public Consultation of the National Supplementary Health Policy for Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 3 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/consulta-publica-da-politica-nacional-de-saude-suplementar-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³⁵⁵ Health authorizes more than 1,200 Covid-19 ICU beds for 19 states, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 4 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-1-2-mil-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-19-estados>

Grosso, Pará, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Rondônia and São Paulo.⁶³⁵⁶

On 4 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 253 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁵⁷ The authorizations, are intended for the states of Paraíba, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraná, Minas Gerais, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Rio Grande do Sul, São Paulo, Ceará and Sergipe.⁶³⁵⁸

On 6 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 284 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁵⁹ The authorizations, are intended for the Federal District and for the states of Ceará, Espírito Santo, Maranhão, Pará, Piauí, Minas Gerais, São Paulo, Bahia, Rio Grande do Sul and Paraíba.⁶³⁶⁰

On 11 May 2021, the Federal Government released BRL5.5 billion for the purchase of more vaccines, with the objective of reinforcing the national campaign against COVID-19.⁶³⁶¹

On 11 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 174 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁶² The authorizations, are intended for the states of Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Maranhão, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Sergipe and São Paulo.⁶³⁶³

On 11 May 2021, the Ministry of Health will transfer nearly BRL1 billion in resources to combat COVID-19 in primary care, the gateway for patients to the Unified Health System (SUS).⁶³⁶⁴ The funds allocated to serve states and municipalities have as objectives, among others, to fund the development of strategic actions to support the care of elderly people; intensify attention to

⁶³⁵⁶ Health authorizes more than 1,200 Covid-19 ICU beds for 19 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 4 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-1-2-mil-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-19-estados>

⁶³⁵⁷ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 253 more beds are authorized for 12 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 4 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-253-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-12-estados>

⁶³⁵⁸ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 253 more beds are authorized for 12 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 4 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-253-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-12-estados>

⁶³⁵⁹ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 284 more beds are authorized for 10 states and the Federal District, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 6 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-284-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-10-estados-e-distrito-federal>

⁶³⁶⁰ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 284 more beds are authorized for 10 states and the Federal District, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 6 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-284-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-10-estados-e-distrito-federal>

⁶³⁶¹ More than R\$5.5 billion are released for the purchase of Covid-19 vaccines, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mais-de-r-5-5-bilhoes-sao-liberados-para-compra-de-vacinas-covid-19>

⁶³⁶² Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: an additional 174 beds are authorized for eight states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-174-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-oito-estados>

⁶³⁶³ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: an additional 174 beds are authorized for eight states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-174-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-oito-estados>

⁶³⁶⁴ Federal Government releases another R\$1 billion to fight the pandemic in Primary Care, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-1-bilhao-para-o-combate-a-pandemia-na-atencao-primaria-1>

malnutrition in children under seven years of age and pregnant women in the Bolsa Família program; and strengthen health care teams for traditional peoples and communities.⁶³⁶⁵

On 12 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 864 adult ICU beds and 51 pediatric ICU beds to care for critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³⁶⁶ Several municipalities in the states of Amazonas, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo and also for the Federal District are being benefited.⁶³⁶⁷

On 12 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 68 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁶⁸ The authorizations are intended for the states of Ceará, Minas Gerais and Rondônia.⁶³⁶⁹

On 18 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 212 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁷⁰ The authorizations are intended for the Federal District and for the states of Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Goiás, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Paraíba, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul, Rondônia, Santa Catarina and São Paulo.⁶³⁷¹

On 24 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 488 adult ICU beds to care for critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³⁷² The measure benefits municipalities in the states of Bahia, Ceará, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso, Pará, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio de Janeiro, Rondônia, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Sergipe and São Paulo.⁶³⁷³

On 25 May 2021, the Ministry of Health released the transfer of more than BRL1 billion for Health Funds of states and municipalities.⁶³⁷⁴ The money is intended for the payment of 21,998 beds in the

⁶³⁶⁵ Federal Government releases another R\$1 billion to fight the pandemic in Primary Care, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-1-bilhao-para-o-combate-a-pandemia-na-atencao-primaria-1>

⁶³⁶⁶ Health authorizes more than 880 ICU beds Covid-19 for 11 states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-880-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-11-estados-e-df>

⁶³⁶⁷ Health authorizes more than 880 ICU beds Covid-19 for 11 states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-880-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-11-estados-e-df>

⁶³⁶⁸ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 68 more beds are authorized for three states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia), 12 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-68-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-tres-estados>

⁶³⁶⁹ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 68 more beds are authorized for three states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia), 12 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-68-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-tres-estados>

⁶³⁷⁰ Health authorizes over 212 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for 12 states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia), 18 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-212-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-para-12-estados-e-df>

⁶³⁷¹ Health authorizes over 212 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for 12 states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia), 18 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-212-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-para-12-estados-e-df>

⁶³⁷² Health authorizes another 488 Covid-19 ICU beds for 13 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 24 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-488-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados>

⁶³⁷³ Health authorizes another 488 Covid-19 ICU beds for 13 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 24 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-488-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados>

⁶³⁷⁴ Ministry of Health allocates more than R\$ 1 billion to pay for ICU Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 25 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-destina-mais-de-r-1-bilhao-para-pagamento-de-uti-covid-19>

Intensive Care Unit (ICU) authorized and in force throughout the country, intended to serve exclusively patients affected by COVID-19.⁶³⁷⁵

On 28 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 122 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁷⁶ The authorizations are intended for the states of Bahia, Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Norte, Maranhão, Ceará and São Paulo.⁶³⁷⁷

On 1 June 2021, President Jair Bolsonaro and Minister of Health Marcelo Queiroga, signed the technology transfer agreement for the AstraZeneca laboratory so that the Institute of Technology in Immunobiologicals (Bio-Manguinhos), of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), can produce the immunizing agent against COVID-19 with Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (IFA) manufactured in the territory.⁶³⁷⁸ Fiocruz will start producing the input in its facilities, without depending on products from abroad, such as IFA from China or ready-made doses purchased from India.⁶³⁷⁹ With the production of a national API, Fiocruz contributes for Brazil to advance in overcoming this challenge.⁶³⁸⁰

On 8 June 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 62 adult ICU beds to care for critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³⁸¹ Municipalities in the states of Ceará, Pernambuco and São Paulo were benefited.⁶³⁸²

On 10 June 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 364 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁸³ The authorizations are intended for the states of Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo, Pará, Rio Grande do Norte, Goiás, Mata Grosso, Paraíba, and Paraná.⁶³⁸⁴

On 10 June 2021, the Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, participated in the program Agora.com Lacombe, on RedeTV, highlighting that vaccination and health care are the pillars of the fight against

⁶³⁷⁵ Ministry of Health allocates more than R\$ 1 billion to pay for ICU Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 25 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-destina-mais-de-r-1-bilhao-para-pagamento-de-uti-covid-19>

⁶³⁷⁶ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: over 122 beds are authorized for seven states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-122-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-sete-estados>

⁶³⁷⁷ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: over 122 beds are authorized for seven states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-122-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-sete-estados>

⁶³⁷⁸ Brazil starts producing 100% national Covid-19 vaccine, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 1 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-passa-a-produzir-vacina-covid-19-100-nacional>

⁶³⁷⁹ Brazil starts producing 100% national Covid-19 vaccine, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 1 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-passa-a-produzir-vacina-covid-19-100-nacional>

⁶³⁸⁰ Brazil starts producing 100% national Covid-19 vaccine, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 1 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-passa-a-produzir-vacina-covid-19-100-nacional>

⁶³⁸¹ Health authorizes more than 62 Covid-19 ICU beds for 3 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-62-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-3-estados>

⁶³⁸² Health authorizes more than 62 Covid-19 ICU beds for 3 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-62-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-3-estados>

⁶³⁸³ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 364 more beds are authorized for 16 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 10 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-364-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-16-estados>

⁶³⁸⁴ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 364 more beds are authorized for 16 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 10 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-364-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-16-estados>

COVID-19.⁶³⁸⁵ Queiroga highlighted the federal government's role in fighting the pandemic and commended President Jair Bolsonaro role in encouraging research in various areas, such as disease treatments and technology transfer.⁶³⁸⁶ He was quoted to have said that, "last week, we signed an agreement to transfer AstraZeneca's technologies with Fiocruz. This signals the strengthening of the health industrial complex."⁶³⁸⁷

On 17 June 2021, the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) was elected member of the Joint Coordination Council of the Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) of the World Health Organization (WHO) for a mandate from January 2022 to December 2025.⁶³⁸⁸ The last term of a Brazilian representative on the entity's board ended in 2013.⁶³⁸⁹

On 18 June 2021, the Ministry of Health signed an ordinance that released BRL2.8 million to expand the fight against COVID-19 by supporting the initiatives of the Street Clinic (eCR) teams.⁶³⁹⁰

On 22 June 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 91 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁹¹ The authorizations are intended for the following states: Ceará, Amazonas, Bahia, Sergipe, São Paulo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Maranhão, and Minas Gerais.⁶³⁹²

On 24 June 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 61 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁹³ The authorizations are intended for the following states: Paraíba, Ceará, Minas Gerais, São Paulo, and Mato Grosso.⁶³⁹⁴

On 24 June 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 391 adult and 5 pediatric ICU beds to care for critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³⁹⁵ The beds were authorized for the states of Bahia, Ceará,

⁶³⁸⁵ Queiroga reinforces the importance of vaccination against Covid-19 in Brazil, Ministry of Health (Osasco) 11 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/queiroga-reforca-importancia-da-vacinacao-contra-covid-19-no-brasil>

⁶³⁸⁶ Queiroga reinforces the importance of vaccination against Covid-19 in Brazil, Ministry of Health (Osasco) 11 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/queiroga-reforca-importancia-da-vacinacao-contra-covid-19-no-brasil>

⁶³⁸⁷ Queiroga reinforces the importance of vaccination against Covid-19 in Brazil, Ministry of Health (Osasco) 11 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/queiroga-reforca-importancia-da-vacinacao-contra-covid-19-no-brasil>

⁶³⁸⁸ Fiocruz is elected member of the WHO tropical diseases research and training program, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 18 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/fiocruz-e-eleita-membro-de-programa-de-pesquisa-e-treinamento-em-doencas-tropicais-da-oms>

⁶³⁸⁹ Fiocruz is elected member of the WHO tropical diseases research and training program, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 18 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/fiocruz-e-eleita-membro-de-programa-de-pesquisa-e-treinamento-em-doencas-tropicais-da-oms>

⁶³⁹⁰ Ministry of Health releases R\$ 2.8 million for Street Clinic teams, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 18 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-libera-r-2-8-milhoes-para-equipes-de-consultorio-na-rua>

⁶³⁹¹ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 91 more beds are authorized for nine states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-91-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-nove-estados>

⁶³⁹² Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 91 more beds are authorized for nine states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-91-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-nove-estados>

⁶³⁹³ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 61 more beds are authorized for five states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-61-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-cinco-estados>

⁶³⁹⁴ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 61 more beds are authorized for five states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-61-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-cinco-estados>

Espírito Santo, Goiás, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, São Paulo, and Tocantins.⁶³⁹⁶

On 29 June 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 618 adult and 28 pediatric ICU beds to care for critically ill patients with COVID-19; more than BRL27.4 million will be transferred to the units.⁶³⁹⁷ These authorizations benefit municipalities in Bahia, Ceará, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo, and Tocantins.⁶³⁹⁸

On 7 July 2021, the Ministry of Health launched a campaign to encourage immunization with the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.⁶³⁹⁹ About 3.4 million people have not yet returned to vaccination posts to take the second dose.⁶⁴⁰⁰

On 20 July 2021, the Ministry of Health promoted a series of webinars on the fight against Hepatitis.⁶⁴⁰¹ The "Yellow July" campaign was instituted in Brazil to reinforce the actions of surveillance, prevention and control of viral hepatitis.⁶⁴⁰²

On 21 July 2021, the Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, highlighted the role of the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS) in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic during his participation in a High Level Panel, jointly organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).⁶⁴⁰³ With the theme "Expanding the production of COVID-19 vaccines to promote equitable access," the event was attended by ministers of health and trade from several

⁶³⁹⁵ Health authorizes more than 396 Covid-19 ICU beds for 14 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 24 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-396-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-14-estados>

⁶³⁹⁶ Health authorizes more than 396 Covid-19 ICU beds for 14 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 24 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-396-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-14-estados>

⁶³⁹⁷ Health authorizes over 646 ICU beds Covid-19 for 14 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-646-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-14-estados>

⁶³⁹⁸ Health authorizes over 646 ICU beds Covid-19 for 14 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-646-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-14-estados>

⁶³⁹⁹ Ministry of Health launches campaign to encourage immunization with the 2nd dose of Covid-19 vaccine, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 7 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-lanca-campanha-para-incentivo-da-imunizacao-com-a-2a-dose-da-vacina-covid-19>

⁶⁴⁰⁰ Ministry of Health launches campaign to encourage immunization with the 2nd dose of Covid-19 vaccine, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 7 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-lanca-campanha-para-incentivo-da-imunizacao-com-a-2a-dose-da-vacina-covid-19>

⁶⁴⁰¹ Ministry of Health promotes a series of webinars on the fight against Hepatitis; see schedule, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-promove-serie-de-webinar-sobre-o-combate-as-hepatites-veja-programacao>

⁶⁴⁰² Ministry of Health promotes a series of webinars on the fight against Hepatitis; see schedule, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-promove-serie-de-webinar-sobre-o-combate-as-hepatites-veja-programacao>

⁶⁴⁰³ Minister reinforces role of SUS and vaccination program at WHO and WTO event, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-reforca-papel-do-sus-e-programa-de-vacinacao-em-evento-da-oms-e-omc>

countries, international financial organizations, and the directors general of WHO, WTO, and the World Intellectual Property Organization.⁶⁴⁰⁴

On 21 July 2021, the Ministry of Health announced it was investing BRL20 million for innovation in the production of pharmaceuticals and biopharmaceuticals in a partnership with the Brazilian Company for Research and Industrial Innovation (Embrapii).⁶⁴⁰⁵ Minister of Health Marcelo Queiroga highlighted the importance of developing a flexible and autonomous industry from external pressures to generate Brazilian solutions in the area.⁶⁴⁰⁶

On 30 July 2021, the Ministry of Health announced BRL5.1 million to reinforce highly complex care in the public health network by paying for services in two hospitals in the municipalities of Blumenau and Chapecó, in Santa Catarina.⁶⁴⁰⁷

On 5 August 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 457 COVID-19 ICU beds, 25 of which are pediatric, and 431 beds for pulmonary ventilatory support in the states of Bahia, Ceará, Federal District, Goiás, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Pará, Paraná, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Santa Catarina and Tocantins.⁶⁴⁰⁸ The investment totals to BRL31 million.⁶⁴⁰⁹

On 11 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced funding for 12 emergency care units in the states of Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Pará, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul and Sergipe.⁶⁴¹⁰

On 11 August 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 97 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, intended for moderate and severe patients who need oxygen support, but have not evolved into cases that require mechanical ventilation in the states of Bahia, Ceará, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul,

⁶⁴⁰⁴ Minister reinforces role of SUS and vaccination program at WHO and WTO event, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-reforca-papel-do-sus-e-programa-de-vacinacao-em-evento-da-oms-e-omc>

⁶⁴⁰⁵ Ministry of Health invests R\$ 20 million in innovation in the production of pharmaceuticals and biopharmaceuticals, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-veste-r-20-milhoes-em-inovacao-na-producao-de-farmacos-e-biofarmacos>

⁶⁴⁰⁶ Ministry of Health invests R\$ 20 million in innovation in the production of pharmaceuticals and biopharmaceuticals, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-veste-r-20-milhoes-em-inovacao-na-producao-de-farmacos-e-biofarmacos>

⁶⁴⁰⁷ Ministry of Health releases R\$ 5.1 million to reinforce highly complex care in Santa Catarina, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 30 July 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-libera-r-5-1-milhoes-para-reforcar-atendimentos-de-alta-complexidade-em-santa-catarina>

⁶⁴⁰⁸ Saúde authorizes another 457 Covid ICU beds and 431 pulmonary ventilatory support beds, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 5 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-457-leitos-de-uti-covid-e-431-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴⁰⁹ Saúde authorizes another 457 Covid ICU beds and 431 pulmonary ventilatory support beds, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 5 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-457-leitos-de-uti-covid-e-431-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴¹⁰ Ministry of Health enables 12 more Emergency Care Units, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-habilita-mais-12-unidades-de-pronto-atendimento>

Paraíba, Rio Grande do Sul, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.⁶⁴¹¹ The total investment is BRL1.3 million.⁶⁴¹²

On 17 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced further funding of BRL1.2 billion for the costs of adult and pediatric beds in Intensive Care Units across the country.⁶⁴¹³

On 19 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced more than BRL54.5 million for the cost of Ventilatory Lung Support beds to treat patients who require non-invasive and invasive ventilatory support.⁶⁴¹⁴ The units will help to stabilize the patients until relocation to hospitals that have ICU beds to deal with COVID-19.⁶⁴¹⁵

On 20 August 2021, the Ministry of Health expanded the support it offers municipalities to improve patient care with COVID-19.⁶⁴¹⁶ More than BRL574 million were released to accredit 2,700 health establishments.⁶⁴¹⁷ The financial incentive will help with expenses for units in 2,200 municipalities from July to September 2021, in total amounts ranging between BRL180 thousand and BRL300 thousand per unit and will be made in a single installment from the National Fund to municipal health funds.⁶⁴¹⁸

On 24 August 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 47 new beds of pulmonary ventilatory support to fight the pandemic in six Federation Units.⁶⁴¹⁹ An amount totaling to BRL674.9 thousand will be invested for this action.⁶⁴²⁰

⁶⁴¹¹ Saúde authorizes another 97 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-97-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴¹² Saúde authorizes another 97 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-97-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴¹³ Ministry of Health releases R\$ 1.2 billion for Covid-19 ICU beds across the country, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-libera-r-1-2-bilhao-para-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-em-todo-o-pais>

⁶⁴¹⁴ Saúde transfers R\$ 54.5 million to pulmonary ventilatory support beds for patients with Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-repassa-r-54-5-milhoes-para-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-a-pacientes-com-covid-19>

⁶⁴¹⁵ Saúde transfers R\$ 54.5 million to pulmonary ventilatory support beds for patients with Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-repassa-r-54-5-milhoes-para-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-a-pacientes-com-covid-19>

⁶⁴¹⁶ Ministry of Health releases more than R\$574 million to combat Covid-19 in Primary Care, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-libera-mais-de-r-574-milhoes-para-o-combate-a-covid-19-na-atencao-primaria>

⁶⁴¹⁷ Ministry of Health releases more than R\$574 million to combat Covid-19 in Primary Care, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-libera-mais-de-r-574-milhoes-para-o-combate-a-covid-19-na-atencao-primaria>

⁶⁴¹⁸ Ministry of Health releases more than R\$574 million to combat Covid-19 in Primary Care, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-libera-mais-de-r-574-milhoes-para-o-combate-a-covid-19-na-atencao-primaria>

⁶⁴¹⁹ Saúde allocates an additional R\$ 674.9 thousand for 47 new beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-destina-mais-r-674-9-mil-para-47-novos-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

On 26 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced it was expanding urgent and emergency care for the population of the municipality of Itaguaí, in Rio de Janeiro, with a new Emergency Care Unit (24h UPA) which will be funded by the Ministry for the unit's qualification.⁶⁴²¹

On 27 August 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 109 new beds for pulmonary ventilatory support in seven states, Bahia, Goiás, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Sergipe.⁶⁴²² To fund the new beds, the Ministry of Health is investing BRL1.5 million.⁶⁴²³

On 28 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it extended opening hours for 373 health units in 211 Brazilian cities.⁶⁴²⁴ The Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, signed an ordinance that provides for more than BRL110.8 million until December 2022, for the Primary Health Care units to guarantee service to the population.⁶⁴²⁵

On 2 September 2021, the National Council for Supplementary Health approved the general guidelines for transparency and monitoring for health plans to act during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁴²⁶ Among the guidelines for supplementary health are actions to ensure the right of beneficiaries to care in the assistance network of the contracted health plan operator.⁶⁴²⁷ In addition, the text provides for the monitoring of information from the network of health services contracted by the citizen, in particular those related to bed occupancy data and care outcomes, within the provisions of the General Data Protection Law.⁶⁴²⁸

⁶⁴²⁰ Saúde allocates an additional R\$ 674.9 thousand for 47 new beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-destina-mais-r-674-9-mil-para-47-novos-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴²¹ Health invests R\$ 3 million to enable UPA 24h in Rio de Janeiro, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-investe-r-3-milhoes-para-habilitar-upa-24h-no-rio-de-janeiro>

⁶⁴²² Ministry of Health authorizes 109 new beds for pulmonary ventilatory support in seven states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-autoriza-109-novos-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-em-sete-estados>

⁶⁴²³ Ministry of Health authorizes 109 new beds for pulmonary ventilatory support in seven states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-autoriza-109-novos-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-em-sete-estados>

⁶⁴²⁴ Ministry of Health enables 373 units in the Saúde na Hora program, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-habilita-373-unidades-no-programa-saude-na-hora>

⁶⁴²⁵ Ministry of Health enables 373 units in the Saúde na Hora program, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-habilita-373-unidades-no-programa-saude-na-hora>

⁶⁴²⁶ Federal Government Approves National Policy to Combat Covid-19 for Health Plans, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 3 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/governo-federal-aprova-politica-nacional-de-enfrentamento-a-covid-19-para-planos-de-saude>

⁶⁴²⁷ Federal Government Approves National Policy to Combat Covid-19 for Health Plans, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 3 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/governo-federal-aprova-politica-nacional-de-enfrentamento-a-covid-19-para-planos-de-saude>

⁶⁴²⁸ Federal Government Approves National Policy to Combat Covid-19 for Health Plans, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 3 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/governo-federal-aprova-politica-nacional-de-enfrentamento-a-covid-19-para-planos-de-saude>

On 3 September 2021, the Ministry of Health released BRL1.1 billion to be distributed to all states to fund hospitalizations in clinical ward beds.⁶⁴²⁹

On 6 September 2021, the Ministry of Health announced it is strengthening and expanding the structure of the Unified Health System to combat COVID-19 throughout Brazil.⁶⁴³⁰ The Federal Government published two ordinances releasing BRL59.9 million to fund 4,175 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support.⁶⁴³¹ The amount is for payment retroactive to the month of August and includes all states in the country.⁶⁴³²

On 8 September 2021, the Department of Chronic Diseases and Sexually Transmitted Infections of the Secretariat of Health Surveillance (SVS), made available in public consultation the proposal for the second edition of the Technical Manual for the Diagnosis of Syphilis.⁶⁴³³

On 9 September 2021, the Ministry of Health established a working group to prepare the Plan of Integrated Surveillance of Risk Factors for Congenital Anomalies in Brazil.⁶⁴³⁴

On 9 September 2021, the Ministry of Health announced it is expanding and reinforcing the entire structure of medium and high complexity for Covid-19's serious and very serious cases, and authorized 146 new ICU beds Covid for 10 Brazilian states.⁶⁴³⁵ To fund the new beds, the Federal Government is investing another BRL7 million in the states of Goiás, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Santa Catarina and São Paulo.⁶⁴³⁶

On 10 September 2021, the Vice President of the Republic, Hamilton Mourão, and 20 other authorities, the Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, visited the facilities of the Evandro Chagas Institute.⁶⁴³⁷ The focus of the visit was to present the IEC researchers activities' in protecting the

⁶⁴²⁹ Health releases BRL 1.1 billion in extra resources to combat Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 3 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/saude-libera-r-1-1-bilhao-de-recursos-extras-para-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶⁴³⁰ Saúde invests R\$ 59.9 million to fund 4,175 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 6 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/saude-investe-r-59-9-milhoes-para-custeio-de-4-175-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴³¹ Saúde invests R\$ 59.9 million to fund 4,175 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 6 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/saude-investe-r-59-9-milhoes-para-custeio-de-4-175-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴³² Saúde invests R\$ 59.9 million to fund 4,175 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 6 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/saude-investe-r-59-9-milhoes-para-custeio-de-4-175-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴³³ Second edition of the Technical Manual for the Diagnosis of Syphilis is available for public consultation, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/segunda-edicao-do-manual-tecnico-para-diagnostico-da-sifilis-esta-disponivel-para-consulta-publica>

⁶⁴³⁴ Health plans prevention strategies for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/segunda-edicao-do-manual-tecnico-para-diagnostico-da-sifilis-esta-disponivel-para-consulta-publica>

⁶⁴³⁵ Health authorizes over 146 Covid ICU beds for 10 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/saude-autoriza-mais-146-leitos-de-uti-covid-para-10-estados>

⁶⁴³⁶ Health authorizes over 146 Covid ICU beds for 10 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/saude-autoriza-mais-146-leitos-de-uti-covid-para-10-estados>

⁶⁴³⁷ During a visit to the IEC, Queiroga reinforces the Federal Government's support for research and health surveillance in Brazil, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/em-visita-ao-iec-queiroga-reforca-apoio-do-governo-federal-em-pesquisa-e-vigilancia-em-saude-no-brasil>

environment and the health of the Brazilian population.⁶⁴³⁸ The minister reinforced the Federal Government's commitment to science, research, and health surveillance.⁶⁴³⁹

Brazil has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by instituting the Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics program, imposing zero tax on products to fight COVID-19, by partnering with PAHO to disburse orotracheal intubation drugs and by participating in COVAX to immunize its citizens.

Thus, Brazil has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sydney Grad

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 22 November 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pledged to aid developing nations access to the vaccine.⁶⁴⁴⁰ Leaders gathered at the G20 summit to agree on a coordinated response to the pandemic; in response to the discussions, Canada has pledged to ensure access to the vaccine, and a rejection of protectionism is the foundation to international cooperation moving forward.⁶⁴⁴¹

On 27 November 2020, Health Canada implemented an interim order “respecting drug shortages” as a measure to help Canadian drug suppliers in response to the bulk importation of certain drugs by the United States and other countries.⁶⁴⁴² The measure allows Health Canada to assess and help alleviate any potential drug shortages due to bulk buying as a response to COVID-19 worldwide.⁶⁴⁴³

On 30 November 2020, Transport Canada implemented new ministerial orders under section 32.01 of the railway safety act due to COVID-19 requiring intercity passengers on rail carriers to implement health checks for COVID-19 and refuse to board symptomatic passengers.⁶⁴⁴⁴ This new measure also

⁶⁴³⁸ During a visit to the IEC, Queiroga reinforces the Federal Government's support for research and health surveillance in Brazil, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/em-visita-ao-iec-queiroga-reforca-apoio-do-governo-federal-em-pesquisa-e-vigilancia-em-saude-no-brasil>

⁶⁴³⁹ During a visit to the IEC, Queiroga reinforces the Federal Government's support for research and health surveillance in Brazil, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/em-visita-ao-iec-queiroga-reforca-apoio-do-governo-federal-em-pesquisa-e-vigilancia-em-saude-no-brasil>

⁶⁴⁴⁰ Trudeau joins G20 in promising COVID-19 aid to poor nations, rejecting protectionism, CTV News (Ottawa) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/trudeau-joins-g20-in-promising-covid-19-aid-to-poor-nations-rejecting-protectionism-1.5199907>

⁶⁴⁴¹ Trudeau joins G20 in promising COVID-19 aid to poor nations, rejecting protectionism, CTV News (Ottawa) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/trudeau-joins-g20-in-promising-covid-19-aid-to-poor-nations-rejecting-protectionism-1.5199907>

⁶⁴⁴² Interim Order Respecting Drug Shortages (Safeguarding the Drug Supply), Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/importation-exportation/interim-order-drug-shortages-protecting-supply.html>

⁶⁴⁴³ Interim Order Respecting Drug Shortages (Safeguarding the Drug Supply), Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/importation-exportation/interim-order-drug-shortages-protecting-supply.html>

⁶⁴⁴⁴ Order under Section 32.01 of the Railway Safety Act due to COVID-19, No. 9, Transport Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2020. <https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/enforcement-action-measures-mitigate-threats-rail-safety/ministerial-orders-emergency-directives/order-under-section-3201-railway-safety-act-due-covid-19-no-9>

influenced the role out of similar measures for pilots of private aircraft that has since been repealed.⁶⁴⁴⁵

On 14 December 2020, Canada announced additional support for equitable Access to COVID-19 tests treatments and vaccines.⁶⁴⁴⁶ Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced a CAD485 million contribution to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator. Amongst other initiatives, this will help the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund procure up to three million antibody therapeutics.⁶⁴⁴⁷ Minister Gould added that Canada will also invest CAD255 million in additional support for medical solutions against COVID-19 in developing and vulnerable countries. This will be achieved through focused investments with the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for the development, delivery and distribution of vaccines and therapeutics in Latin America and the Caribbean.⁶⁴⁴⁸

On 2 February 2021, the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Industry announced the investment of CAD1 billion into COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and biomanufacturing capacity.⁶⁴⁴⁹ This announcement relies on the already established Vaccine and Therapeutics task forces and biomanufacturing subcommittee in parliament.⁶⁴⁵⁰ The investment includes CAD5.1 million to Precision NanoSystems Incorporated, to expand the production of ribonucleic acid vaccines and future genetic medicines in Canada.⁶⁴⁵¹ Another CAD14 million will be allocated for Edesa Biotech Inc. to advance work on a monoclonal antibody therapy for acute respiratory distress syndrome, which is the leading cause of COVID-19 deaths.⁶⁴⁵²

On 11 February 2021, Canada launched a new initiative called the “Feminist Response and Recovery Fund” that will provide CAD100 million for projects helping women in need.⁶⁴⁵³ The fund will allow

⁶⁴⁴⁵ Order under Section 32.01 of the Railway Safety Act due to COVID-19, No. 9, Transport Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2020. <https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/enforcement-action-measures-mitigate-threats-rail-safety/ministerial-orders-emergency-directives/order-under-section-3201-railway-safety-act-due-covid-19-no-9>

⁶⁴⁴⁶ Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>

⁶⁴⁴⁷ Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>

⁶⁴⁴⁸ Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>

⁶⁴⁴⁹ New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>

⁶⁴⁵⁰ New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>

⁶⁴⁵¹ New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>

⁶⁴⁵² New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>

⁶⁴⁵³ Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Office of the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development (Ottawa) 11 February2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

organizations to pursue projects and scale up operations that help women and girls participate in Canada's economy and society throughout and post COVID-19.⁶⁴⁵⁴ The Recovery Fund is designed to help women at the local, regional and national levels who are the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Women continue to work on the front lines and the government is investing in organizations promoting equity.⁶⁴⁵⁵

On 14 February 2021, the Department of Justice amended regulations to pursue additional efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 across Canada by including more persuasive fines to improve compliance with the Quarantine Act and the emergency orders made under that act.⁶⁴⁵⁶

On 3 March 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced an investment of CAD518 million to support more than 100 projects and 1000 researchers across the country.⁶⁴⁵⁷ The new funding will ensure that researchers have the tools necessary to address the pandemic's changing needs and speed up vaccine production.⁶⁴⁵⁸ Prime Minister Trudeau said that, "Canada's researchers and scientists are some of the brightest and most skilled in the world. Today's investments will ensure that they have what they need to help us build a Canada that is healthier, cleaner, and more competitive."⁶⁴⁵⁹ This demonstrates Canada's advanced preparedness to combat the pandemic and future ones that may occur.⁶⁴⁶⁰

On 1 April 2021, Health Canada announced a CAD6.5 million investment to expand virtual health services in the province of Saskatchewan.⁶⁴⁶¹ Canada aims to help the region respond better to the challenges of delivering healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁴⁶²

On 6 April 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced the final installment of the over CAD19 billion Safe Restart Agreement aimed at helping provinces and territories safely restart the economy.⁶⁴⁶³ The

⁶⁴⁵⁴ Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Office of the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development (Ottawa) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

⁶⁴⁵⁵ d Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development (Ottawa) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

⁶⁴⁵⁶ Regulations Amending the Contraventions Regulations, The Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2021/2021-02-15-x3/html/extra3-eng.html>

⁶⁴⁵⁷ New investments to support research and science across Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/03/new-investments-support-research-and-science-across-canada>

⁶⁴⁵⁸ New investments to support research and science across Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/03/new-investments-support-research-and-science-across-canada>

⁶⁴⁵⁹ New investments to support research and science across Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/03/new-investments-support-research-and-science-across-canada>

⁶⁴⁶⁰ New investments to support research and science across Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/03/new-investments-support-research-and-science-across-canada>

⁶⁴⁶¹ Government of Canada Invests Close to \$6.5 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Saskatchewan (Ottawa) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-close-to-65-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-saskatchewan.html>

⁶⁴⁶² Government of Canada Invests Close to \$6.5 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Saskatchewan (Ottawa) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-close-to-65-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-saskatchewan.html>

⁶⁴⁶³ Support for testing and contact tracing through the Safe Restart Agreement (Ottawa) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/04/06/support-testing-and-contact-tracing-through-safe-restart-agreement>

agreement helps expand the capacity of healthcare systems, secure personal protective equipment, and helps protect the most vulnerable communities across Canada.⁶⁴⁶⁴

On 14 April 2021, Infrastructure Canada announced a CAD150 million investment in better ventilation in public buildings to help reduce possible aerosol transmission of COVID-19.⁶⁴⁶⁵ The project aims to “monitor, and improve indoor air quality and ventilation, including upgrades or conversions of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, as well as community-based solutions in Indigenous communities.”⁶⁴⁶⁶

On 14 April 2021, Health Canada announced a CAD16 million investment to expand virtual health services in the province of Alberta.⁶⁴⁶⁷ Canada invested in the creation of an eHealth strategy that includes virtual care, expanded access to health records, and developed a privacy and security framework needed to deliver health care during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁴⁶⁸

On 16 April 2021, Health Canada announced a CAD46 million investment to expand virtual health services in the province of Ontario.⁶⁴⁶⁹ Canada aims to use this investment to help the region respond better to the challenges of delivering healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁴⁷⁰

On 23 April 2021, the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Industry announced a CAD59.2 million investment in the University of Saskatchewan’s Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization’s for further development and manufacture of bio-solutions such as vaccines and therapeutics.⁶⁴⁷¹ The proposed investment would allow researchers to handle all the disease-causing pathogens in the world.⁶⁴⁷²

On 23 April 2021, Public Services and Procurement Canada announced that Canada has secured COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer for 2022 and 2023 with the possibility to extend current contracts

⁶⁴⁶⁴ Support for testing and contact tracing through the Safe Restart Agreement (Ottawa) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/04/06/support-testing-and-contact-tracing-through-safe-restart-agreement>

⁶⁴⁶⁵ Government of Canada investing an additional \$150 million in better ventilation for schools, hospitals, and other public buildings (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-investing-an-additional-150-million-in-better-ventilation-for-schools-hospitals-and-other-public-buildings.html>

⁶⁴⁶⁶ Government of Canada investing an additional \$150 million in better ventilation for schools, hospitals, and other public buildings (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-investing-an-additional-150-million-in-better-ventilation-for-schools-hospitals-and-other-public-buildings.html>

⁶⁴⁶⁷ Government of Canada Invests nearly \$16 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Alberta (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-nearly-16-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-alberta.html>

⁶⁴⁶⁸ Government of Canada Invests nearly \$16 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Alberta (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-nearly-16-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-alberta.html>

⁶⁴⁶⁹ Government of Canada Invests \$46 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Ontario (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-46-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-ontario.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁰ Government of Canada Invests \$46 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Ontario (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-46-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-ontario.html>

⁶⁴⁷¹ Ministers Champagne, Joly and Carr highlight Budget 2021 biomanufacturing investments (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/04/ministers-champagne-joly-and-carr-highlight-budget-2021-biomanufacturing-investments.html>

⁶⁴⁷² Ministers Champagne, Joly and Carr highlight Budget 2021 biomanufacturing investments (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/04/ministers-champagne-joly-and-carr-highlight-budget-2021-biomanufacturing-investments.html>

into 2024.⁶⁴⁷³ Canada has now secured 65 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine with access to up to 120 million doses.⁶⁴⁷⁴ This new procurement is in addition to the current 48 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine Canada secured in late 2020.⁶⁴⁷⁵

On 26 April 2021, Public Safety Canada announced the deployment of federal health human resources, Canadian Armed forces, and the Canadian Red Cross as well as transport medical staff from across Canada to support the hardest hit Ontario medical facilities.⁶⁴⁷⁶

On 27 April 2021, Global Affairs Canada announced CAD10 million in funding for humanitarian assistance to the Canadian Red Cross to support the Indian Red Cross Society's response to the rising cases in India.⁶⁴⁷⁷ The investment will allow for the purchase of medical supplies, as well as supporting blood and ambulance services.⁶⁴⁷⁸

On 29 April 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada announced an investment of CAD 64 million to launch the Immunization Partnership Fund.⁶⁴⁷⁹ The project aims to build the capacity of healthcare providers as vaccinator providers.⁶⁴⁸⁰ CAD32.25 million is allocated for community-led projects, while additional funding is earmarked to support electronic vaccination registries to help monitor vaccine uptake.⁶⁴⁸¹

On 29 April 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada announced an investment of CAD2.25 million through the Immunization Partnership Fund for two projects that are designed to support vaccination efforts.⁶⁴⁸² The first project, run through the University of Alberta, will address misinformation about the vaccine, while the second project, run through the University of Toronto,

⁶⁴⁷³ Government of Canada secures vaccine supply beyond 2021 (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-secures-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁴ Government of Canada secures vaccine supply beyond 2021 (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-secures-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁵ Government of Canada secures vaccine supply beyond 2021 (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-secures-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁶ Government of Canada assists Ontario with COVID-19 response (Ottawa) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-assists-ontario-with-covid-19-response.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁷ Canada announces funding support in response to COVID-19 in India (Ottawa) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/04/canada-announces-funding-support-in-response-to-covid-19-in-india.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁸ Canada announces funding support in response to COVID-19 in India (Ottawa) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/04/canada-announces-funding-support-in-response-to-covid-19-in-india.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁹ New Projects Funded Under the Immunization Partnership Fund (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/backgrounder-new-projects-funded-under-the-immunization-partnership-fund.html>

⁶⁴⁸⁰ New Projects Funded Under the Immunization Partnership Fund (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/backgrounder-new-projects-funded-under-the-immunization-partnership-fund.html>

⁶⁴⁸¹ New Projects Funded Under the Immunization Partnership Fund (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/backgrounder-new-projects-funded-under-the-immunization-partnership-fund.html>

⁶⁴⁸² The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage vaccine uptake in Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-vaccine-uptake-in-canada.html>

will address fears of needles and vaccines.⁶⁴⁸³ Both projects will aim to support Canada's research into barriers that Canadians face in getting vaccinated.⁶⁴⁸⁴

On 5 May 2021, on the fringes of the G7 summit in London, Canada and India met virtually and discussed the elevated situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in India.⁶⁴⁸⁵ It was finalized that a Canadian Armed Forces aircraft will depart on Wednesday carrying critical medication and ventilators to help support India's battle against the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. This consignment will include 25,000 vials of the anti-viral remdesivir as well as 50 ventilators.⁶⁴⁸⁶

On 7 May 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced additional resources for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions through the "Access to COVID-19 Tools" (ACT) Accelerator under the auspices of UNICEF.⁶⁴⁸⁷ The CAD375 million investment will help with the development, production, and supply chain logistics for low- and middle-income countries.⁶⁴⁸⁸ Additional support includes capacity building for COVID-19 testing around the world.⁶⁴⁸⁹

On 18 May 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced CAD5 million in support of a Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Program through the World Bank.⁶⁴⁹⁰ The investment will help with regional capacity for disease and epidemic preparedness in West Africa and is intended to provide immediate relief to the region during COVID-19.⁶⁴⁹¹

On 27 May 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with premiers across Canada to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁴⁹² The Prime Minister announced land border restrictions would be extended to 21

⁶⁴⁸³ The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage vaccine uptake in Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-vaccine-uptake-in-canada.html>

⁶⁴⁸⁴ The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage vaccine uptake in Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-vaccine-uptake-in-canada.html>

⁶⁴⁸⁵ Canada sending COVID-19 relief supplies to India (New Delhi) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/canada-sending-covid-19-relief-supplies-to-india-101620235238135.html>

⁶⁴⁸⁶ Canada sending COVID-19 relief supplies to India (New Delhi) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/canada-sending-covid-19-relief-supplies-to-india-101620235238135.html>

⁶⁴⁸⁷ Canada becomes first country to support COVID-19 therapeutics via new UNICEF fund, Prime Minister of Canada (New York) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/canada-becomes-first-country-support-covid-19-therapeutics-new-unicef-fund>

⁶⁴⁸⁸ Prime Minister announces additional support for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 4 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/05/07/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-equitable-access-new>

⁶⁴⁸⁹ Prime Minister announces additional support for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 4 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/05/07/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-equitable-access-new>

⁶⁴⁹⁰ Prime Minister Trudeau announces additional support for hard-hit African economies, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/05/18/prime-minister-trudeau-announces-additional-support-hard-hit-african>

⁶⁴⁹¹ Prime Minister Trudeau announces additional support for hard-hit African economies, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/05/18/prime-minister-trudeau-announces-additional-support-hard-hit-african>

⁶⁴⁹² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds 31st call with premiers on COVID-19 response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/05/27/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-holds-31st-call-premiers-covid-19-response>

June 2021, and closed airports to flights from India and Pakistan until further notice due to the rapid spread of the virus in the region.⁶⁴⁹³

On 12 June 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau released a joint statement alongside the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron on the margins of the G7 summit.⁶⁴⁹⁴ The released statement reaffirmed Canada's commitment to multilateral cooperation with developing countries through donating vaccines to the COVAX program.⁶⁴⁹⁵ Additional resources and information will be made available at the France-Canada Council of Ministers.⁶⁴⁹⁶

On 5 July 2021, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu, announced funding for three new community-led projects to increase the number of vaccinated people across the country.⁶⁴⁹⁷ The Indigenous Primary Health Care Council, University Health Network, and the Women's College Hospital will receive funding to educate and build the capacity of non-physician health care practitioners to promote vaccines within their communities.⁶⁴⁹⁸

On 12 July 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada announced funding for five new community-led projects to increase the number of vaccinated people across the country.⁶⁴⁹⁹ The African Arts & Culture Community Contributor Society, the Mainline a program of the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec, Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services Inc., Vancouver Infectious Diseases Centre will all receive increased funding to provide culturally resonant COVID-19 support to communities in need.⁶⁵⁰⁰

⁶⁴⁹³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds 31st call with premiers on COVID-19 response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/05/27/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-holds-31st-call-premiers-covid-19-response>

⁶⁴⁹⁴ Joint Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, and the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2021/06/12/joint-statement-prime-minister-canada-justin-trudeau-and-president>

⁶⁴⁹⁵ Joint Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, and the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2021/06/12/joint-statement-prime-minister-canada-justin-trudeau-and-president>

⁶⁴⁹⁶ Joint Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, and the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2021/06/12/joint-statement-prime-minister-canada-justin-trudeau-and-president>

⁶⁴⁹⁷ Government of Canada funds three new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-three-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-canada.html>

⁶⁴⁹⁸ Government of Canada funds three new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-three-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-canada.html>

⁶⁴⁹⁹ Government of Canada funds five new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 12 July 2021. Access Date 24 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-five-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-canada.html>

⁶⁵⁰⁰ Government of Canada funds five new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 12 July 2021. Access Date 24 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-five-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-canada.html>

On 27 July 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada had received 66 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines.⁶⁵⁰¹ The supply total is now enough to vaccinate every eligible Canadian two months ahead of the scheduled September goal set out by the government in late 2020.⁶⁵⁰² The Prime Minister also noted that Canada remains a global leader in vaccinations with 80 per cent of Canadians having already received their first dose and 64 per cent fully vaccinated.⁶⁵⁰³

On 27 July 2021, the Government of Canada announced a new program and funding for two new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in youth.⁶⁵⁰⁴ BGC Canada (formerly Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada) will receive CAD500,000 to promote the benefits of vaccinating against COVID-19.⁶⁵⁰⁵ The Minister of Health also announced that “the Canada Safety Council will receive up to CAD220,000 to create a COVID-19 vaccine education and awareness program to be delivered in schools.”⁶⁵⁰⁶

On 10 August 2021, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, announced a new agreement with Moderna Inc. to build an mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility in Canada.⁶⁵⁰⁷ The new facility will allow Canada to boost research, and innovation, be more prepared for future pandemics, and will help fight the long-term fight against COVID-19.⁶⁵⁰⁸

On 12 August 2021, the Public Health Agency announced new funding for research into possible and rare instances of adverse effects from COVID-19 vaccinations.⁶⁵⁰⁹ The Canadian Immunization

⁶⁵⁰¹ Canada reaches major vaccine campaign milestone, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 27 Jul 2021. Access Date 28 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/27/canada-reaches-major-vaccine-campaign-milestone>

⁶⁵⁰² Canada reaches major vaccine campaign milestone, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 27 Jul 2021. Access Date 28 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/27/canada-reaches-major-vaccine-campaign-milestone>

⁶⁵⁰³ Canada reaches major vaccine campaign milestone, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 27 Jul 2021. Access Date 28 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/27/canada-reaches-major-vaccine-campaign-milestone>

⁶⁵⁰⁴ The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in youth, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-youth.html>

⁶⁵⁰⁵ The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in youth, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-youth.html>

⁶⁵⁰⁶ The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in youth, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-youth.html>

⁶⁵⁰⁷ Government of Canada announces agreement with leading COVID--19 vaccine developer Moderna, Inc. to build mRNA vaccine facility in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-announces-agreement-with-leading-covid-19-vaccine-developer-moderna-inc-to-build-mrna-vaccine-facility-in-canada.html>

⁶⁵⁰⁸ Government of Canada announces agreement with leading COVID--19 vaccine developer Moderna, Inc. to build mRNA vaccine facility in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-announces-agreement-with-leading-covid-19-vaccine-developer-moderna-inc-to-build-mrna-vaccine-facility-in-canada.html>

⁶⁵⁰⁹ Government of Canada funds research on responding to possible adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 1 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-funds-research-on-responding-to-possible-adverse-events-following-covid-19-vaccination0.html>

Research Network, housed at Dalhousie University will receive CAD800,000 to further research into identification and response to adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination.⁶⁵¹⁰

On 13 August 2021, the Government of Canada negotiated an additional agreement with Moderna Inc. for additional vaccine supply beyond 2021.⁶⁵¹¹ The Government of Canada announced that it will guarantee access to 40 million additional doses, with the option of 65 million more.⁶⁵¹² The agreement also includes access to vaccine adaptations based on the variant situation in Canada in future.⁶⁵¹³

On 13 August 2021, the Government of Canada announced funding for COVID-19 Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites in Ontario.⁶⁵¹⁴ The new sites will allow people who have COVID-19 or those who have been exposed to it isolate themselves in safe, and reliable accommodations to keep themselves and their communities safe.⁶⁵¹⁵ The additional unspecified amount of funding will go to several counties and regions across Ontario.⁶⁵¹⁶

Canada has taken strong action to fully advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention and response. This has been demonstrated when Canada enacted the Quarantine Act, contributed to the COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and invested in science and technology to speed up vaccine development. Furthermore, Canada made it vital for passengers to undergo COVID-19 tests for detection.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Rabul Pallan

⁶⁵¹⁰ Government of Canada funds research on responding to possible adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 1 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-funds-research-on-responding-to-possible-adverse-events-following-covid-19-vaccination0.html>

⁶⁵¹¹ Government of Canada negotiates additional agreement with Moderna for vaccine supply beyond 2021, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-negotiates-additional-agreement-with-moderna-for-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

⁶⁵¹² Government of Canada negotiates additional agreement with Moderna for vaccine supply beyond 2021, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-negotiates-additional-agreement-with-moderna-for-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

⁶⁵¹³ Government of Canada negotiates additional agreement with Moderna for vaccine supply beyond 2021, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-negotiates-additional-agreement-with-moderna-for-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

⁶⁵¹⁴ Government of Canada Announces Funding for COVID-19 Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites in Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-covid-19-safe-voluntary-isolation-sites-in-ontario.html>

⁶⁵¹⁵ Government of Canada Announces Funding for COVID-19 Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites in Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-covid-19-safe-voluntary-isolation-sites-in-ontario.html>

⁶⁵¹⁶ Government of Canada Announces Funding for COVID-19 Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites in Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-covid-19-safe-voluntary-isolation-sites-in-ontario.html>

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China has fully complied with its commitment to combat COVID-19 by advancing pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 22 November 2020, the National Health Commission released guidelines on the COVID-19 prevention and control work at blood donation stations.⁶⁵¹⁷ The guideline aims to ensure the safety of health workers and donors and to secure blood supplies for the fall and winter of 2021.⁶⁵¹⁸

On 23 November 2020, the Ministry of Civil Affairs announced their plans to ensure the livelihood of the most impoverished population under the pandemic.⁶⁵¹⁹ The plans include conducting a census of people in need of social relief, expanding the relief's coverage and increasing financial support.⁶⁵²⁰ China provided temporary subsidies for 7.46 million people in 2020, 56 per cent more than the same period in 2019.⁶⁵²¹

On 24 November 2020, the National Health Commission, the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and the regional government of Guangxi held the third China-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Health Cooperation Forum in Nanning, China.⁶⁵²² The forum offered the support of the World Health Organization (WHO) to play a leading role in global health governance and aimed to improve the cooperation between China and ASEAN in disease prevention, control and responding to public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 epidemic.⁶⁵²³

On 26 November 2020, Head of the Elderly Health Department of the National Health Commission Wang Haidong announced that the commission now requires hospitals to accommodate nonusers of smartphones, especially senior citizens, while implementing high-tech epidemic prevention and control measures.⁶⁵²⁴ Hospitals should continue to offer elderly patients traditional face-to-face services including registration, payment and inquiries concerning test results.⁶⁵²⁵

⁶⁵¹⁷ China tightens COVID-19 prevention in blood donation, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/22/content_WS5fba2924c6d0f7257694055c.html

⁶⁵¹⁸ China tightens COVID-19 prevention in blood donation, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/22/content_WS5fba2924c6d0f7257694055c.html

⁶⁵¹⁹ China ensures basic needs of vulnerable group amid COVID-19 fallout, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/23/content_WS5fbb7949c6d0f72576940695.html

⁶⁵²⁰ China ensures basic needs of vulnerable group amid COVID-19 fallout, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/23/content_WS5fbb7949c6d0f72576940695.html

⁶⁵²¹ Measures to aid those affected by COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/24/content_WS5fbc6aac6d0f72576940742.html

⁶⁵²² China-ASEAN health cooperation forum opens in South China, People's Republic of China Government (Nanning) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202011/25/content_WS5fbd9373c6d0f72576940872.html

⁶⁵²³ China-ASEAN health cooperation forum opens in South China, People's Republic of China Government (Nanning) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202011/25/content_WS5fbd9373c6d0f72576940872.html

⁶⁵²⁴ Hospitals required to issue elderly-friendly epidemic policies, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-11/27/c_82286.htm

⁶⁵²⁵ Hospitals required to issue elderly-friendly epidemic policies, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-11/27/c_82286.htm

On 27 November 2020, the Ministry of Transport released guidelines on preventing the transmission of COVID-19 through imported cold-chain foods during transportation.⁶⁵²⁶ The guidelines include instructions on giving personnel training and protection and disinfection of vehicles.⁶⁵²⁷

On 1 December 2020, the National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) provided China's private enterprises guidance and assistance on reinforcing the enterprises' commitment to the research and development of COVID-19 test kits.⁶⁵²⁸ The chairman of Liferiver, a Chinese diagnostics solution provider, Shao Junbin said that officials from the NMPA were available for consultations on the phone and online chat groups, which helped the company develop one of the first novel coronavirus detection reagent certified by the country as well as the WHO.⁶⁵²⁹

On 2 December 2020, State Council Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan announced that China has achieved major progress in the research and development of COVID-19 vaccines.⁶⁵³⁰ 14 vaccines have entered clinical trials, 5 of which entered phase-III clinical trials.⁶⁵³¹

On 7 December 2020, the National Health Commission released a notice that instructed all medical institutions at the grassroots level to test patients who have shown symptoms of fever for the novel coronavirus.⁶⁵³² The notice is aimed at improving the ability of medical institutions to detect the virus early.⁶⁵³³

On 8 December 2020, the National Health Commission and the UK Department of Health and Social Care held the fifth China-UK health dialogue online.⁶⁵³⁴ Representatives from both sides shared information on COVID-19 prevention and control, diagnosis and treatment, and global health cooperation.⁶⁵³⁵

⁶⁵²⁶ China vows to stem COVID-19 spread through imported foods, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/27/content_WS5fc100a3c6d0f72576940cdb.html

⁶⁵²⁷ China vows to stem COVID-19 spread through imported foods, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/27/content_WS5fc100a3c6d0f72576940cdb.html

⁶⁵²⁸ Regulator's support energizes test kit makers to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/01/content_WS5fc59b0dc6d0f72576940f8c.html

⁶⁵²⁹ Regulator's support energizes test kit makers to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/01/content_WS5fc59b0dc6d0f72576940f8c.html

⁶⁵³⁰ Vice-premier underlines progress in COVID-19 vaccine development, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/sunchunlan/202012/03/content_WS5fc81dc1c6d0f725769412a2.html

⁶⁵³¹ Vice-premier underlines progress in COVID-19 vaccine development, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/sunchunlan/202012/03/content_WS5fc81dc1c6d0f725769412a2.html

⁶⁵³² Grassroots health centers told to conduct virus tests, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/09/content_WS5fd00c5fc6d0f7257694192a.html

⁶⁵³³ Grassroots health centers told to conduct virus tests, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/09/content_WS5fd00c5fc6d0f7257694192a.html

⁶⁵³⁴ China, UK seek closer health cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 11 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/11/c_82422.htm

⁶⁵³⁵ China, UK seek closer health cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 11 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/11/c_82422.htm

On 8 December 2020, China delivered the second batch of anti-coronavirus medical aid, including 130,000 N95 masks, to the Arab League based in Cairo, Egypt.⁶⁵³⁶ China has sent the Arab countries more than 1 million testing kits and over 18 million masks, and dispatched medical teams to eight Arab countries.⁶⁵³⁷

On 9 December 2020, the State Council outlined a number of measures to support the growth of the personal insurance sector to address the growing demand for healthcare, senior care and social security.⁶⁵³⁸ Measures included offering insurers incentives to develop products that suit seniors' demands and financial resources, incorporating treatment costs that lie outside the basic medical insurance in the government's coverage.⁶⁵³⁹

On 11 December 2020, China donated medical supplies worth RMB2 million to Myanmar to fight against COVID-19.⁶⁵⁴⁰ The supplies included 30,000 personal protective equipment, 30,000 isolation gowns, 42,000 N95 masks and 150,000 surgical masks.⁶⁵⁴¹

On 15 December 2020, China held a ceremony for the China-aided future headquarters of Africa CDC project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.⁶⁵⁴² The ceremony gathered senior officials from the AU Commission and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, representatives of various African countries, diplomats from the Chinese mission to the AU, and high-level dignitaries. Head of the Chinese Mission to the African Union Liu Yuxi affirmed that China "will continue to support the African Union's Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 Outbreak and Africa's efforts to build stronger public health prevention and control systems."⁶⁵⁴³ He also stressed that China will try to make COVID-19 vaccines a global public good, and accessible and affordable for African countries.⁶⁵⁴⁴

On 15 December 2020, the National Health Commission donated medical equipment to Zimbabwe's largest referral hospital, the Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals.⁶⁵⁴⁵ The donated materials included

⁶⁵³⁶ China delivers 2nd batch of anti-coronavirus medical aid to Arab League, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Cairo) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/09/c_82395.htm

⁶⁵³⁷ China delivers 2nd batch of anti-coronavirus medical aid to Arab League, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Cairo) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/09/c_82395.htm

⁶⁵³⁸ State Council urges more personal health insurance, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202012/15/content_WS5fd80804c6d0f72576941e1a.html

⁶⁵³⁹ State Council urges more personal health insurance, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202012/15/content_WS5fd80804c6d0f72576941e1a.html

⁶⁵⁴⁰ China donates more medical supplies for Myanmar's fight against COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Yangon) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/11/content_WS5fd368e2c6d0f72576941bea.html

⁶⁵⁴¹ China donates more medical supplies for Myanmar's fight against COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Yangon) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/11/content_WS5fd368e2c6d0f72576941bea.html

⁶⁵⁴² China, Africa fighting COVID-19 pandemic shoulder to shoulder, People's Republic of China Government (Addis Ababa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/15/content_WS5fd8068ac6d0f72576941e19.html

⁶⁵⁴³ China, Africa fighting COVID-19 pandemic shoulder to shoulder, People's Republic of China Government (Addis Ababa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/15/content_WS5fd8068ac6d0f72576941e19.html

⁶⁵⁴⁴ China, Africa fighting COVID-19 pandemic shoulder to shoulder, People's Republic of China Government (Addis Ababa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/15/content_WS5fd8068ac6d0f72576941e19.html

⁶⁵⁴⁵ China donates medical equipment to Zimbabwe's largest hospital, People's Republic of China Government (Harare) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/16/content_WS5fd958f1c6d0f72576941f88.html

ventilators, blood oxygen saturation monitors, electrocardiographs, oxygen machines, among other equipment.⁶⁵⁴⁶

On 15 December 2020, the National Health Commission and the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine issued a set of standards and specifications for promoting the application of information technology in the public health sector.⁶⁵⁴⁷ The standards aimed to improve the country's emergency response mechanism for major epidemics.⁶⁵⁴⁸

On 15 December 2020, Ambassador to South Sudan Hua Ning lauded the eighth batch of the medical team from China to help poor communities in South Sudan.⁶⁵⁴⁹ Chinese medical doctors have offered free treatment to more than 2,000 people residing along the 392 km Juba-Terekeka-Yirol-Rumbek road in South Sudan.⁶⁵⁵⁰

On 16 December 2020, the Civil Aviation Administration of China announced new COVID-19 control policies for inbound flights.⁶⁵⁵¹ Flights will be suspended for two weeks instead of one week if the number of passengers who test positive for COVID-19 reaches five.⁶⁵⁵²

On 21 December 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention implemented strict measures to prevent COVID-19 infections via cold-chain and frozen foods.⁶⁵⁵³ The measures include strict testing and disinfection at customs, protection and regular nucleic acid testing for the workers, and the inoculation of high-risk groups.⁶⁵⁵⁴

On 21 December 2020, China started the construction of a plant for manufacturing an mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine.⁶⁵⁵⁵ China expected the facility to produce 120 million doses per year in its first phase.⁶⁵⁵⁶

⁶⁵⁴⁶ China donates medical equipment to Zimbabwe's largest hospital, People's Republic of China Government (Harare) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202012/16/content_WS5fd958f1c6d0f72576941f88.html

⁶⁵⁴⁷ China to promote IT application in public health, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/15/content_WS5fd8b522c6d0f72576941f16.html

⁶⁵⁴⁸ China to promote IT application in public health, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/15/content_WS5fd8b522c6d0f72576941f16.html

⁶⁵⁴⁹ Chinese doctors treat over 2,000 people in South Sudan, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Juba) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/16/c_82460.htm

⁶⁵⁵⁰ Chinese doctors treat over 2,000 people in South Sudan, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Juba) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/16/c_82460.htm

⁶⁵⁵¹ China tightens COVID-19 control policies for inbound flights, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/16/content_WS5fd9f2f5c6d0f72576942004.html

⁶⁵⁵² China tightens COVID-19 control policies for inbound flights, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/16/content_WS5fd9f2f5c6d0f72576942004.html

⁶⁵⁵³ China steps up prevention of COVID-19 via cold chain, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0880dc6d0f725769423ec.html

⁶⁵⁵⁴ China steps up prevention of COVID-19 via cold chain, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0880dc6d0f725769423ec.html

⁶⁵⁵⁵ China starts building COVID-19 vaccine production facility, People's Republic of China Government (Kunming) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0a036c6d0f7257694241c.html

On 30 December 2020, Premier Li Keqiang announced that China will step up its epidemic prevention and control during the Spring Festival travel rush and strengthen emergency response in the State Council executive meeting.⁶⁵⁵⁷

On 31 December 2020, the National Health Commission announced that China will provide COVID-19 vaccines free of charge to all its citizens.⁶⁵⁵⁸ It will vaccinate senior citizens, people with underlying conditions, and the general public in an orderly manner. China also promised to provide the vaccines to the world at a fair and reasonable price.⁶⁵⁵⁹

On 31 December 2020, China and Egypt signed a letter of intent for cooperation on anti-coronavirus vaccines in Cairo, Egypt.⁶⁵⁶⁰ The countries signed this letter after Egypt received a batch of COVID-19 vaccine developed by Chinese drugmaker Sinopharm from China in December 2020.⁶⁵⁶¹

On 5 January 2021, the State Council joint prevention and control mechanism against COVID-19 ordered the strict inspection of vaccine quality, safety and smooth cold-chain transportation, and timely and accurate delivery of vaccines.⁶⁵⁶² The Chinese National Medical Products Administration also established a traceability information system for the management of approved vaccines.⁶⁵⁶³

On 7 January 2021, China donated medical equipment to Zambia to tackle the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁵⁶⁴ The donated equipment includes ventilators, oxygen ventilators and other medical equipment.⁶⁵⁶⁵ China also organized a medical team to help in hospitals in Zambia for a period of one year.⁶⁵⁶⁶

⁶⁵⁵⁶ China starts building COVID-19 vaccine production facility, People's Republic of China Government (Kunming) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0a036c6d0f7257694241c.html

⁶⁵⁵⁷ China strengthens epidemic preparedness and response for Spring Festival to ensure safe travels, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202012/30/content_WS5fec7b86c6d0f72576942be2.html

⁶⁵⁵⁸ Chinese COVID-19 vaccines free to all its citizens: official, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/31/content_WS5fed9059c6d0f72576942e9e.html

⁶⁵⁵⁹ Chinese COVID-19 vaccines free to all its citizens: official, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/31/content_WS5fed9059c6d0f72576942e9e.html

⁶⁵⁶⁰ 2020 witnesses growing cooperation between Egypt, China in fighting COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/01/content_WS5fef1853c6d0f72576943134.html

⁶⁵⁶¹ 2020 witnesses growing cooperation between Egypt, China in fighting COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/01/content_WS5fef1853c6d0f72576943134.html

⁶⁵⁶² China pledges safety, effectiveness as vaccination to be carried out nationwide, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/05/c_82654.htm

⁶⁵⁶³ China pledges safety, effectiveness as vaccination to be carried out nationwide, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/05/c_82654.htm

⁶⁵⁶⁴ China provides more medical equipment to help Zambia fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/08/content_WS5ff7b167c6d0f72576943718.html

⁶⁵⁶⁵ China provides more medical equipment to help Zambia fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/08/content_WS5ff7b167c6d0f72576943718.html

⁶⁵⁶⁶ China provides more medical equipment to help Zambia fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/08/content_WS5ff7b167c6d0f72576943718.html

On 9 January 2021, deputy head of China's National Health Commission Zeng Yixin announced that China and WHO have reached a consensus on specific arrangements of the investigation of the origin of COVID-19.⁶⁵⁶⁷ Chinese experts will go to Wuhan to conduct the investigation once the WHO experts completed their procedures and finalized the schedule.⁶⁵⁶⁸

On 9 January 2021, Deputy Head Yixin announced that China has inoculated a total of over 9 million doses since 15 December 2020.⁶⁵⁶⁹ A total of 25,392 vaccination sites were available in the country.⁶⁵⁷⁰

On 20 January 2021, China's National Health Commission announced that China has administered more than 15 million doses since December 2020.⁶⁵⁷¹

On 3 March 2021, the Spokesperson for the Fourth Session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Guo Weimin updated that more than 52 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered across China as of the end of February.⁶⁵⁷²

On 12 January 2021, the Regional Health Commission announced that it will send a medical team from South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region to Niger and Comoros.⁶⁵⁷³ The team will provide medical services for local residents and assist with anti-epidemic measures during their 18-month stay.⁶⁵⁷⁴

On 12 January 2021, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that China will stand firm with Myanmar to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic during a meeting with Myanmar President U Win Myint in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.⁶⁵⁷⁵ He also said that China had decided to provide an emergency aid of COVID-19 vaccines and carry out further vaccine cooperation with Myanmar.⁶⁵⁷⁶

⁶⁵⁶⁷ China ready to work with WHO investigation team on COVID-19: official, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff944a1c6d0f72576943851.html

⁶⁵⁶⁸ China ready to work with WHO investigation team on COVID-19: official, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff944a1c6d0f72576943851.html

⁶⁵⁶⁹ Over 9m doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in China, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff946a8c6d0f72576943860.html

⁶⁵⁷⁰ Over 9m doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in China, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff946a8c6d0f72576943860.html

⁶⁵⁷¹ Over 15m doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in China, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/20/content_WS60082c8cc6d0f7257694435e.html

⁶⁵⁷² Output of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to top 1 bln doses in 2021, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/04/c_83130.htm

⁶⁵⁷³ Chinese medical team to help fight COVID-19 in Niger, Comoros, People's Republic of China Government (Nanning) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international exchanges/202101/12/content_WS5ffcf819c6d0f72576943a7d.html

⁶⁵⁷⁴ Chinese medical team to help fight COVID-19 in Niger, Comoros, People's Republic of China Government (Nanning) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international exchanges/202101/12/content_WS5ffcf819c6d0f72576943a7d.html

⁶⁵⁷⁵ Wang Yi: China to work with Myanmar to battle COVID-19, promote economic recovery, People's Republic of China Government (Nay Pyi Taw) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202101/12/content_WS5ffd3fa9c6d0f72576943aa2.html

⁶⁵⁷⁶ Wang Yi: China to work with Myanmar to battle COVID-19, promote economic recovery, People's Republic of China Government (Nay Pyi Taw) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202101/12/content_WS5ffd3fa9c6d0f72576943aa2.html

China also supported the Myanmar government's efforts in pursuing national reconciliation and will continue to provide assistance within its capacity.⁶⁵⁷⁷

On 13 January 2021, a spokesperson of the Commission's Disease Prevention and Control Bureau Wang Bin stated that China was fine-tuning its regular COVID-19 control policies to stem the coronavirus's faster spread in winter.⁶⁵⁷⁸ The new policies will required overseas travelers to present certificates of both negative nucleic acid test results and negative IgM antibody test results before boarding.⁶⁵⁷⁹

On 13 January 2021, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated that a WHO team in China is working with producers of the Chinese Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines for potential emergency use listings.⁶⁵⁸⁰

On 20 January 2021, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention deposited a new COVID-19 variant detected in South Africa.⁶⁵⁸¹ It shared the information with research institutes and sci-tech resource sharing platforms in the country which would support the launch of scientific research, assessment of existing diagnostic reagents, vaccine research and development, and adjustment to epidemic prevention and control measures.⁶⁵⁸²

On 21 January 2021, the Chinese Embassy in Iraq delivered a donation to Baghdad, Iraq.⁶⁵⁸³ The donation includes 56 ambulances with their spare parts, 266 generators, and motorcycles, computers, laptops, printers, etc.⁶⁵⁸⁴

On 22 January 2021, Chinese Ambassador to Brazil Yang Wanming announced that China will offer aid to the Brazilian state of Amazonas to help overcome the health crisis of treating patients with COVID-19 in a video conference with the governor of Amazonas Wilson Lima.⁶⁵⁸⁵ The Chinese government and some Chinese enterprises will donate 4,300 kilograms of oxygen, 25 oxygen generators, 360,000 masks and other supplies to Amazonas.⁶⁵⁸⁶

⁶⁵⁷⁷ Wang Yi: China to work with Myanmar to battle COVID-19, promote economic recovery, People's Republic of China Government (Nay Pyi Taw) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202101/12/content_WS5ffd3fa9c6d0f72576943aa2.html

⁶⁵⁷⁸ China making adjustments to control COVID-19 in winter, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/14/c_82753.htm

⁶⁵⁷⁹ China making adjustments to control COVID-19 in winter, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/14/c_82753.htm

⁶⁵⁸⁰ WHO team working with Chinese vaccine producers ahead of potential emergency use: WHO director-general, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Geneva) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/13/c_82739.htm

⁶⁵⁸¹ China CDC deposits, shares COVID-19 variant, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/20/c_82800.htm

⁶⁵⁸² China CDC deposits, shares COVID-19 variant, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/20/c_82800.htm

⁶⁵⁸³ China provides donation to Iraq to combat COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Baghdad) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/22/content_WS600a3721c6d0f725769444fa.html

⁶⁵⁸⁴ China provides donation to Iraq to combat COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Baghdad) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/22/content_WS600a3721c6d0f725769444fa.html

⁶⁵⁸⁵ China offers aid to Brazilian state Amazonas to overcome health crisis, People's Republic of China Government (Rio De Janeiro) 24 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/24/content_WS600d2003c6d0f725769446b9.html

⁶⁵⁸⁶ China offers aid to Brazilian state Amazonas to overcome health crisis, People's Republic of China Government (Rio De Janeiro) 24 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/24/content_WS600d2003c6d0f725769446b9.html

On 25 January 2021, China sent a China-Europe freight train to Poland carrying COVID-19 prevention supplies and other products including over 40,000 protective suits.⁶⁵⁸⁷ The train also contained production and living supplies that will be transferred to Hamburg, Germany.⁶⁵⁸⁸

On 28 January 2021, the Ministry of Education issued a notice that prohibited all offline training outside the campus in areas with medium and high COVID-19 infection risk.⁶⁵⁸⁹

On 29 January 2021, Minister of the National Health Commission Ma Xiaowei and the Health Minister of Indonesia Budi Gunadi Sadikin exchanged views regarding COVID-19 prevention and control and bilateral health collaboration during a video conference.⁶⁵⁹⁰ Minister Xiaowei proposed that the two countries strengthen health cooperation in all areas including prevention and control of infectious diseases.⁶⁵⁹¹ Experts from both countries also discussed mobilization and deployment of medical resources, strategies of epidemic prevention and control as well as COVID-19 vaccination.⁶⁵⁹²

On 1 February 2021, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin announced that China donated COVID-19 vaccines to Pakistan.⁶⁵⁹³ China was also providing vaccine aid to 13 developing countries, including Brunei, Nepal, the Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Palestine, Belarus, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, and Equatorial Guinea, with 38 more developing countries in need.⁶⁵⁹⁴ The spokesman added that China has supported its companies in conducting joint research and production of vaccines with foreign partners and already exported Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines to countries including the UAE, Morocco, Indonesia, Turkey, Brazil, and Chile.⁶⁵⁹⁵

On 4 February 2021, the Chinese Embassy announced that the Chinese government donated 50,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq.⁶⁵⁹⁶

On 5 February 2021, China provided the first batch of vaccine aid for Nepal.⁶⁵⁹⁷ Minister Yi made the remarks during a phone conversation with Nepali Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.⁶⁵⁹⁸

⁶⁵⁸⁷ China-Europe freight train transports anti-COVID-19 supplies to Poland, People's Republic of China Government (Hangzhou) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/26/content_WS600f7c58c6d0f7257694485f.html

⁶⁵⁸⁸ China-Europe freight train transports anti-COVID-19 supplies to Poland, People's Republic of China Government (Hangzhou) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/26/content_WS600f7c58c6d0f7257694485f.html

⁶⁵⁸⁹ China bans all offline after-school training in COVID-19 risk areas, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/28/content_WS6012bcb9c6d0f72576944b51.html

⁶⁵⁹⁰ China, Indonesia to further health collaboration, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/07/c_82961.htm

⁶⁵⁹¹ China, Indonesia to further health collaboration, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/07/c_82961.htm

⁶⁵⁹² China, Indonesia to further health collaboration, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/07/c_82961.htm

⁶⁵⁹³ China vows more COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/01/content_WS6017fc21c6d0f72576944ebf.html

⁶⁵⁹⁴ China vows more COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/01/content_WS6017fc21c6d0f72576944ebf.html

⁶⁵⁹⁵ China vows more COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/01/content_WS6017fc21c6d0f72576944ebf.html

⁶⁵⁹⁶ China donates 50,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq, People's Republic of China Government (Baghdad) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/05/content_WS601c9d5ec6d0f72576945267.html

On 8 February 2021, Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Liao Liqiang announced that China will provide a batch of COVID-19 vaccines to Egypt and the Arab League.⁶⁵⁹⁹ China will also facilitate Egypt's procurement of COVID-19 vaccines produced by Chinese companies.⁶⁶⁰⁰

On 10 February 2021, China provided a batch of emergency vaccine aid and facilitated the purchase of vaccines for Algeria to meet its urgent needs. Minister Yi made the remarks during a phone conversation with Algerian Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum.⁶⁶⁰¹

On February 10 2021, China provided a batch of COVID-19 vaccines and financial assistance to Ethiopia.⁶⁶⁰² Minister Yi made the remarks during a phone conversation with Demeke Mekonnen, Ethiopia's deputy prime minister and foreign minister.⁶⁶⁰³

On 17 February 2021, Minister Yi made four proposals for fighting the COVID-19 pandemic at a virtual open briefing of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) related to the COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Delegates of the UNSC members and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres attended the virtual meeting.⁶⁶⁰⁴ The four proposals aim to achieve the following: adhering to putting people first and enhancing global cooperation in the fight against COVID-19; fully implementing the UNSC resolutions and creating a favorable environment for fighting the pandemic; solving the vaccine deficit and increasing assistance to developing countries; and strengthening coordination and giving full play to the role of the United Nations system.⁶⁶⁰⁵

On 17 February 2021, Minister Yi announced China's decision to donate vaccines to UN peacekeepers at a Security Council meeting on COVID-19 vaccines.⁶⁶⁰⁶ On 15 March 2021, China's permanent representative to the United Nations Zhang Jun notified UN Secretary-General Antonio

⁶⁵⁹⁷ China to provide 1st batch of COVID-19 vaccine aid for Nepal, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/06/content_WS601e0a62c6d0f7257694536d.html

⁶⁵⁹⁸ China to provide 1st batch of COVID-19 vaccine aid for Nepal, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/06/content_WS601e0a62c6d0f7257694536d.html

⁶⁵⁹⁹ China to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Egypt, Arab League, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/08/content_WS6020a631c6d0f7257694554b.html

⁶⁶⁰⁰ China to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Egypt, Arab League, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/08/content_WS6020a631c6d0f7257694554b.html

⁶⁶⁰¹ China to provide COVID-19 vaccine aid for Algeria, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/12/content_WS60264404c6d0719374af8c6c.html

⁶⁶⁰² China to provide COVID-19 vaccine aid for Ethiopia, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/12/content_WS6026452cc6d0719374af8c70.html

⁶⁶⁰³ China to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Egypt, Arab League, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/08/content_WS6020a631c6d0f7257694554b.html

⁶⁶⁰⁴ State councilor makes four proposals for combating pandemic, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/18/content_WS602db810c6d0719374af8f71.html

⁶⁶⁰⁵ State councilor makes four proposals for combating pandemic, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/18/content_WS602db810c6d0719374af8f71.html

⁶⁶⁰⁶ China to donate 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to UN peacekeepers, People's Republic of China Government (United Nations) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202103/16/content_WS604fe56cc6d0719374afae04.html

Guterres of China's intention to donate 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to UN peacekeepers.⁶⁶⁰⁷

On 18 February 2021, Ambassador to Namibia Zhang Yiming announced that the Chinese government decided to donate 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines at Namibia's request.⁶⁶⁰⁸ Namibia was also listed among the priority countries for purchasing Chinese vaccines.⁶⁶⁰⁹

On 19 February 2021, China provided COVID-19 vaccine aid to Belarus.⁶⁶¹⁰ China has provided the vaccines in support of the important consensus reached during a recent telephone conversation between the two countries.⁶⁶¹¹

On 22 February 2021, Spokesperson Wenbin announced that China will provide COVID-19 vaccine aid to 19 more African countries.⁶⁶¹²

On 23 February 2021, Spokesperson Wenbin announced that China is exporting COVID-19 vaccines to 27 countries and providing free vaccine aid to 53 countries in need.⁶⁶¹³ Vaccine aid from China has arrived in Pakistan, Cambodia, Laos, Equatorial Guinea, Zimbabwe, Mongolia and Belarus, and that vaccine exports from China have arrived in Serbia, Hungary, Peru, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Morocco, Senegal, United Arab Emirates, and Turkey.⁶⁶¹⁴

On 24 February 2021, Ambassador to Zimbabwe Guo Shaochun announced that China will donate another batch of 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Zimbabwe.⁶⁶¹⁵

On 24 February 2021, Minister Yi announced in a phone conversation with Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena that China is ready to enhance anti-epidemic cooperation with Sri Lanka by continuing to provide vaccine assistance to the country.⁶⁶¹⁶

⁶⁶⁰⁷ China to donate 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to UN peacekeepers, People's Republic of China Government (United Nations) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202103/16/content_WS604fe56cc6d0719374afae04.html

⁶⁶⁰⁸ China to donate 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Namibia, People's Republic of China Government (Windhoek) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/19/content_WS602f11adc6d0719374af90cf.html

⁶⁶⁰⁹ China to donate 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Namibia, People's Republic of China Government (Windhoek) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/19/content_WS602f11adc6d0719374af90cf.html

⁶⁶¹⁰ China delivers COVID-19 vaccine aid to Belarus, People's Republic of China Government (Minsk) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/20/content_WS60311275c6d0719374af9265.html

⁶⁶¹¹ China delivers COVID-19 vaccine aid to Belarus, People's Republic of China Government (Minsk) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/20/content_WS60311275c6d0719374af9265.html

⁶⁶¹² China to provide COVID-19 vaccines to 19 more African countries: FM spokesperson, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/22/content_WS60339952c6d0719374af9462.html

⁶⁶¹³ China is exporting COVID-19 vaccines to 27 countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/23/content_WS6034f491c6d0719374af9552.html

⁶⁶¹⁴ China is exporting COVID-19 vaccines to 27 countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/23/content_WS6034f491c6d0719374af9552.html

⁶⁶¹⁵ China to donate second batch of COVID-19 vaccines to Zimbabwe, People's Republic of China Government (Harare) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/25/content_WS6036db13c6d0719374af9879.html

On 25 February 2021, China donated 200,000 doses of China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to Sierra Leone.⁶⁶¹⁷ It supported the Sierra Leone government's plan to vaccinate about 1.6 million people.⁶⁶¹⁸

On February 28 2021, China donated a batch of COVID-19 vaccine to the Philippines.⁶⁶¹⁹ It was the first COVID-19 vaccine to reach the Philippines.⁶⁶²⁰

On 5 March 2021, Minister Xiaowei met with Cuban Ambassador to China Carlos Miguel Pereira in Beijing, China and renewed a memorandum of understanding on health cooperation between the two countries' health authorities.⁶⁶²¹ In the meeting, Ambassador Ma expressed China's willingness to deepen bilateral cooperation and exchanges in both the COVID-19 fight and other health-related areas to contribute to building a global health community.⁶⁶²²

On 7 March 2021, Minister Yi revealed that China plans to set up vaccination stations in countries where conditions are allowed.⁶⁶²³ The country hoped to administer Chinese vaccines for compatriots in need from surrounding countries.⁶⁶²⁴

On 7 March 2021, China announced that it will launch a digital health certificate for eligible international travelers to facilitate the safe and smooth flow of people.⁶⁶²⁵

On 15 March 2021, Vice-Minister of the National Health Commission Li Bin said China was actively devising new policies concerning international travel.⁶⁶²⁶

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang announced that China will continue its rigorous research on COVID-19 and other major infectious diseases to better protect the long-term health and safety of the people in a meeting of the 13th National People's Congress in

⁶⁶¹⁶ China ready to help Sri Lanka defeat pandemic, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/25/content_WS6036ded7c6d0719374af987d.html

⁶⁶¹⁷ China donates 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Sierra Leone, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Freetown) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/26/c_83062.htm

⁶⁶¹⁸ China donates 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Sierra Leone, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Freetown) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/26/c_83062.htm

⁶⁶¹⁹ China-donated COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Philippines, People's Republic of China Government (Manila) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202103/01/content_WS603c3f73c6d0719374af9ba5.html

⁶⁶²⁰ China-donated COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Philippines, People's Republic of China Government (Manila) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202103/01/content_WS603c3f73c6d0719374af9ba5.html

⁶⁶²¹ China, Cuba to boost health exchanges, cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/12/c_83212.htm

⁶⁶²² China, Cuba to boost health exchanges, cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/12/c_83212.htm

⁶⁶²³ China to set up overseas vaccination stations, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/08/c_83164.htm

⁶⁶²⁴ China to set up overseas vaccination stations, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/08/c_83164.htm

⁶⁶²⁵ New international travel policies being formulated, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/16/c_83240.htm

⁶⁶²⁶ New international travel policies being formulated, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/16/c_83240.htm

Beijing, China.⁶⁶²⁷ The ministry will spearhead reforms that can alleviate scientists from heavy paperwork, as well as create an academic environment conducive for basic research.⁶⁶²⁸

On 9 March 2021, Minister Yi said that China and Poland had reached an important consensus on strengthening cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European countries and fighting the pandemic after a telephone conversation with Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau.⁶⁶²⁹ He said that China will continue supporting the Polish government and people in their efforts to effectively keep the epidemic under control and ensure the normal operation of its economy and society.⁶⁶³⁰

On 9 March 2021, the 11th Chinese medical aid team headed towards Papua New Guinea to provide medical aid at Port Moresby General Hospital in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea for one year.⁶⁶³¹ The team will bring advanced domestic clinical diagnosis and treatment technology to the country, help fight COVID-19 and provide medical services for overseas Chinese residents.⁶⁶³²

On 11 March 2021, Premier Keqiang said that China is open and cooperative about COVID-19 origin tracing, and will continue to work with the WHO in a press conference in Beijing, China.⁶⁶³³ China had maintained communication with the WHO and provided the WHO mission support during their work in China concerning the origins of the virus.⁶⁶³⁴

On 15 March 2021, Chief Engineer at the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology Tian Yulong announced that China will continue to export COVID-19 vaccines while ensuring domestic needs are met.⁶⁶³⁵ According to the Foreign Ministry, China has provided vaccine aid to more than 50 countries at the end of February 2021.⁶⁶³⁶

On 12 March 2021, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian announced that China was willing to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to provide vaccines to athletes preparing

⁶⁶²⁷ Mechanism to be put in place supporting long-term infectious disease research, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/09/c_83183.htm

⁶⁶²⁸ Mechanism to be put in place supporting long-term infectious disease research, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/09/c_83183.htm

⁶⁶²⁹ FM calls for expanding cooperation with Poland in post-pandemic era, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202103/10/content_WS60480753c6d0719374afa7ae.html

⁶⁶³⁰ FM calls for expanding cooperation with Poland in post-pandemic era, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202103/10/content_WS60480753c6d0719374afa7ae.html

⁶⁶³¹ Fresh medical team heads for Papua New Guinea, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Chongqing) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/11/c_83199.htm

⁶⁶³² Fresh medical team heads for Papua New Guinea, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Chongqing) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/11/c_83199.htm

⁶⁶³³ Premier Li: China open and cooperative on COVID-19 origin tracing, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/video/202103/11/content_WS6049f54cc6d0719374afaa2e.html

⁶⁶³⁴ Premier Li: China to continue working with WHO on virus source tracing, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/11/content_WS6049e041c6d0719374afa9aa.html

⁶⁶³⁵ China to continue COVID-19 vaccine aid, export, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/15/content_WS604f2042c6d0719374afadd3.html

⁶⁶³⁶ China to continue COVID-19 vaccine aid, export, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/15/content_WS604f2042c6d0719374afadd3.html

to participate in the Olympic Games.⁶⁶³⁷ IOC president Thomas Bach said that the IOC has received an offer from the Chinese Olympic Committee to make vaccine doses available for participants in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and Beijing Winter Games in 2022.⁶⁶³⁸

On 17 March 2021, a Chinese medical aid team set off to the Union of Comoros for a three-month anti-epidemic assistance mission.⁶⁶³⁹ The team consists of 12 medical workers in critical care medicine, respiration, public health, laboratory testing, traditional Chinese medicine and other fields.⁶⁶⁴⁰ China also donated a batch of anti-epidemic materials worth RMB2 million to Comoros, including masks, protective suits and testing kits.⁶⁶⁴¹

On 23 March 2021, China announced an extension of the tax-relief policies launched in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁶⁴² The Ministry of Finance and the State Taxation Administration stated that the extension aims to further support the prevention and control of the epidemic, and to help companies tide over difficulties and pursue growth.⁶⁶⁴³

On 29 March 2021, a senior official with the social development department of the National Development and Reform Commission Sun Zhicheng announced that China planned to build a major center at the national level focusing on the use of traditional Chinese medicine in epidemic prevention and treatment.⁶⁶⁴⁴ The centre will be building a talent pool, formulating technical protocols for epidemic prevention and treatment, and conducting traditional Chinese medicine therapy research and stockpiling relevant medical supplies.⁶⁶⁴⁵ The center will help improve the country's capacity of rapid response, prevention, control and treatment in the face of new or emerging infectious diseases and other major public health events by using traditional Chinese medicine.⁶⁶⁴⁶

On 1 April 2021, China provided the fourth batch of humanitarian aid to fight COVID-19 to Kyrgyzstan.⁶⁶⁴⁷ The aid included artificial lung ventilation devices, masks, and medical protective

⁶⁶³⁷ China to provide vaccines to Olympic Games athletes, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/15/c_83222.htm

⁶⁶³⁸ China to provide vaccines to Olympic Games athletes, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/15/c_83222.htm

⁶⁶³⁹ Chinese medical aid team sets out for Comoros, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/18/c_83260.htm

⁶⁶⁴⁰ Chinese medical aid team sets out for Comoros, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/18/c_83260.htm

⁶⁶⁴¹ Chinese medical aid team sets out for Comoros, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/18/c_83260.htm

⁶⁶⁴² China extends COVID-19 tax-relief policies, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/23/content_WS6059e4c7c6d0719374afb417.html

⁶⁶⁴³ China extends COVID-19 tax-relief policies, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/23/content_WS6059e4c7c6d0719374afb417.html

⁶⁶⁴⁴ China to build major TCM center for epidemic prevention, treatment, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/29/content_WS6061c364c6d0719374afb5e5.html

⁶⁶⁴⁵ China to build major TCM center for epidemic prevention, treatment, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/29/content_WS6061c364c6d0719374afb5e5.html

⁶⁶⁴⁶ China to build major TCM center for epidemic prevention, treatment, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/29/content_WS6061c364c6d0719374afb5e5.html

⁶⁶⁴⁷ China donates another batch of humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Bishkek) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202104/02/content_WS60671a60c6d0719374afc020.html

suits.⁶⁶⁴⁸ The Chinese government has also provided Kyrgyzstan with COVID-19 vaccines and helped Kyrgyzstan carry out work on vaccination.⁶⁶⁴⁹

On 11 April 2021, China delivered a batch of Sinopharm vaccine to Cameroon as a gift of the two countries' friendly relationship.⁶⁶⁵⁰ It is the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines arriving from outside the central African country since the outbreak in 2020.⁶⁶⁵¹

On 11 April 2021, an official with the National Health Commission Wu Liangyou said that China encouraged voluntary COVID-19 vaccinations, and had been working on ensuring all people eligible for vaccination have access to it.⁶⁶⁵² Another spokesperson Mi Feng also announced that China has accelerated COVID-19 vaccine rollouts among priority populations, as well as in key regions and cities.⁶⁶⁵³ Chief epidemiologist with the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention Wu Zunyou urged people to strictly follow prevention measures, including wearing masks in public, handwashing, social distancing, and avoiding mass gatherings.⁶⁶⁵⁴

On 13 April 2021, China donated a batch of vaccines to Mauritius to help boost the country's vaccination campaign against COVID-19.⁶⁶⁵⁵ Minister of Health and Wellness Kailesh Jagutpal and Charge d'Affaires and interim of the Chinese Embassy in Mauritius Gong Yufeng said that China has sent medical supplies and equipment to Mauritius through various channels and tried its best to assist amid the pandemic.⁶⁶⁵⁶

On 16 April 2021, Deputy Director of the Civil Aviation Administration's transport department Shang Kejia, directed the public's attention to travel safety guidelines regarding the upcoming Labor Day holiday rush.⁶⁶⁵⁷ She advised travelers to pay attention to epidemic control measures at their

⁶⁶⁴⁸ China donates another batch of humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Bishkek) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/02/content_WS60671a60c6d0719374afc020.html

⁶⁶⁴⁹ China donates another batch of humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Bishkek) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/02/content_WS60671a60c6d0719374afc020.html

⁶⁶⁵⁰ Cameroon receives first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China, People's Republic of China Government (Yaounde) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/12/content_WS6073b0bac6d0719374afc6e8.html

⁶⁶⁵¹ Cameroon receives first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China, People's Republic of China Government (Yaounde) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/12/content_WS6073b0bac6d0719374afc6e8.html

⁶⁶⁵² China encourages voluntary COVID-19 vaccination: officials, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/12/c_83446.htm

⁶⁶⁵³ China encourages voluntary COVID-19 vaccination: officials, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/12/c_83446.htm

⁶⁶⁵⁴ China encourages voluntary COVID-19 vaccination: officials, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/12/c_83446.htm

⁶⁶⁵⁵ Mauritius receives first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/14/content_WS60765858c6d0df57f98d7d4a.html

⁶⁶⁵⁶ Mauritius receives first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/14/content_WS60765858c6d0df57f98d7d4a.html

⁶⁶⁵⁷ Civil aviation prepares for holiday rush, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/17/content_WS607a3f19c6d0df57f98d8054.html

destinations and avoid going to areas with medium and high risks.⁶⁶⁵⁸ She also suggested passengers use contact-free services to check-in and board planes.⁶⁶⁵⁹

On 22 April 2021, the National Health Commission and Germany's Federal Ministry of Health held the China-Germany health dialogue.⁶⁶⁶⁰ National Health Commission Minister Ma Xiaowei announced that China is willing to strengthen all-round and multi-field health cooperation with Germany, promote communication and collaboration with the European Union and other regional platforms, maintain global health security and build a global health community for all.⁶⁶⁶¹

On 22 April 2021, the General Office of the State Council announced that China will establish a general support mechanism for covering outpatient medical bills under the employee basic medical insurance to ease people's medical burdens.⁶⁶⁶² The mechanism will cover the general outpatient medical expenses of some chronic and special diseases, as well as frequently occurring diseases and common illnesses, incurring severe health damage and heavy costs.⁶⁶⁶³

On 27 April 2021, Minister Yi hosted a video conference with foreign ministers of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to discuss further cooperation as South Asian countries face a new wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁶⁶⁴ They discussed efforts to consolidate anti-coronavirus cooperation including vaccine supply, to boost post-epidemic economic recovery, and to maintain a sound international environment for the development of all countries.⁶⁶⁶⁵ Minister Yi said that China is willing to promote vaccine cooperation through methods such as free aid, commercial procurement, and filling and production of vaccines.⁶⁶⁶⁶ He also stated that China is also willing to establish a China-South Asia emergency supplies reserve following friendly consultations with all parties.⁶⁶⁶⁷

On 28 April 2021, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism stressed the stringent implementation of epidemic control measures at tourist sites nationwide ahead of the Labor Day holiday starting on

⁶⁶⁵⁸ Civil aviation prepares for holiday rush, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/17/content_WS607a3f19c6d0df57f98d8054.html

⁶⁶⁵⁹ Civil aviation prepares for holiday rush, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/17/content_WS607a3f19c6d0df57f98d8054.html

⁶⁶⁶⁰ China, Germany ready to further health cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/26/c_83576.htm

⁶⁶⁶¹ China, Germany ready to further health cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/26/c_83576.htm

⁶⁶⁶² China to improve employee basic medical insurance, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/23/c_83532.htm

⁶⁶⁶³ China to improve employee basic medical insurance, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/23/c_83532.htm

⁶⁶⁶⁴ China pledges to deepen anti-pandemic cooperation with South Asian countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202104/28/content_WS60889da5c6d0df57f98d8b37.html

⁶⁶⁶⁵ China pledges to deepen anti-pandemic cooperation with South Asian countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202104/28/content_WS60889da5c6d0df57f98d8b37.html

⁶⁶⁶⁶ China pledges to deepen anti-pandemic cooperation with South Asian countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202104/28/content_WS60889da5c6d0df57f98d8b37.html

⁶⁶⁶⁷ China pledges to deepen anti-pandemic cooperation with South Asian countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202104/28/content_WS60889da5c6d0df57f98d8b37.html

May 1.⁶⁶⁶⁸ It reminded tourist sites to limit the number of visitors in key areas such as core attractions and dining spaces, to optimize tour routes to prevent overcrowding, and to ensure tourists' compliance with COVID-19 containment measures covering transportation, accommodation, catering, shopping and other sectors.⁶⁶⁶⁹

On 28 April 2021, the Ministry of Education issued a notice requiring schools to keep anti-epidemic measures in place during the holiday.⁶⁶⁷⁰ Schools need to strengthen health guidance for outgoing students and staff and keep track of their health conditions.⁶⁶⁷¹

On 28 April 2021, China announced the establishment of a new central-level disease prevention and control agency, and appointed the vice-minister of the National Health Commission Wang Hesheng as the head of the agency.⁶⁶⁷² The agency is called the National Administration of Disease Prevention and Control.⁶⁶⁷³ It will focus on strengthening disease surveillance and early warning capabilities, reforming the country's disease control system, help devise and implement virus-control measures against the disease, and improving treatment networks.⁶⁶⁷⁴

On 29 April 2021, China donated traditional medicine to Cambodia to help treat COVID-19 patients.⁶⁶⁷⁵ China donated 88,000 boxes of Lianhua Qingwen Capsules, which is a patented traditional Chinese medicine widely used in China to treat symptoms of COVID-19 patients.⁶⁶⁷⁶ The medicine was donated by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia through the Chinese embassy.⁶⁶⁷⁷

On 29 April 2021, senior official at the National Health Commission Wang Bin announced that China will continue to take strict measures to prevent imported COVID-19 infections via people or goods.⁶⁶⁷⁸ The health commission requires all inbound travelers to take nucleic acid tests during and

⁶⁶⁶⁸ Chinese authorities call for strict anti-virus measures ahead of holiday, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/28/content_WS60895f6ec6d0df57f98d8c52.html

⁶⁶⁶⁹ Chinese authorities call for strict anti-virus measures ahead of holiday, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/28/content_WS60895f6ec6d0df57f98d8c52.html

⁶⁶⁷⁰ Chinese authorities call for strict anti-virus measures ahead of holiday, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/28/content_WS60895f6ec6d0df57f98d8c52.html

⁶⁶⁷¹ Chinese authorities call for strict anti-virus measures ahead of holiday, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/28/content_WS60895f6ec6d0df57f98d8c52.html

⁶⁶⁷² New agency to promote public health, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/29/c_83582.htm

⁶⁶⁷³ New agency to promote public health, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/29/c_83582.htm

⁶⁶⁷⁴ New agency to promote public health, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/29/c_83582.htm

⁶⁶⁷⁵ China donates traditional medicine to Cambodia for treating COVID-19 patients, People's Republic of China Government (Phnom Penh) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/01/content_WS608c8d6ac6d0df57f98d8e82.html

⁶⁶⁷⁶ China donates traditional medicine to Cambodia for treating COVID-19 patients, People's Republic of China Government (Phnom Penh) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/01/content_WS608c8d6ac6d0df57f98d8e82.html

⁶⁶⁷⁷ China donates traditional medicine to Cambodia for treating COVID-19 patients, People's Republic of China Government (Phnom Penh) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/01/content_WS608c8d6ac6d0df57f98d8e82.html

⁶⁶⁷⁸ China continues measures to control imported COVID cases, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/30/c_83590.htm

after the 14-day quarantine.⁶⁶⁷⁹ After the quarantine, travelers would have to do a seven-day home health monitoring, take necessary epidemic containment measures when going out and avoid large gatherings, and take nucleic acid tests at the end of their home health monitoring period and one week after.⁶⁶⁸⁰

On 30 April 2021, Minister Yi announced that China is ready to provide support and assistance to help India fight the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁶⁸¹ China will aim to continue encourage and support Chinese enterprises to speed up production and provide India with medical supplies, to facilitate customs clearance and transportation of anti-virus materials purchased by India, and to organize health and infectious disease experts of the two countries to share experience and effective measures in overcoming the epidemic via video link.⁶⁶⁸²

On 4 May 2021, a team of Chinese medical experts and medical materials arrived in Lao capital Vientiane to assist Laos in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁶⁸³ They were welcomed by The Lao Deputy Prime Minister Kikeo Khaykhamphithoune and Chinese Ambassador to Laos Jiang Zaidong.⁶⁶⁸⁴ The team includes experts in infection prevention and control, epidemics, intensive care, and laboratory testing, along with medical supplies, including COVID-19 testing kits, protective clothing, and face masks among others.⁶⁶⁸⁵ It will also help the Lao side in “upgrading the precaution and treatment scheme, improving the technical level and response capabilities, studying the trend of the COVID-19 epidemic” and making recommendations.⁶⁶⁸⁶

On 4 May 2021, China donated over 50,000 face masks to the University of Zambia, Zambia's biggest public university, to help the institution fight against COVID-19.⁶⁶⁸⁷ Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Li Jie added that Chinese enterprises in Zambia have also made donations to help the country deal with the pandemic.⁶⁶⁸⁸

⁶⁶⁷⁹ China continues measures to control imported COVID cases, National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/30/c_83590.htm

⁶⁶⁸⁰ China continues measures to control imported COVID cases, National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/30/c_83590.htm

⁶⁶⁸¹ China ready to offer support, assistance to help India fight COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202105/01/content_WS608cc9d3c6d0df57f98d8ed2.html

⁶⁶⁸² China ready to offer support, assistance to help India fight COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202105/01/content_WS608cc9d3c6d0df57f98d8ed2.html

⁶⁶⁸³ Chinese medical team arrives in Laos to help fight against COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Vientiane) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/05/content_WS60920e5fc6d0df57f98d90ed.html

⁶⁶⁸⁴ Chinese medical team arrives in Laos to help fight against COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Vientiane) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/05/content_WS60920e5fc6d0df57f98d90ed.html

⁶⁶⁸⁵ Chinese medical team arrives in Laos to help fight against COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Vientiane) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/05/content_WS60920e5fc6d0df57f98d90ed.html

⁶⁶⁸⁶ Chinese medical team arrives in Laos to help fight against COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Vientiane) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/05/content_WS60920e5fc6d0df57f98d90ed.html

⁶⁶⁸⁷ China donates 50,000 face masks to help Zambia’s university fight COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Lusaka) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202106/05/content_WS60bab223c6d0df57f98dabe9.html

⁶⁶⁸⁸ China donates 50,000 face masks to help Zambia’s university fight COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Lusaka) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202106/05/content_WS60bab223c6d0df57f98dabe9.html

On 9 May 2021, the Red Cross Society of China offered India “\$1 million in cash” assistance to help the country combat COVID-19.⁶⁶⁸⁹ The organization also donated a batch of anti-pandemic supplies to India, which included 100 oxygen concentrators, 20 non-invasive ventilators and 20 invasive ventilators.⁶⁶⁹⁰

On 11 May 2021, China donated oxygen cylinders to Nepal.⁶⁶⁹¹ China donated a second batch of oxygen cylinders on 16 May 2021.⁶⁶⁹² The Nepali Health Ministry will distribute them to large government-run hospitals in the Kathmandu Valley.⁶⁶⁹³

On 13 May 2021, China “inaugurated a national administration of disease prevention and control, with five major functions including formulating policies for the prevention and control of infectious diseases.”⁶⁶⁹⁴ The administration is a vice-ministerial level agency managed by the National Health Commission, and it will formulate policies for the prevention and control of infectious diseases and for public health supervision.⁶⁶⁹⁵ It will also be responsible for the supervision of public health and infectious disease prevention and control.⁶⁶⁹⁶

On 21 May 2021, the Ministry of Education “urged solid COVID-19 prevention and control measures to be taken during upcoming national exams and other school gatherings.”⁶⁶⁹⁷ It said that the number of people attending major gatherings should be limited, and education departments and universities should follow local vaccination policies and help teachers and students receive vaccines.⁶⁶⁹⁸

⁶⁶⁸⁹ China's Red Cross offers humanitarian support to India's COVID-19 fight, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/10/content_WS60988f30c6d0df57f98d9434.html

⁶⁶⁹⁰ China's Red Cross offers humanitarian support to India's COVID-19 fight, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/10/content_WS60988f30c6d0df57f98d9434.html

⁶⁶⁹¹ Nepal gets more China-donated oxygen cylinders amid oxygen crisis over COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Kathmandu) 16 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/16/content_WS60a10fd2c6d0df57f98d9953.html

⁶⁶⁹² Nepal gets more China-donated oxygen cylinders amid oxygen crisis over COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Kathmandu) 16 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/16/content_WS60a10fd2c6d0df57f98d9953.html

⁶⁶⁹³ Nepal gets more China-donated oxygen cylinders amid oxygen crisis over COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Kathmandu) 16 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/16/content_WS60a10fd2c6d0df57f98d9953.html

⁶⁶⁹⁴ China inaugurates national administration of disease prevention and control, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/13/content_WS609cbd08c6d0df57f98d9723.html

⁶⁶⁹⁵ China inaugurates national administration of disease prevention and control, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/13/content_WS609cbd08c6d0df57f98d9723.html

⁶⁶⁹⁶ China inaugurates national administration of disease prevention and control, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/13/content_WS609cbd08c6d0df57f98d9723.html

⁶⁶⁹⁷ China's education ministry urges epidemic prevention in schools, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/22/content_WS60a86146c6d0df57f98d9e6f.html

⁶⁶⁹⁸ China's education ministry urges epidemic prevention in schools, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/22/content_WS60a86146c6d0df57f98d9e6f.html

On 25 May 2021, the Government of China donated a batch of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to Sri Lanka to assist the country in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁶⁹⁹ The vaccines arrived at the Bandaranaike International Airport and were provided to Sri Lanka's Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi.⁶⁷⁰⁰

On 1 June 2021, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin, announced that “the first batch of Chinese vaccines supplied to COVAX officially rolled off the production line.”⁶⁷⁰¹ COVAX is a global vaccine initiative led by the World Health Organization aiming to ensure that developing countries have equal access to appropriate, safe and effective vaccines.⁶⁷⁰² Wang said that China “has always supported COVAX and has decided to provide 10 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to the COVAX cause.”⁶⁷⁰³

On 9 June 2021, Premier Li Keqiang decided on measures to deepen reform of the salary system at public hospitals at the State Council executive meeting.⁶⁷⁰⁴ He hoped to guarantee reasonable salaries for medical workers to ensure their enthusiasm in serving the people.⁶⁷⁰⁵

On 10 June 2021, an official with the National Health Commission Guo Yanhong, announced “that China has established a national supply network for COVID-19 convalescent plasma.”⁶⁷⁰⁶ He stated that the plasma, collected from COVID-19 patients who were recovering from the disease, had proven effective in treating severe COVID-19 patients.⁶⁷⁰⁷

On 12 June 2021, a researcher at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention Shao Yiming announced that researchers are conducting phase-1 and phase-2 clinical trials on a China-made inhaled COVID-19 vaccine.⁶⁷⁰⁸

⁶⁶⁹⁹ Sri Lanka receives another batch of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines, People’s Republic of China Government (Colombo) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202105/27/content_WS60aef124c6d0df57f98da435.html

⁶⁷⁰⁰ Sri Lanka receives another batch of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines, People’s Republic of China Government (Colombo) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202105/27/content_WS60aef124c6d0df57f98da435.html

⁶⁷⁰¹ China’s Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to COVAX in production, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/202106/02/content_WS60b72f7dc6d0df57f98da9a0.html

⁶⁷⁰² China officially joins COVAX vaccine facility, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 October 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202010/10/content_WS5f81256ac6d0f7257693d42b.html

⁶⁷⁰³ China’s Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to COVAX in production, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/202106/02/content_WS60b72f7dc6d0df57f98da9a0.html

⁶⁷⁰⁴ Premier Li urges guaranteeing medical workers’ salaries, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202106/11/content_WS60c2b497c6d0df57f98db12a.html

⁶⁷⁰⁵ Premier Li urges guaranteeing medical workers’ salaries, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202106/11/content_WS60c2b497c6d0df57f98db12a.html

⁶⁷⁰⁶ China establishes COVID-19 convalescent-plasma supply network, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/10/content_WS60c20770c6d0df57f98db0e5.html

⁶⁷⁰⁷ China establishes COVID-19 convalescent-plasma supply network, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/10/content_WS60c20770c6d0df57f98db0e5.html

⁶⁷⁰⁸ China’s nasal-spray COVID-19 vaccines undergoing clinical trials, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/12/content_WS60c3eb1fc6d0df57f98db203.html

On 16 June 2021, the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine issued a guideline to give full play to the role of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) in the prevention and treatment of new outbreaks of infectious diseases.⁶⁷⁰⁹ The National Health Commission will establish a coordination mechanism to dispatch the national TCM emergency medical team, which consists of the national TCM disease prevention and control group and the national TCM emergency medical rescue group.⁶⁷¹⁰

On 18 June 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced that it will ensure more support for small businesses to sustain economic recovery after the COVID-19 outbreak.⁶⁷¹¹ Policies such as value-added tax reductions for small businesses, value-added tax rebate and special additional deduction of personal income tax will be sustained.⁶⁷¹²

On 2 July 2021, China donated protective equipment to Myanmar for the fight against COVID-19.⁶⁷¹³ “The donation includes 100,000 pieces of surgical masks, 29,760 pieces of N95 masks, 12,975 pieces of personal protective equipment and 10,000 pieces of medical gloves.”⁶⁷¹⁴

On 7 July 2021, the Chinese embassy in San Salvador, announced that “China will supply El Salvador with the fifth batch of vaccines developed by Chinese laboratory Sinovac against COVID-19.”⁶⁷¹⁵ The batch of vaccines consists of 1.5 million Sinovac vaccines.⁶⁷¹⁶

On 8 July 2021, official with the National Health Commission Xu Shuqiang announced that China will strive to build an integrated medical-service system that provides high-quality services and is efficient in resource allocation and medical-facility management.⁶⁷¹⁷ China will improve public-health prevention and treatment capabilities, facilitate the high-quality development of public hospitals, strengthen health services for key populations and promote the inheritance and innovation of traditional Chinese medicine.⁶⁷¹⁸

On 12 July 2021, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Hou Yanqi pledged more COVID-19 vaccine shots to Nepal to fight against the pandemic as the country has purchased 4 million shots of China-made

⁶⁷⁰⁹ China to promote use of TCM in prevention, treatment of infectious disease outbreaks, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/16/content_WS60c9a08ec6d0df57f98db4c0.html

⁶⁷¹⁰ China to promote use of TCM in prevention, treatment of infectious disease outbreaks, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/16/content_WS60c9a08ec6d0df57f98db4c0.html

⁶⁷¹¹ Some COVID-19 levies going, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/19/content_WS60cd49f3c6d0df57f98db7cd.html

⁶⁷¹² Some COVID-19 levies going, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/19/content_WS60cd49f3c6d0df57f98db7cd.html

⁶⁷¹³ China donates more COVID-19 protective equipment to Myanmar, People’s Republic of China Government (Yangon) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202107/02/content_WS60deff48c6d0df57f98dc52a.html

⁶⁷¹⁴ China donates more COVID-19 protective equipment to Myanmar, People’s Republic of China Government (Yangon) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202107/02/content_WS60deff48c6d0df57f98dc52a.html

⁶⁷¹⁵ China to send fifth batch of COVID-19 vaccines to El Salvador, People’s Republic of China Government (San Salvador) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202107/07/content_WS60e50849c6d0df57f98dc833.html

⁶⁷¹⁶ China to send fifth batch of COVID-19 vaccines to El Salvador, People’s Republic of China Government (San Salvador) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202107/07/content_WS60e50849c6d0df57f98dc833.html

⁶⁷¹⁷ China to build quality, integrated medical system: health official, National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-07/09/c_84128.htm

⁶⁷¹⁸ China to build quality, integrated medical system: health official, National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-07/09/c_84128.htm

vaccine.⁶⁷¹⁹ “The Chinese ambassador noted that China has actively carried out international cooperation in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and is committed to ensuring accessibility and affordability of vaccines” in developing countries.⁶⁷²⁰

On 23 July 2021, Deputy Head of the National Health Commission Zeng Yixin urges the World Health Organization (WHO) to treat the novel coronavirus origin-tracing work as a scientific issue, get rid of political interference, and actively and prudently promote tracing work continuously in multiple countries and regions around the globe.⁶⁷²¹ Zeng said that it is important to conduct origin tracing of early cases, molecular epidemiology, and intermediary hosts in multiple countries and regions based on extensive consultations among WHO member states.⁶⁷²²

On 29 July 2021, the Civil Aviation Administration ordered that the sector's key front-line staff members be tested every two days for the coronavirus.⁶⁷²³ Also, workers who have direct contact with international passengers and cargo will be kept separate from those who work with domestic passengers and cargo, and neither group is allowed to have contact with their family members or other outsiders during work hours.⁶⁷²⁴

On 3 August 2021, the deputy head of the Civil Aviation Administration of flight standards department Han Guangzu announced that the Civil Aviation Administration of China will soon issue its eighth guideline on epidemic prevention and control.⁶⁷²⁵ He said that airline crews entering China will be subjected to tighter isolation and health monitoring measures, and the administration will also introduce tougher protocols for suspension of international flights.⁶⁷²⁶ They will also provide more medical guidance to ground service workers, including cabin cleaners, aircraft maintenance workers and porters.⁶⁷²⁷

⁶⁷¹⁹ China to supply more COVID-19 vaccines to Nepal: Chinese ambassador, People’s Republic of China Government (Kathmandu) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202107/13/content_WS60ece8f7c6d0df57f98dcc4d.html

⁶⁷²⁰ China to supply more COVID-19 vaccines to Nepal: Chinese ambassador, People’s Republic of China Government (Kathmandu) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202107/13/content_WS60ece8f7c6d0df57f98dcc4d.html

⁶⁷²¹ China urges tracing COVID-19 origin in multiple countries, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/23/content_WS60fa3450c6d0df57f98dd762.html

⁶⁷²² China urges tracing COVID-19 origin in multiple countries, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/23/content_WS60fa3450c6d0df57f98dd762.html

⁶⁷²³ Civil aviation sector steps up virus control, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/30/content_WS61033a59c6d0df57f98ddced.html

⁶⁷²⁴ Civil aviation sector steps up virus control, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/30/content_WS61033a59c6d0df57f98ddced.html

⁶⁷²⁵ Stricter virus control rules required for aviation sector, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/04/content_WS610a0544c6d0df57f98de069.html

⁶⁷²⁶ Stricter virus control rules required for aviation sector, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/04/content_WS610a0544c6d0df57f98de069.html

⁶⁷²⁷ Stricter virus control rules required for aviation sector, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/04/content_WS610a0544c6d0df57f98de069.html

On 5 August 2021, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism announced that China is stepping up efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in tourism and culture sectors.⁶⁷²⁸ The ministry has urged all travel agencies and online platforms to avoid high and medium-risk areas in their offer of travel services, pay close attention to the COVID-19 situations of tourist destinations, and adjust or cancel ongoing tours accordingly.⁶⁷²⁹ The ministry also asked tourist spots and cultural venues to fully implement epidemic-prevention measures, including limiting tourist numbers, adopting staggered visiting hours, taking visitors' temperatures before allowing them in, and sterilizing public facilities regularly.⁶⁷³⁰

On 5 August 2021, an official from the Ministry of Education Liu Peijun, announced that schools in medium or high COVID-19 outbreak risk areas may postpone the start of the new semester.⁶⁷³¹ He also mentioned that education authorities across the country, in cooperation with medical institutions, will organize vaccinations for students aged between 12 to 17 properly and safely upon informed consent from the students as well as their parents and guardians.⁶⁷³²

On 5 August 2021, the China Film Administration released a circular requiring cinemas across the country to guard against the resurgence of COVID-19 based on local conditions.⁶⁷³³ Movie theaters in medium and high-risk areas should be closed, while attendance rates for those in low-risk areas should remain under 75 percent.⁶⁷³⁴ Cinemas should also make sure that screening rooms, the lobby, rest rooms, seats, and 3D glasses are fully disinfected.⁶⁷³⁵

On 10 August 2021, the State Council interagency task force for COVID-19 response released a guideline on COVID-19 response and announced that vigorous measures should be taken to contain infections at hospitals designated for treating COVID-19 cases.⁶⁷³⁶ The document said that all COVID-19 cases, as well as asymptomatic carriers, should be hospitalized in isolation wards in

⁶⁷²⁸ China curbs COVID-19 spread in tourism, culture sectors, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610bcc73c6d0df57f98de187.htm

⁶⁷²⁹ China curbs COVID-19 spread in tourism, culture sectors, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610bcc73c6d0df57f98de187.htm

⁶⁷³⁰ China curbs COVID-19 spread in tourism, culture sectors, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610bcc73c6d0df57f98de187.htm

⁶⁷³¹ Chinese schools may postpone new semester over COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610bdc95c6d0df57f98de18e.html

⁶⁷³² Chinese schools may postpone new semester over COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610bdc95c6d0df57f98de18e.html

⁶⁷³³ China tightens containment measures at cinemas amid COVID-19 resurgence, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610beb1cc6d0df57f98de190.html

⁶⁷³⁴ China tightens containment measures at cinemas amid COVID-19 resurgence, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610beb1cc6d0df57f98de190.html

⁶⁷³⁵ China tightens containment measures at cinemas amid COVID-19 resurgence, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610beb1cc6d0df57f98de190.html

⁶⁷³⁶ China intensifies hospital-acquired COVID-19 infection control, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/10/content_WS611272b9c6d0df57f98de45c.html

designated hospitals and kept separate from patients with other diseases.⁶⁷³⁷ Also, staff working at isolation wards are required to be fully vaccinated before entering their workplace, and closed-off management should be practiced among the staff.⁶⁷³⁸

On 10 August 2021, the State Council joint prevention and control mechanism announced that China is speeding up mass nucleic acid testing for COVID-19.⁶⁷³⁹ It announced that mass testing of populations of more than 5 million people should be completed within three days.⁶⁷⁴⁰

On 12 August 2021, the first batch of COVID-19 vaccine that China provided to the COVAX facility was officially provided to Pakistan.⁶⁷⁴¹ A batch of over 970,000 doses of Chinese Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine arrived at Islamabad International Airport on August 11 2021, and the Chinese Ambassador said that China will send more vaccines to Pakistan through the COVAX facility in the future.⁶⁷⁴²

On 12 August 2021, the National Health Commission issued an updated version of its guidelines on regular epidemic prevention for key areas, sites and population groups.⁶⁷⁴³ COVID-19 prevention measures are tightened for certain places, including border ports, chess rooms, sightseeing boats, theaters, gyms and educational institutions.⁶⁷⁴⁴ People must take body-temperature tests and have their health codes checked before entering chess rooms, and masks are also required in chess rooms.⁶⁷⁴⁵

On 23 August 2021, China donated 600,000 doses of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to Cambodia.⁶⁷⁴⁶ The new donation included 500,000 doses from China's Ministry of National Defense

⁶⁷³⁷ China intensifies hospital-acquired COVID-19 infection control, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/10/content_WS611272b9c6d0df57f98de45c.html

⁶⁷³⁸ China intensifies hospital-acquired COVID-19 infection control, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/10/content_WS611272b9c6d0df57f98de45c.html

⁶⁷³⁹ Country speeds up mass testing for COVID, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/12/content_WS611458aec6d0df57f98de554.html

⁶⁷⁴⁰ Country speeds up mass testing for COVID, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/12/content_WS611458aec6d0df57f98de554.html

⁶⁷⁴¹ First batch of Chinese COVID-19 vaccine through COVAX facility handed over to Pakistan, People's Republic of China Government (Islamabad) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international exchanges/202108/13/content_WS6116128fc6d0df57f98de65e.html

⁶⁷⁴² First batch of Chinese COVID-19 vaccine through COVAX facility handed over to Pakistan, People's Republic of China Government (Islamabad) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international exchanges/202108/13/content_WS6116128fc6d0df57f98de65e.html

⁶⁷⁴³ China updates COVID-19 guidelines for key areas, groups, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/13/content_WS61165f41c6d0df57f98de691.html

⁶⁷⁴⁴ China updates COVID-19 guidelines for key areas, groups, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/13/content_WS61165f41c6d0df57f98de691.html

⁶⁷⁴⁵ China updates COVID-19 guidelines for key areas, groups, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/13/content_WS61165f41c6d0df57f98de691.html

⁶⁷⁴⁶ China donates more COVID-19 vaccines to Cambodia, People's Republic of China Government (Phnom Penh) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international exchanges/202108/24/content_WS61242aa7c6d0df57f98df06a.html

to Cambodia's Ministry of National Defense and 100,000 doses from the Red Cross Society of China to the Cambodian Red Cross.⁶⁷⁴⁷

On 23 August 2021, China donated 300,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Ethiopia.⁶⁷⁴⁸ In total, China has provided a total of 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Ethiopia over the pandemic.⁶⁷⁴⁹

On 27 August 2021, the Chinese embassy of Kyrgyzstan announced that China will strengthen cooperation with Kyrgyzstan in the joint fight against COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁷⁵⁰ The Chinese government will be providing Kyrgyzstan with a new batch of Chinese vaccines.⁶⁷⁵¹

On 30 August 2021, China launched all-in-one platforms on city-specific COVID-19 containment protocols to help people better adapt to local virus control measures when traveling between cities.⁶⁷⁵² The introduction of the column by the General Office of the State Council is aimed at better coordinating COVID-19 control and economic and social development, and informing enterprises and people of virus control policies, according to authorities.⁶⁷⁵³

On 3 September 2021, China donated COVID-19 vaccines and anti-pandemic supplies to Myanmar.⁶⁷⁵⁴ It includes Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines, respirators, oxygenators, testing kits, protective masks and clothing.⁶⁷⁵⁵

On 4 September 2021, China's National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation (Sinopharm) unveiled a series of newly-developed COVID-19 vaccines and medicines at the 2021 China International Fair for Trade in Services.⁶⁷⁵⁶ Project chief of Sinopharm Zhu Jingjin announced that they have

⁶⁷⁴⁷ China donates more COVID-19 vaccines to Cambodia, People's Republic of China Government (Phnom Penh) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202108/24/content_WS61242aa7c6d0df57f98df06a.html

⁶⁷⁴⁸ China donates 300,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Ethiopia, People's Republic of China Government (Addis Ababa) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202108/24/content_WS61244136c6d0df57f98df0a3.html

⁶⁷⁴⁹ China donates 300,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Ethiopia, People's Republic of China Government (Addis Ababa) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202108/24/content_WS61244136c6d0df57f98df0a3.html

⁶⁷⁵⁰ China, Kyrgyzstan to boost cooperation in fight against COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Bishkek) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202108/28/content_WS612988c1c6d0df57f98df489.html

⁶⁷⁵¹ China, Kyrgyzstan to boost cooperation in fight against COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Bishkek) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202108/28/content_WS612988c1c6d0df57f98df489.html

⁶⁷⁵² China launches all-in-one platforms on city-specific COVID-19 control protocols, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/30/content_WS612cb8e5c6d0df57f98df616.html

⁶⁷⁵³ China launches all-in-one platforms on city-specific COVID-19 control protocols, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/30/content_WS612cb8e5c6d0df57f98df616.html

⁶⁷⁵⁴ China offers COVID-19 supplies to Myanmar, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 4 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202109/04/content_WS6132d5b2c6d0df57f98dfa87.html

⁶⁷⁵⁵ China offers COVID-19 supplies to Myanmar, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 4 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202109/04/content_WS6132d5b2c6d0df57f98dfa87.html

⁶⁷⁵⁶ China's Sinopharm debuts new vaccines targeting COVID-19 variants, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202109/06/content_WS61358190c6d0df57f98dfc3a.html

developed vaccines against coronavirus' Delta and Beta variants.⁶⁷⁵⁷ They will also expand its annual productivity to more than five billion doses in a bid to make China's COVID-19 vaccines global public goods.⁶⁷⁵⁸

On 7 September 2021, National Health Commission official Zheng Zhongwei announced that China has launched multiple research efforts to develop tailored vaccines against emerging COVID-19 variants.⁶⁷⁵⁹ He said that a series of research projects aimed at developing vaccines targeting virus mutations has been rolled out as a precautionary measure, that Chinese vaccine makers have completed preclinical studies on inactivated vaccines designed to tackle the Gamma strain first detected in Brazil and the Delta strain first documented in India.⁶⁷⁶⁰ He added that research into recombinant subunit vaccines designed to ward off different strains is also underway.⁶⁷⁶¹

On 9 September 2021, President Xi Jinping called on BRICS countries to promote global solidarity against COVID-19, uphold true multilateralism and enhance economic cooperation for mutual benefits.⁶⁷⁶² He announced at the summit that China will donate an additional 100 million doses of vaccines to fellow developing countries within this year.⁶⁷⁶³ He also called on BRICS countries to support each other's COVID-19 response, share relevant information and COVID control experience, and uphold a science-based approach to tracing the origins of the virus, and oppose politicization and stigmatization.⁶⁷⁶⁴

China has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by carrying out measures that control the spread of the virus within the country, supporting other countries in fighting the pandemic through “vaccine cooperation,” issuing a digital health certificate for Chinese travellers and also inventing the first COVID-19 detecting regent.

Thus, China has received a score of +1.

Analyst: YanYui Mork

⁶⁷⁵⁷ China's Sinopharm debuts new vaccines targeting COVID-19 variants, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202109/06/content_WS61358190c6d0df57f98dfc3a.html

⁶⁷⁵⁸ China's Sinopharm debuts new vaccines targeting COVID-19 variants, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202109/06/content_WS61358190c6d0df57f98dfc3a.html

⁶⁷⁵⁹ Research aims to prepare for virus variants, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202109/08/content_WS61381551c6d0df57f98dfd93.html

⁶⁷⁶⁰ Research aims to prepare for virus variants, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202109/08/content_WS61381551c6d0df57f98dfd93.html

⁶⁷⁶¹ Research aims to prepare for virus variants, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202109/08/content_WS61381551c6d0df57f98dfd93.html

⁶⁷⁶² Xi calls for advancing BRICS cooperation to combat virus, uphold multilateralism, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202109/10/content_WS613aad61c6d0df57f98dff6f.html

⁶⁷⁶³ Xi calls for advancing BRICS cooperation to combat virus, uphold multilateralism, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202109/10/content_WS613aad61c6d0df57f98dff6f.html

⁶⁷⁶⁴ Xi calls for advancing BRICS cooperation to combat virus, uphold multilateralism, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202109/10/content_WS613aad61c6d0df57f98dff6f.html

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 25 November 2020, Eurasia Group reported that France contributed EUR123.5 million to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (Act-A) initiative.⁶⁷⁶⁵ The goal of this contribution is to ensure that all countries, namely developing nations, will be included in the global response against COVID-19.⁶⁷⁶⁶ The purpose of the funding is to help developing countries in producing and advancing vaccines while guaranteeing equity in vaccine distribution.⁶⁷⁶⁷ In addition, the contribution to Act-A is expected to reap economic benefits for France with an estimated gain of EUR8.3 billion in 2020-25.⁶⁷⁶⁸

On 30 November 2020, the High Authority of Health announced a five-step plan vaccination campaign, beginning with vaccinating the elderly in care homes.⁶⁷⁶⁹ The reasoning behind vaccinating the elderly first is to protect the most vulnerable and high-risk members in society against the virus.⁶⁷⁷⁰

On 18 January 2021, Minister of Health Olivier Véran announced that 45 million free Category 1 masks would be sent to seven million French nationals.⁶⁷⁷¹ The aim is to ensure that the French public avoids using ineffective homemade masks or Category 2 masks in order to protect the public against the highly infectious COVID-19 variants.⁶⁷⁷²

On 31 January 2021, France imposed travel restrictions for non-essential travel from outside of the European Union.⁶⁷⁷³ The goal was to prevent the new COVID-19 variants, including the English and South African COVID-19 mutations, from entering France.⁶⁷⁷⁴ Other measures and restrictions that were put in place were; the closure of all non-food shopping centres with a surface area greater than

⁶⁷⁶⁵ France's Contribution to the Act-A Program: The Need for Strong and Multilateral Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-french-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

⁶⁷⁶⁶ France's Contribution to the Act-A Program: The Need for Strong and Multilateral Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-french-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

⁶⁷⁶⁷ France's Contribution to the Act-A Program: The Need for Strong and Multilateral Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-french-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

⁶⁷⁶⁸ France's Contribution to the Act-A Program: The Need for Strong and Multilateral Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-french-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

⁶⁷⁶⁹ France unveils five-step COVID-19 vaccination plan, starting with those most at risk, France 24 (Paris) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20201130-french-health-authority-outlines-country-s-covid-19-vaccination-plan>

⁶⁷⁷⁰ France unveils five-step COVID-19 vaccination plan, starting with those most at risk, France 24 (Paris) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20201130-french-health-authority-outlines-country-s-covid-19-vaccination-plan>

⁶⁷⁷¹ COVID-19: Olivier Véran asks the French "to stop using artisanal masks", France Info (Paris) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/maladie/coronavirus/masques-sanitaires/covid-19-olivier-veran-demande-aux-francais-de-ne-plus-utiliser-de-masque-artisanal_4267073.html

⁶⁷⁷² COVID-19: Olivier Véran asks the French "to stop using artisanal masks", France Info (Paris) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/maladie/coronavirus/masques-sanitaires/covid-19-olivier-veran-demande-aux-francais-de-ne-plus-utiliser-de-masque-artisanal_4267073.html

⁶⁷⁷³ Covid-19: France closes borders to most non-EU travel, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55863069>

⁶⁷⁷⁴ Covid-19: France closes borders to most non-EU travel, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55863069>

20,000 square metres, increased police presence to check non-compliance with the overnight curfews as well as clampdowns on illegal restaurant openings and clandestine parties. Moreover, working-from-home rules were reinforced so that they were encouraged wherever possible.⁶⁷⁷⁵

On 8 February 2021, France began its vaccination strategy for healthcare workers after 270,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine arrived in France.⁶⁷⁷⁶ This was done as the AstraZeneca vaccine is not proven to be efficient on those over the age of 65 and it was decided to be used on healthcare workers to protect them against the virus as a vulnerable group.⁶⁷⁷⁷ Minister V eran confirmed that the AstraZeneca vaccine should be administered.⁶⁷⁷⁸

On 11 February 2021, the High Authority for Health permitted saliva tests to be conducted by asymptomatic people, as opposed to only allowing symptomatic people to access saliva tests.⁶⁷⁷⁹ Saliva tests are seen as an easier, less invasive method of screening compared to the widespread Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test.⁶⁷⁸⁰ The goal of this initiative is to vastly increase the number of COVID-19 screening tests to a minimum of 200,000 weekly tests to identify hidden positive cases that would not have been identified otherwise, as well as to conduct mass screenings in schools, universities and nursing homes.⁶⁷⁸¹ In addition, this method of testing is proven to be more accessible as it may be done in the laboratory or at home through a collection tube.⁶⁷⁸²

On 25 February 2021, France announced a nighttime curfew between 6PM and 6AM in Metropolitan France, with limited exceptions.⁶⁷⁸³ Those who fail to comply with the curfew may be subjected to a EUR135 fine.⁶⁷⁸⁴ The initiative's goal is to contain the spread of the coronavirus without the need of entering a nationwide lockdown again.⁶⁷⁸⁵

On 15 March 2021, the Health Ministry announced that investigations will be carried out in response to eight cases of a new coronavirus variant detected in Brittany, characterized as being more

⁶⁷⁷⁵ Covid-19: France closes borders to most non-EU travel, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55863069>

⁶⁷⁷⁶ France begins mass vaccination of healthcare workers as AstraZeneca doses arrive, The Local France (Stockholm) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20210208/france-begins-mass-vaccination-of-healthcare-workers-as-astrazeneca-doses-arrive/>

⁶⁷⁷⁷ France begins mass vaccination of healthcare workers as AstraZeneca doses arrive, The Local France (Stockholm) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20210208/france-begins-mass-vaccination-of-healthcare-workers-as-astrazeneca-doses-arrive/>

⁶⁷⁷⁸ France begins mass vaccination of healthcare workers as AstraZeneca doses arrive, The Local France (Stockholm) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20210208/france-begins-mass-vaccination-of-healthcare-workers-as-astrazeneca-doses-arrive/>

⁶⁷⁷⁹ Covid-19: the High Authority for Health "paves the way for massive screening" in France, France 24 (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210212-covid-19-la-haute-autorit%C3%A9-de-sant%C3%A9-ouvre-la-voie-au-d%C3%A9pistage-massif-en-france>

⁶⁷⁸⁰ Covid-19: the High Authority for Health "paves the way for massive screening" in France, France 24 (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210212-covid-19-la-haute-autorit%C3%A9-de-sant%C3%A9-ouvre-la-voie-au-d%C3%A9pistage-massif-en-france>

⁶⁷⁸¹ Covid-19: the High Authority for Health "paves the way for massive screening" in France, France 24 (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210212-covid-19-la-haute-autorit%C3%A9-de-sant%C3%A9-ouvre-la-voie-au-d%C3%A9pistage-massif-en-france>

⁶⁷⁸² Covid-19: the High Authority for Health "paves the way for massive screening" in France, France 24 (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210212-covid-19-la-haute-autorit%C3%A9-de-sant%C3%A9-ouvre-la-voie-au-d%C3%A9pistage-massif-en-france>

⁶⁷⁸³ Restrictions and Requirements in Metropolitan France, Government of France (Paris) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/coronavirus-covid-19>

⁶⁷⁸⁴ Restrictions and Requirements in Metropolitan France, Government of France (Paris) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/coronavirus-covid-19>

⁶⁷⁸⁵ Restrictions and Requirements in Metropolitan France, Government of France (Paris) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/coronavirus-covid-19>

spreadable and undetectable with the PCR test.⁶⁷⁸⁶ The goal of the experiments is to characterize the features of the new variant, including how it works with vaccines and antibodies from previous coronavirus infection.⁶⁷⁸⁷

On 18 March 2021, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that 16 regions in France, including Paris Île-de-France, will go into a four-week lockdown starting on 19 March 2021.⁶⁷⁸⁸ The lockdown entails that people may only leave within 10 kilometres from their homes, they may not leave their region, they must work from home for the majority of the week, and only essential businesses may remain open.⁶⁷⁸⁹ The purpose of the lockdown is to restrain the accelerating third wave of the coronavirus as cases are increasing throughout Europe.⁶⁷⁹⁰

On 30 March 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) and 23 countries, including France, announced their support for the creation of an international treaty that would support the world in future health crises.⁶⁷⁹¹ The aim of this preparedness plan is to better prepare countries to be more robust in the face of global health emergencies “through better alert systems, data sharing, research and the production and distribution of vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and personal protective equipment.”⁶⁷⁹²

On 31 March 2021, France announced that the semi-confinement rules originally applied to 19 regions in France will now apply to all regions for a four-week period, starting 3 April 2021.⁶⁷⁹³ Schools will be closed for 3 weeks, non-essential shops will be shut, those who travel more than 10 kilometres from their homes require a form, curfew starting at 7pm will continue, and work from home is highly encouraged.⁶⁷⁹⁴ The purpose of the semi-confinement expansion is to curb the spread of the new variants which have started targeting those below the age of 60, as 44 per cent of those admitted to the intensive care units (ICU) are below the age of 60.⁶⁷⁹⁵ Additionally, France stated its

⁶⁷⁸⁶ France investigating new coronavirus variant detected in Brittany, France 24 (Paris) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210316-france-investigating-new-coronavirus-variant-detected-in-brittany>

⁶⁷⁸⁷ France investigating new coronavirus variant detected in Brittany, France 24 (Paris) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210316-france-investigating-new-coronavirus-variant-detected-in-brittany>

⁶⁷⁸⁸ Paris Heads Into Third Lockdown As Rates Rise And New French Covid-19 Variant Discovered, Forbes (Jersey City) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexledsom/2021/03/18/paris-back-in-third-lockdown-as-rates-rise-and-new-french-covid-19-variant-discovered/?sh=7cbd3648c4cf>

⁶⁷⁸⁹ Paris Heads Into Third Lockdown As Rates Rise And New French Covid-19 Variant Discovered, Forbes (Jersey City) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexledsom/2021/03/18/paris-back-in-third-lockdown-as-rates-rise-and-new-french-covid-19-variant-discovered/?sh=7cbd3648c4cf>

⁶⁷⁹⁰ Paris Heads Into Third Lockdown As Rates Rise And New French Covid-19 Variant Discovered, Forbes (Jersey City) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexledsom/2021/03/18/paris-back-in-third-lockdown-as-rates-rise-and-new-french-covid-19-variant-discovered/?sh=7cbd3648c4cf>

⁶⁷⁹¹ Leaders of 23 countries, WHO call for international treaty to face future pandemics, France 24 (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210330-leaders-of-23-countries-call-for-treaty-for-future-pandemics>

⁶⁷⁹² Leaders of 23 countries, WHO call for international treaty to face future pandemics, France 24 (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210330-leaders-of-23-countries-call-for-treaty-for-future-pandemics>

⁶⁷⁹³ Macron: Semi-confinement to extend to all France, schools to close, The Connexion (Monaco) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/President-Macron-announces-lockdown-light-to-extend-to-all-France-schools-to-close-for-three-weeks>

⁶⁷⁹⁴ Macron: Semi-confinement to extend to all France, schools to close, The Connexion (Monaco) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/President-Macron-announces-lockdown-light-to-extend-to-all-France-schools-to-close-for-three-weeks>

⁶⁷⁹⁵ Macron: Semi-confinement to extend to all France, schools to close, The Connexion (Monaco) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/President-Macron-announces-lockdown-light-to-extend-to-all-France-schools-to-close-for-three-weeks>

desire to avoid a situation where ICUs become full because adequate measures were not undergone earlier.⁶⁷⁹⁶

On 3 April 2021, France announced that seven of their eight military hospitals in mainland France will be turned into permanent vaccination centres.⁶⁷⁹⁷ It is expected that the seven hospitals will be able to administer up to 50,000 doses every week.⁶⁷⁹⁸ The goal is to fast track vaccinations and assist the other large vaccination centres set up by the government by taking strain off them.⁶⁷⁹⁹

On 4 April 2021, France enforced that if anyone violates the travel restrictions, set in place on 3 April 2021, they risk a EUR135 fine.⁶⁸⁰⁰ If it is a repeat offense, the fine might increase to EUR200.⁶⁸⁰¹ If you commit three offenses within a month, you might be sentenced to 6 months of jail time, EUR3,750 fine, and community service.⁶⁸⁰² These penalties are in place to ensure that domestic travel restrictions are being followed in order to decrease the risk of variants spreading.⁶⁸⁰³

On 13 April 2021, France introduced the first drive-in vaccination centre in Saint-Jean-de-Védas.⁶⁸⁰⁴ The goal of this initiative is to increase vaccinations to the country's upcoming goal of 20 million doses in hopes of opening up the country by mid-May after seeing the successful vaccination scheme in the United States.⁶⁸⁰⁵ Since the drive-in will be located outside of the existing centre, they expect it to double the doses conducted and apply drive-ins to the rest of the country.⁶⁸⁰⁶ The goal of this

⁶⁷⁹⁶ Macron: Semi-confinement to extend to all France, schools to close, The Connexion (Monaco) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/President-Macron-announces-lockdown-light-to-extend-to-all-France-schools-to-close-for-three-weeks>

⁶⁷⁹⁷ COVID-19: the armies will open seven large permanent vaccination centers, Le Figaro (Paris) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/covid-19-les-armees-vont-ouvrir-sept-centres-de-vaccination-permanents-20210403>

⁶⁷⁹⁸ COVID-19: the armies will open seven large permanent vaccination centers, Le Figaro (Paris) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/covid-19-les-armees-vont-ouvrir-sept-centres-de-vaccination-permanents-20210403>

⁶⁷⁹⁹ COVID-19: the armies will open seven large permanent vaccination centers, Le Figaro (Paris) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/covid-19-les-armees-vont-ouvrir-sept-centres-de-vaccination-permanents-20210403>

⁶⁸⁰⁰ COVID-19. In France, fines for non-compliance with measures lower than elsewhere in Europe, Ouest-France (Rennes) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/covid-19-en-france-les-amendes-en-cas-de-non-respect-des-mesures-moins-elevees-qu-ailleurs-en-europe-7213307>.

⁶⁸⁰¹ COVID-19. In France, fines for non-compliance with measures lower than elsewhere in Europe, Ouest-France (Rennes) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/covid-19-en-france-les-amendes-en-cas-de-non-respect-des-mesures-moins-elevees-qu-ailleurs-en-europe-7213307>.

⁶⁸⁰² COVID-19. In France, fines for non-compliance with measures lower than elsewhere in Europe, Ouest-France (Rennes) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/covid-19-en-france-les-amendes-en-cas-de-non-respect-des-mesures-moins-elevees-qu-ailleurs-en-europe-7213307>.

⁶⁸⁰³ COVID-19. In France, fines for non-compliance with measures lower than elsewhere in Europe, Ouest-France (Rennes) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/covid-19-en-france-les-amendes-en-cas-de-non-respect-des-mesures-moins-elevees-qu-ailleurs-en-europe-7213307>.

⁶⁸⁰⁴ 'Vaccidrive' – France opens first drive-in vaccination centre to boost COVID jabs, The Local France (Stockholm) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.thelocal.com/20210413/vaccidrive-france-opens-first-drive-in-vaccination-centre-to-boost-covid-jabs/>

⁶⁸⁰⁵ 'Vaccidrive' – France opens first drive-in vaccination centre to boost COVID jabs, The Local France (Stockholm) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.thelocal.com/20210413/vaccidrive-france-opens-first-drive-in-vaccination-centre-to-boost-covid-jabs/>

⁶⁸⁰⁶ 'Vaccidrive' – France opens first drive-in vaccination centre to boost COVID jabs, The Local France (Stockholm) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.thelocal.com/20210413/vaccidrive-france-opens-first-drive-in-vaccination-centre-to-boost-covid-jabs/>

initiative is to provide another accessible means of vaccinating that anyone with a vehicle can take advantage of, as well as help accelerate national vaccination figures.⁶⁸⁰⁷

On 23 April 2021, France was the first country to donate COVID-19 vaccinations to COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access, which is ACT-A's vaccination pillar with the goal of providing 30 per cent of the world's population with vaccines by the start of 2022.⁶⁸⁰⁸ France donated 500,000 doses from its own domestic vaccine supply.⁶⁸⁰⁹ The purpose of this contribution is to take the first step to ensure everyone will eventually be able to vaccinate globally and encourage other developed countries to contribute to ACT-A.⁶⁸¹⁰

On 26 April 2021, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs announced updated travel restrictions for any travelers from five countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India and South Africa.⁶⁸¹¹ The restrictions entail that travelers from these countries must present urgent reasons to travel, conduct a PCR test and sworn declaration, and complete a mandatory 10-day quarantine upon arrival with occasional police checks.⁶⁸¹² The purpose for these strict restrictions is to prevent the spread of the new contagious variant discovered in India and other variants.⁶⁸¹³

On 30 April 2021, France announced that it found the first three cases of the Indian variant in France, and that the variant carriers are isolated in hotels and have been contact traced.⁶⁸¹⁴ The purpose of this is to ensure that the dangerous variant does not spread further throughout the country as other variants have, such as the UK variant which is estimated to account for 75 per cent of all cases in France.⁶⁸¹⁵ Additionally, it is to alert the country to not underestimate the Indian strain as many aspects remain unknown, such as the vaccine's efficiency with this variant.⁶⁸¹⁶

On 2 May 2021, France delivered to India 28 tonnes of ready-to-use medical supplies including eight large oxygen plants as part of the first phase of its solidarity mission.⁶⁸¹⁷ The French Embassy said that the supplies were worth more than INR170 million and are proof that the two nations are standing with each other in the fight against COVID-19.⁶⁸¹⁸ Moreover, in Spring 2020, when French

⁶⁸⁰⁷ 'Vaccidrive' – France opens first drive-in vaccination centre to boost COVID jabs, The Local France (Stockholm) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.thelocal.com/20210413/vaccidrive-france-opens-first-drive-in-vaccination-centre-to-boost-covid-jabs/>

⁶⁸⁰⁸ France makes important vaccine dose donation to COVAX, Gavi (Geneva) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/france-makes-important-vaccine-dose-donation-covax>.

⁶⁸⁰⁹ France makes important vaccine dose donation to COVAX, Gavi (Geneva) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/france-makes-important-vaccine-dose-donation-covax>.

⁶⁸¹⁰ France makes important vaccine dose donation to COVAX, Gavi (Geneva) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/france-makes-important-vaccine-dose-donation-covax>.

⁶⁸¹¹ Coronavirus – Advice for Foreign Nationals in France, France Diplomacy (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>

⁶⁸¹² Coronavirus – Advice for Foreign Nationals in France, France Diplomacy (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>

⁶⁸¹³ Coronavirus – Advice for Foreign Nationals in France, France Diplomacy (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>

⁶⁸¹⁴ France detects three cases of 'Indian' variant of COVID-19, France 24 (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210430-france-detects-three-cases-of-indian-variant-of-covid-19>

⁶⁸¹⁵ France detects three cases of 'Indian' variant of COVID-19, France 24 (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210430-france-detects-three-cases-of-indian-variant-of-covid-19>

⁶⁸¹⁶ France detects three cases of 'Indian' variant of COVID-19, France 24 (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210430-france-detects-three-cases-of-indian-variant-of-covid-19>

⁶⁸¹⁷ COVID-19: France delivers 28 tonnes of medical supplies to India (New Delhi) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid19-france-delivers-28-tonnes-of-medical-supplies-to-india-11619951044017.html>

⁶⁸¹⁸ COVID-19: France delivers 28 tonnes of medical supplies to India (New Delhi) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid19-france-delivers-28-tonnes-of-medical-supplies-to-india-11619951044017.html>

hospitals were facing acute shortages, India provided life-saving help through the export of critical medical drugs.⁶⁸¹⁹

On 8 May 2021, France imposed a mandatory 10-day quarantine to all travelers from additional countries, including Qatar, Turkey, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the United Arab Emirates.⁶⁸²⁰ Travelers from these countries must present a negative coronavirus test result taken 36 hours prior to arrival and declare where they are staying to quarantine.⁶⁸²¹ Anyone caught breaking these rules is subject to a fine of EUR1000, or EUR1500 if it is a repeated offense.⁶⁸²² The purpose of this restriction is to prevent the spread of the virus due to the accelerating number of cases in these countries.⁶⁸²³

On 11 May 2021, France vowed to allocate five per cent of its total vaccine supply to COVAX.⁶⁸²⁴ This initiative is to ensure that every country has access to vaccines to help end the pandemic globally.⁶⁸²⁵

On 21 May 2021, President Emmanuel Macron promised to donate at least 30 million vaccines by the end of 2021.⁶⁸²⁶ It is predicted that France will allocate approximately EUR500 million to ACT-A between 2021 and 2022.⁶⁸²⁷ The purpose of this funding allocation and vaccine donation is to fulfil the pillars of ACT-A that France committed to in order to provide poor countries with the resources needed to end the pandemic.⁶⁸²⁸

On 28 May 2021, President Emmanuel Macron said that France would “invest in boosting the production of COVID-19 vaccines in Africa” considering the continent’s lack of vaccine supplies.⁶⁸²⁹

⁶⁸¹⁹ COVID-19: France delivers 28 tonnes of medical supplies to India (New Delhi) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid19-france-delivers-28-tonnes-of-medical-supplies-to-india-11619951044017.html>

⁶⁸²⁰ Covid-19: 7 new countries added to France’s quarantine-on-arrival list, The Connexion (Monaco) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Covid-19-7-new-countries-added-to-France-s-quarantine-on-arrival-list>

⁶⁸²¹ Covid-19: 7 new countries added to France’s quarantine-on-arrival list, The Connexion (Monaco) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Covid-19-7-new-countries-added-to-France-s-quarantine-on-arrival-list>

⁶⁸²² Covid-19: 7 new countries added to France’s quarantine-on-arrival list, The Connexion (Monaco) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Covid-19-7-new-countries-added-to-France-s-quarantine-on-arrival-list>

⁶⁸²³ Covid-19: 7 new countries added to France’s quarantine-on-arrival list, The Connexion (Monaco) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Covid-19-7-new-countries-added-to-France-s-quarantine-on-arrival-list>

⁶⁸²⁴ France to Allocate More Than 5% of Its COVID Vaccines to WHO-Backed COVAX Programme, U.S. News and World Report (New York) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-05-11/france-to-allocate-more-than-5-of-its-covid-vaccines-to-who-backed-covax-programme>

⁶⁸²⁵ France to Allocate More Than 5% of Its COVID Vaccines to WHO-Backed COVAX Programme, U.S. News and World Report (New York) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-05-11/france-to-allocate-more-than-5-of-its-covid-vaccines-to-who-backed-covax-programme>

⁶⁸²⁶ France pledges US\$611 million to COVID-19 response at Global Health Summit, Donor Tracker (Berlin) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://donortracker.org/policy-updates/france-pledges-us611-million-covid-19-response-global-health-summit>

⁶⁸²⁷ France pledges US\$611 million to COVID-19 response at Global Health Summit, Donor Tracker (Berlin) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://donortracker.org/policy-updates/france-pledges-us611-million-covid-19-response-global-health-summit>

⁶⁸²⁸ France pledges US\$611 million to COVID-19 response at Global Health Summit, Donor Tracker (Berlin) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://donortracker.org/policy-updates/france-pledges-us611-million-covid-19-response-global-health-summit>

⁶⁸²⁹ Macron says France will help Africa make more COVID-19 vaccines locally, Euronews (Lyon) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

He added that France was already making deals with South African pharmaceutical companies.⁶⁸³⁰ He also expressed his support for removing intellectual property rights on vaccines to permit more countries to produce their vaccines locally and called for the regulation of vaccine prices as many African countries were being charged a higher price for vaccines than western countries.⁶⁸³¹ The reason behind France's stance on the vaccine issue in African countries is based on its commitment to provide assistance under ACT-A.⁶⁸³²

On 31 May 2021, France imposed travel restrictions on British tourists allowing only essential travel.⁶⁸³³ British travellers are also required to self-isolate for a week upon their arrival to France.⁶⁸³⁴ This is a new response to the spread of the Indian variant in the United Kingdom.⁶⁸³⁵

On 3 June 2021, France donated 184,000 AstraZeneca vaccines to Senegal under the COVAX initiative.⁶⁸³⁶ The purpose of this donation is to fulfil the goals of COVAX to provide poor countries with vaccines that will protect them against the pandemic.⁶⁸³⁷

On 9 June 2021, France introduced a colour-coded system, also known as the traffic light system, to classify countries around the world and each of their entry requirements into France.⁶⁸³⁸ Each country is classified under either green, orange, or red.⁶⁸³⁹ The green countries include Australia, South Korea, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, New Zealand and Singapore, and all the countries in Europe, excluding the United Kingdom.⁶⁸⁴⁰ Green country vaccinated travelers can enter France without taking a PCR test; however, unvaccinated travelers must take a PCR test prior to their arrival.⁶⁸⁴¹ The orange countries include the United Kingdom, United States, and Canada.⁶⁸⁴² Vaccinated travelers

⁶⁸³⁰ Macron says France will help Africa make more COVID-19 vaccines locally, Euronews (Lyon) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

⁶⁸³¹ Macron says France will help Africa make more COVID-19 vaccines locally, Euronews (Lyon) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

⁶⁸³² Macron says France will help Africa make more COVID-19 vaccines locally, Euronews (Lyon) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

⁶⁸³³ Covid: France bans non-essential travel from UK, British Broadcasting Company (London) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57256859>

⁶⁸³⁴ Covid: France bans non-essential travel from UK, British Broadcasting Company (London) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57256859>

⁶⁸³⁵ Covid: France bans non-essential travel from UK, British Broadcasting Company (London) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57256859>

⁶⁸³⁶ Covid-19 - France donates 184,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to Senegal, L'Indépendant (Perpignan) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.lindependant.fr/2021/06/03/covid-19-la-france-fait-don-au-senegal-de-184000-doses-de-vaccin-astrazeneca-9584607.php>

⁶⁸³⁷ Covid-19 - France donates 184,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to Senegal, L'Indépendant (Perpignan) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.lindependant.fr/2021/06/03/covid-19-la-france-fait-don-au-senegal-de-184000-doses-de-vaccin-astrazeneca-9584607.php>

⁶⁸³⁸ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸³⁹ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁰ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴¹ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴² Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

can enter France but must complete a PCR test less than 72 hours prior to their arrival.⁶⁸⁴³ Unvaccinated travelers from these countries will only be permitted to enter France under urgent conditions.⁶⁸⁴⁴ They must present a negative PCR test and complete a 7-day quarantine.⁶⁸⁴⁵ Red countries include India, Turkey and Brazil.⁶⁸⁴⁶ Both vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers from these countries cannot enter France, unless it is for compelling reasons.⁶⁸⁴⁷ They are also required to present a negative PCR test and self-isolate for seven days if they are vaccinated and ten days if they are not.⁶⁸⁴⁸ France implemented this traffic light system in order to effectively manage people entering France from different countries once its borders have reopened, while making it generally simpler for vaccinated individuals to enter.⁶⁸⁴⁹

On 9 June 2021, the Government of France launched the health pass to allow people to access crowded events or places.⁶⁸⁵⁰ The health pass comes in both paper and digital form, and shows either proof of vaccination, proof of recovery from coronavirus, or proof of a negative coronavirus test.⁶⁸⁵¹ Events that bring in more than 1000 people will require the attendees to present their health pass, such as sport festivals.⁶⁸⁵² The reason for the health pass is to “revive economic activity as quickly as possible while avoiding an epidemic resumption.”⁶⁸⁵³ It is also a tool to encourage French residents to get vaccinated to protect themselves and others.⁶⁸⁵⁴

⁶⁸⁴³ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁴ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁵ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁶ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁷ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁸ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁹ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁵⁰ The health pass, a controversial tool to get out of the Covid-19 crisis, France 24 (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210517-le-pass-sanitaire-un-outil-controvers%C3%A9-pour-sortir-de-la-crise-du-covid-19>

⁶⁸⁵¹ The health pass, a controversial tool to get out of the Covid-19 crisis, France 24 (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210517-le-pass-sanitaire-un-outil-controvers%C3%A9-pour-sortir-de-la-crise-du-covid-19>

⁶⁸⁵² The health pass, a controversial tool to get out of the Covid-19 crisis, France 24 (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210517-le-pass-sanitaire-un-outil-controvers%C3%A9-pour-sortir-de-la-crise-du-covid-19>

⁶⁸⁵³ The health pass, a controversial tool to get out of the Covid-19 crisis, France 24 (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210517-le-pass-sanitaire-un-outil-controvers%C3%A9-pour-sortir-de-la-crise-du-covid-19>

⁶⁸⁵⁴ The health pass, a controversial tool to get out of the Covid-19 crisis, France 24 (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210517-le-pass-sanitaire-un-outil-controvers%C3%A9-pour-sortir-de-la-crise-du-covid-19>

On 17 June 2021, France moved Afghanistan, the Maldives and Paraguay to its red travel list.⁶⁸⁵⁵ This is due to the high number of cases in these countries.⁶⁸⁵⁶

On 23 June 2021, government spokesman Gabriel Attal announced that Russia was going to be added to the red list.⁶⁸⁵⁷ This decision has come about as a result of the increased cases of the Delta variant, especially in Moscow, partly due to the slow vaccine distributions; Seychelles and Namibia were also added to this list.⁶⁸⁵⁸

On 27 June 2021, France sent a humanitarian plane to Sudan carrying three tones of “face masks, gloves, medical protective clothing, oxygen generators, medical devices, accurate COVID-19 test equipment, tents and medical kits for disposable vaccination centres.”⁶⁸⁵⁹ The purpose is to provide the Sudanese government with the resources that it needs to open mobile vaccination and screening centres in rural areas to help reduce virus transmission.⁶⁸⁶⁰

On 5 July 2021, France extended the mandatory quarantine to all travelers from the same seven countries announced on 8 May 2021.⁶⁸⁶¹ This is because of the high number of cases in these countries and to prevent the mutations from entering France.⁶⁸⁶²

On 5 July 2021, France donated and delivered 228,000 COVID-19 vaccines to Zambia under COVAX.⁶⁸⁶³ The reason behind this donation is to accelerate the vaccination campaign in Zambia where cases and deaths have increased due to the third wave.⁶⁸⁶⁴ Furthermore, it will help protect high-risk members in their society, including health care workers and vulnerable segments of society.⁶⁸⁶⁵

⁶⁸⁵⁵ France upgrades Turkey to amber travel list and red list is expanded, The Connexion (Monaco) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-upgrades-Turkey-to-amber-travel-list-and-red-list-is-expanded>

⁶⁸⁵⁶ France upgrades Turkey to amber travel list and red list is expanded, The Connexion (Monaco) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-upgrades-Turkey-to-amber-travel-list-and-red-list-is-expanded>

⁶⁸⁵⁷ France adds Russia to Covid 'red' list, UK still 'orange', Radio France Internationale (Paris) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210624-france-adds-russia-to-covid-red-list-uk-still-orange-travel-tourism-delta-variant-quarantine-europe-us>

⁶⁸⁵⁸ France adds Russia to Covid 'red' list, UK still 'orange', Radio France Internationale (Paris) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210624-france-adds-russia-to-covid-red-list-uk-still-orange-travel-tourism-delta-variant-quarantine-europe-us>

⁶⁸⁵⁹ France provides grant to Sudan to combat COVID-19, ReliefWeb (New York City) 27 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/france-provides-grant-sudan-combat-covid-19>

⁶⁸⁶⁰ France provides grant to Sudan to combat COVID-19, ReliefWeb (New York City) 27 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/france-provides-grant-sudan-combat-covid-19>

⁶⁸⁶¹ France extends quarantine to travelers from seven countries, including Turkey, France24 (Paris) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210507-la-france-%C3%A9tend-la-quarantaine-aux-voyageurs-de-sept-pays-dont-la-turquie>

⁶⁸⁶² France extends quarantine to travelers from seven countries, including Turkey, France24 (Paris) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210507-la-france-%C3%A9tend-la-quarantaine-aux-voyageurs-de-sept-pays-dont-la-turquie>

⁶⁸⁶³ COVID-19 vaccines shipped by COVAX arrive in Zambia – donation by France, UNICEF (New York) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/zambia/press-releases/covid-19-vaccines-shipped-covax-arrive-zambia-donation-france>

⁶⁸⁶⁴ COVID-19 vaccines shipped by COVAX arrive in Zambia – donation by France, UNICEF (New York) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/zambia/press-releases/covid-19-vaccines-shipped-covax-arrive-zambia-donation-france>

⁶⁸⁶⁵ COVID-19 vaccines shipped by COVAX arrive in Zambia – donation by France, UNICEF (New York) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/zambia/press-releases/covid-19-vaccines-shipped-covax-arrive-zambia-donation-france>

On 9 July 2021, Île-de-France continued to set up free screening test tents at major railway stations in the region.⁶⁸⁶⁶ These tents have been installed since November 2020 and the results are ready in 20 minutes.⁶⁸⁶⁷ This initiative is a way to increase COVID-19 testing by providing fast and accessible tests at no charge.⁶⁸⁶⁸

On 9 July 2021, Caen-Carpique Airport opened a screening centre on the airport's first floor.⁶⁸⁶⁹ No prior appointments are necessary, and all travelers, airport staff and residents may access this centre to take a test.⁶⁸⁷⁰ The purpose of this screening centre is to provide accessible testing options to travelers who need to be tested prior to arriving at their destination, and residents.⁶⁸⁷¹

On 12 July 2021, President Emmanuel Macron announced that vaccines will become obligatory for healthcare workers.⁶⁸⁷² Initially, French authorities predicted that they could convince people to vaccinate voluntarily.⁶⁸⁷³ However, due to the slow vaccination rates and high number of cases because of the new Delta variant, it was decided that all health workers must get vaccinated by 15 September 2021.⁶⁸⁷⁴

On 13 July 2021, Government of France's spokesman Gabriel Attal announced that Tunisia, Indonesia, Mozambique and Cuba will be added to the country's red list.⁶⁸⁷⁵ The reason behind this decision is the high number of cases and variants in Indonesia, Mozambique and Cuba, and the high death rate in Tunisia, due to lack of vaccines.⁶⁸⁷⁶

On 13 July 2021, France's national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) was approved by the European Council. It outlines the recovery investments for which France is seeking European

⁶⁸⁶⁶ Covid-19: rapid tests near major stations in Île-de-France with the Region, Ile-de-France Region (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.iledefrance.fr/covid-19-decouvrez-les-centres-de-tests-rapides-antigeniques-pres-des-gares>

⁶⁸⁶⁷ Covid-19: rapid tests near major stations in Île-de-France with the Region, Ile-de-France Region (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.iledefrance.fr/covid-19-decouvrez-les-centres-de-tests-rapides-antigeniques-pres-des-gares>

⁶⁸⁶⁸ Covid-19: rapid tests near major stations in Île-de-France with the Region, Ile-de-France Region (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.iledefrance.fr/covid-19-decouvrez-les-centres-de-tests-rapides-antigeniques-pres-des-gares>

⁶⁸⁶⁹ Covid-19: a screening center opens this Saturday, July 10 at Caen-Carpique airport, France Info (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/normandie/calvados/caen/covid-19-un-centre-de-depistage-ouvre-ce-samedi-10-juillet-a-l-aeroport-de-caen-carpique-2174053.html>

⁶⁸⁷⁰ Covid-19: a screening center opens this Saturday, July 10 at Caen-Carpique airport, France Info (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/normandie/calvados/caen/covid-19-un-centre-de-depistage-ouvre-ce-samedi-10-juillet-a-l-aeroport-de-caen-carpique-2174053.html>

⁶⁸⁷¹ Covid-19: a screening center opens this Saturday, July 10 at Caen-Carpique airport, France Info (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/normandie/calvados/caen/covid-19-un-centre-de-depistage-ouvre-ce-samedi-10-juillet-a-l-aeroport-de-caen-carpique-2174053.html>

⁶⁸⁷² France makes Covid shot mandatory for health workers, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/12/france-makes-covid-shot-mandatory-for-health-workers.html>

⁶⁸⁷³ France makes Covid shot mandatory for health workers, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/12/france-makes-covid-shot-mandatory-for-health-workers.html>

⁶⁸⁷⁴ France makes Covid shot mandatory for health workers, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/12/france-makes-covid-shot-mandatory-for-health-workers.html>

⁶⁸⁷⁵ Travel and Covid: 4 countries, including Tunisia, added to the red list, HuffPost (New York) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. https://www.huffingtonpost.fr/entry/voyage-et-covid-4-pays-dont-la-tunisie-ajoutes-a-la-liste-rouge_fr_60ed9797e4b0a771e7fddb19

⁶⁸⁷⁶ Travel and Covid: 4 countries, including Tunisia, added to the red list, HuffPost (New York) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. https://www.huffingtonpost.fr/entry/voyage-et-covid-4-pays-dont-la-tunisie-ajoutes-a-la-liste-rouge_fr_60ed9797e4b0a771e7fddb19

funding.⁶⁸⁷⁷ This NRRP was formally submitted in late April 2021 to the EU Commission which was welcomed with a positive assessment. As a result, of the EUR672.5 billion that was allocated by the Member States for the European Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), EUR39.4 billion will be allocated to France in grants. France will be the member state to receive the third largest funds, after Spain and Italy.⁶⁸⁷⁸

On 18 July 2021, France donated and delivered 324,000 COVID-19 vaccines to Tunisia under COVAX.⁶⁸⁷⁹ France plans to send another shipment of 800,000 vaccines to Tunisia shortly.⁶⁸⁸⁰ France will also send millions of masks, gloves, oxygen supplies, and medical equipment to protect people globally from the virus, reduce fatalities, and gradually return to regular life.⁶⁸⁸¹ In addition, France is complying with its ACT-A commitment.⁶⁸⁸²

On 21 July 2021, France announced that the health pass must now be presented in cultural and tourist establishments, such as museums and cinemas.⁶⁸⁸³ The health pass will also be required in areas and events where there are more than 50 people.⁶⁸⁸⁴ These additional restrictions were imposed because of the acceleration of Delta variant cases throughout France.⁶⁸⁸⁵

On 21 July 2021, President Emmanuel Macron announced that the health pass will be mandated to cafés, shopping centres and restaurants in August after lawmakers vote on this extension.⁶⁸⁸⁶ The health pass will likely be used for planes, trains and buses for long-distance trips.⁶⁸⁸⁷

On 26 July 2021, the Parliament passed a law requiring the health pass to be used in restaurants, museums, cinemas and during domestic travel through planes and trains, starting in the beginning of

⁶⁸⁷⁷ France's national recovery and resilience plan (London) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=8159936a-7be7-4d7b-ad6a-d6a2f05ba8ab>

⁶⁸⁷⁸ France's national recovery and resilience plan (London) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=8159936a-7be7-4d7b-ad6a-d6a2f05ba8ab>

⁶⁸⁷⁹ France donates a batch of vaccines to Tunisia via the COVAX initiative, UNICEF (New York) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/tunisia/communiqu%C3%A9s-de-presse/la-france-fait-don-%C3%A0-la-tunisie-dun-lot-de-vaccins-linitiative-covax>

⁶⁸⁸⁰ France donates a batch of vaccines to Tunisia via the COVAX initiative, UNICEF (New York) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/tunisia/communiqu%C3%A9s-de-presse/la-france-fait-don-%C3%A0-la-tunisie-dun-lot-de-vaccins-linitiative-covax>

⁶⁸⁸¹ France donates a batch of vaccines to Tunisia via the COVAX initiative, UNICEF (New York) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/tunisia/communiqu%C3%A9s-de-presse/la-france-fait-don-%C3%A0-la-tunisie-dun-lot-de-vaccins-linitiative-covax>

⁶⁸⁸² France donates a batch of vaccines to Tunisia via the COVAX initiative, UNICEF (New York) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/tunisia/communiqu%C3%A9s-de-presse/la-france-fait-don-%C3%A0-la-tunisie-dun-lot-de-vaccins-linitiative-covax>

⁶⁸⁸³ Covid-19 'health pass' comes into force for access to French cultural venues, France 24 (Paris) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210721-france-introduces-covid-19-health-passes-to-access-cultural-venues>

⁶⁸⁸⁴ Covid-19 'health pass' comes into force for access to French cultural venues, France 24 (Paris) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210721-france-introduces-covid-19-health-passes-to-access-cultural-venues>

⁶⁸⁸⁵ Covid-19 'health pass' comes into force for access to French cultural venues, France 24 (Paris) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210721-france-introduces-covid-19-health-passes-to-access-cultural-venues>

⁶⁸⁸⁶ Covid-19 'health pass' comes into force for access to French cultural venues, France 24 (Paris) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210721-france-introduces-covid-19-health-passes-to-access-cultural-venues>

⁶⁸⁸⁷ Covid-19 'health pass' comes into force for access to French cultural venues, France 24 (Paris) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210721-france-introduces-covid-19-health-passes-to-access-cultural-venues>

August.⁶⁸⁸⁸ Every adult must present either proof of vaccination or a negative coronavirus test result.⁶⁸⁸⁹ While this rule will initially apply to adults, those over the age of 12 must present the health pass starting 30 September 2021.⁶⁸⁹⁰ The reason the Parliament passed this law was “to protect vulnerable populations and hospitals” since cases are increasing, while also reducing the chances of entering a new lockdown.⁶⁸⁹¹

On 8 August 2021, French Health Minister Olivier Véran “appealed for volunteer doctors and nurses to travel to the overseas territories of Guadeloupe and Martinique.”⁶⁸⁹² This is due to the current wave of cases and low vaccination rates that are causing hospitals to get full.⁶⁸⁹³ This initiative aims to help the overwhelmed hospitals and reduce the number of fatalities in the overseas French regions.⁶⁸⁹⁴

On 9 August 2021, France donated 108,000 AstraZeneca vaccines to Somalia.⁶⁸⁹⁵ The reason behind this donation is to boost Somalia’s low vaccination rate by protecting vulnerable people and frontline workers from the virus, as a part of the bigger picture to ensure equitable access to vaccines worldwide.⁶⁸⁹⁶ The donation was done at a strategic time when cases were increasing rapidly daily.⁶⁸⁹⁷

On 18 August 2021, France announced that people either selling or buying fake health passes will be subject to large fines.⁶⁸⁹⁸ The counterfeiters may receive fines up to EUR150,000 and up to five years

⁶⁸⁸⁸ French parliament approves law requiring Covid pass for restaurants, travel starting in August, France 24 (Paris) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210725-french-parliament-approves-law-requiring-restaurant-covid-pass-vaccine-rules>

⁶⁸⁸⁹ French parliament approves law requiring Covid pass for restaurants, travel starting in August, France 24 (Paris) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210725-french-parliament-approves-law-requiring-restaurant-covid-pass-vaccine-rules>

⁶⁸⁹⁰ French parliament approves law requiring Covid pass for restaurants, travel starting in August, France 24 (Paris) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210725-french-parliament-approves-law-requiring-restaurant-covid-pass-vaccine-rules>

⁶⁸⁹¹ French parliament approves law requiring Covid pass for restaurants, travel starting in August, France 24 (Paris) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210725-french-parliament-approves-law-requiring-restaurant-covid-pass-vaccine-rules>

⁶⁸⁹² France asks medical staff for help treating Covid-19 on Guadeloupe and Martinique, France 24 (Paris) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210808-france-asks-medical-staff-for-help-treating-covid-19-on-guadeloupe-and-martinique>

⁶⁸⁹³ France asks medical staff for help treating Covid-19 on Guadeloupe and Martinique, France 24 (Paris) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210808-france-asks-medical-staff-for-help-treating-covid-19-on-guadeloupe-and-martinique>

⁶⁸⁹⁴ France asks medical staff for help treating Covid-19 on Guadeloupe and Martinique, France 24 (Paris) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210808-france-asks-medical-staff-for-help-treating-covid-19-on-guadeloupe-and-martinique>

⁶⁸⁹⁵ 108 000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines donated by France arrive in Somalia, ReliefWeb (New York City) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/108-000-doses-covid-19-vaccines-donated-france-arrive-somalia>

⁶⁸⁹⁶ 108 000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines donated by France arrive in Somalia, ReliefWeb (New York City) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/108-000-doses-covid-19-vaccines-donated-france-arrive-somalia>

⁶⁸⁹⁷ 108 000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines donated by France arrive in Somalia, ReliefWeb (New York City) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/108-000-doses-covid-19-vaccines-donated-france-arrive-somalia>

⁶⁸⁹⁸ Black market for fake Covid health passes flourishes in France, France 24 (Paris) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210818-black-market-for-fake-covid-health-passes-flourishes-in-france>

in prison, while those caught using counterfeit health passes can get up to three years in prison.⁶⁸⁹⁹ The counterfeiters are selling these fake passes via social media networks, such as Snapchat and Facebook, and advertising that they can send the counterfeit health passes in eight to ten hours.⁶⁹⁰⁰ The reason authorities have decided to penalize those selling and using fake health passes is to ensure the effectiveness of the health pass and protect vulnerable segments of society.⁶⁹⁰¹

On 18 August 2021, France sent “medical personnel and oxygen supplies” to the French islands Guadeloupe and Martinique.⁶⁹⁰² The distribution of medical supplies and personnel happened because of the wave of Delta variant cases and deaths that are overwhelming hospitals on the islands.⁶⁹⁰³ Additionally, 98 per cent of patients admitted in the intensive care units in Guadeloupe are unvaccinated as vaccination rates are very low compared to mainland France.⁶⁹⁰⁴

On 21 August 2021, France added both Morocco and Algeria to the red list.⁶⁹⁰⁵ This decision has come about as a result of the new spike of coronavirus cases in both countries, which caused authorities in Rabat to extend the nighttime curfew and restrict domestic travel.⁶⁹⁰⁶ French authorities also want to prevent more cases entering the country, given the recent spike of emergency room cases in France.⁶⁹⁰⁷

On 25 August 2021, France announced that it was extending the lockdown measures in Martinique and Guadeloupe.⁶⁹⁰⁸ The islands went into lockdown because of the spike of cases due to the Delta

⁶⁸⁹⁹ Black market for fake Covid health passes flourishes in France, France 24 (Paris) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210818-black-market-for-fake-covid-health-passes-flourishes-in-france>

⁶⁹⁰⁰ Black market for fake Covid health passes flourishes in France, France 24 (Paris) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210818-black-market-for-fake-covid-health-passes-flourishes-in-france>

⁶⁹⁰¹ Black market for fake Covid health passes flourishes in France, France 24 (Paris) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210818-black-market-for-fake-covid-health-passes-flourishes-in-france>

⁶⁹⁰² France sends aid to Guadeloupe and Martinique, the islands struggling with COVID-19 surge, Euronews (Lyon) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/08/19/france-sends-aid-to-guadeloupe-and-martinique-the-islands-struggling-with-covid-19-surge>

⁶⁹⁰³ France sends aid to Guadeloupe and Martinique, the islands struggling with COVID-19 surge, Euronews (Lyon) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/08/19/france-sends-aid-to-guadeloupe-and-martinique-the-islands-struggling-with-covid-19-surge>

⁶⁹⁰⁴ France sends aid to Guadeloupe and Martinique, the islands struggling with COVID-19 surge, Euronews (Lyon) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/08/19/france-sends-aid-to-guadeloupe-and-martinique-the-islands-struggling-with-covid-19-surge>

⁶⁹⁰⁵ France adds Algeria, Morocco to list of high-risk Covid countries, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210819-france-adds-algeria-morocco-to-list-of-high-risk-covid-countries>

⁶⁹⁰⁶ France adds Algeria, Morocco to list of high-risk Covid countries, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210819-france-adds-algeria-morocco-to-list-of-high-risk-covid-countries>

⁶⁹⁰⁷ France adds Algeria, Morocco to list of high-risk Covid countries, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210819-france-adds-algeria-morocco-to-list-of-high-risk-covid-countries>

⁶⁹⁰⁸ France extends Covid-19 lockdown measures in Caribbean territories, France 24 (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210825-france-extends-covid-19-lockdown-measures-in-caribbean-territories>

variant.⁶⁹⁰⁹ The lockdown measures were extended to protect residents from the worsening number of cases, considering the islands have low vaccination rates compared to mainland France.⁶⁹¹⁰

On 27 August 2021, France delivered 218,400 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines to Sudan through COVAX.⁶⁹¹¹ The reason for France's donation is to fulfil its pledge for equitable distribution of vaccines to all countries regardless of their wealth.⁶⁹¹² In addition, this donation helps fully vaccinate more people who have only taken the first dose so far, which will help curb the spread of the coronavirus.⁶⁹¹³ The donation was also done at a strategic time when cases were increasing daily “while the country is preparing to re-open schools after three years of numerous interruptions.”⁶⁹¹⁴

On 29 August 2021, France added Turkey, Iran and Georgia to the red list.⁶⁹¹⁵ This decision is due to the increase of coronavirus cases in these countries.⁶⁹¹⁶

On 31 August 2021, France announced that it was donating 10 million Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines to Africa through COVAX and the Africa Vaccine Acquisition Trust to fulfil its pledge to donate at least 60 million vaccines worldwide.⁶⁹¹⁷ In addition to complying to its ACT-A commitment, France's reason behind this donation is to ensure the “equitable access” of vaccines worldwide and help put a collective end to the coronavirus by vaccinating every person.⁶⁹¹⁸

On 10 September 2021, France raised the bird flu alert level from “negligible” to “moderate” because a severe form of the virus was spotted in a private farm in the Ardennes region.⁶⁹¹⁹ The birds have

⁶⁹⁰⁹ France extends Covid-19 lockdown measures in Caribbean territories, France 24 (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210825-france-extends-covid-19-lockdown-measures-in-caribbean-territories>

⁶⁹¹⁰ France extends Covid-19 lockdown measures in Caribbean territories, France 24 (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210825-france-extends-covid-19-lockdown-measures-in-caribbean-territories>

⁶⁹¹¹ Sudan receives over 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccination from France, UNICEF (New York) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/sudan/press-releases/sudan-receives-over-200000-doses-covid-19-vaccination-france>

⁶⁹¹² Sudan receives over 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccination from France, UNICEF (New York) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/sudan/press-releases/sudan-receives-over-200000-doses-covid-19-vaccination-france>

⁶⁹¹³ Sudan receives over 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccination from France, UNICEF (New York) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/sudan/press-releases/sudan-receives-over-200000-doses-covid-19-vaccination-france>

⁶⁹¹⁴ Sudan receives over 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccination from France, UNICEF (New York) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/sudan/press-releases/sudan-receives-over-200000-doses-covid-19-vaccination-france>

⁶⁹¹⁵ Covid-19: Turkey, Georgia and Iran placed on the red list from Sunday by France, Le Parisien (Paris) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.leparisien.fr/societe/covid-19-la-turquie-la-georgie-et-liran-places-sur-liste-rouge-des-dimanche-par-la-france-27-08-2021-YNID5GZVMFHHLFVRDBZO5CXYP.php>

⁶⁹¹⁶ Covid-19: Turkey, Georgia and Iran placed on the red list from Sunday by France, Le Parisien (Paris) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.leparisien.fr/societe/covid-19-la-turquie-la-georgie-et-liran-places-sur-liste-rouge-des-dimanche-par-la-france-27-08-2021-YNID5GZVMFHHLFVRDBZO5CXYP.php>

⁶⁹¹⁷ France donates 10 million doses to Africa through COVAX and AU, ReliefWeb (New York City) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/france-donates-10-million-doses-africa-through-covax-and-au>

⁶⁹¹⁸ France donates 10 million doses to Africa through COVAX and AU, ReliefWeb (New York City) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/france-donates-10-million-doses-africa-through-covax-and-au>

⁶⁹¹⁹ France raises bird flu alert level after severe form of virus detected, Euronews (Lyon) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

been euthanized to prevent additional cases of this strain.⁶⁹²⁰ All poultry and birds have been quarantined in high risk areas and all poultry is being kept in shelters.⁶⁹²¹ The reason that France is taking these precautions is to reduce the risk of the virus spreading.⁶⁹²²

On 21 September 2021, Prime Minister Jean Castex has announced that the country's authorities are preparing a bill to extend the Health Pass requirement.⁶⁹²³ The extension of the bill was in response to the suggestion of President Emmanuel Macron. The "health pass" was introduced in June by the country's authorities after the Parliament approved a draft law.⁶⁹²⁴

France has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by administering a robust vaccination policy, conducting saliva tests and enacting curfews and social distancing policies.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Rawan Barakat

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 26 November 2020, Germany adopted the Health Care and Long-Term Care Improvement Act.⁶⁹²⁵ It comprises a number of measures to provide supplementary funding for statutory health insurance.⁶⁹²⁶ Federal Minister of Health Jens Spahn reportedly said that "The pandemic is also a burden on the statutory health insurance companies, due to lower income and higher expenditure. This burden should not be balanced by the contributors alone."⁶⁹²⁷ The Act also funds 20,000 additional nursing assistant and geriatric care jobs, as well as extends the Care Support Allowance, which is a wage replacement benefit for individuals who have taken over home care due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁹²⁸

On 7 December 2020, Minister Spahn announced changes to the Medical Devices Dispensing Ordinance which began allowing teachers to obtain and use rapid COVID-19 tests at day-care

⁶⁹²⁰ France raises bird flu alert level after severe form of virus detected, Euronews (Lyon) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

⁶⁹²¹ France raises bird flu alert level after severe form of virus detected, Euronews (Lyon) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

⁶⁹²² France raises bird flu alert level after severe form of virus detected, Euronews (Lyon) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

⁶⁹²³ France to Extend Health Pass Requirement, Bill Is Underway (Paris) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.schengenvisa.info.com/news/france-to-extend-health-pass-requirement-bill-is-underway/>

⁶⁹²⁴ France to Extend Health Pass Requirement, Bill Is Underway (Paris) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.schengenvisa.info.com/news/france-to-extend-health-pass-requirement-bill-is-underway/>

⁶⁹²⁵ Bundestag passes law to improve health care and nursing care, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/gpvg-beschluss-bt.html>

⁶⁹²⁶ Bundestag passes law to improve health care and nursing care, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/gpvg-beschluss-bt.html>

⁶⁹²⁷ Bundestag passes law to improve health care and nursing care, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/gpvg-beschluss-bt.html>

⁶⁹²⁸ Bundestag passes law to improve health care and nursing care, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/gpvg-beschluss-bt.html>

centres and schools.⁶⁹²⁹ Rapid tests would allow students to stay in school once receiving a negative test, rather than staying home for the compulsory five-day quarantine following a COVID exposure.⁶⁹³⁰

On 15 December 2020, the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union reached a preliminary agreement with the European Parliament on the EU4Health program for 2021-2027.⁶⁹³¹ This program has a budget of EUR5.1 billion and provides a solid basis for EU action in the health sector based on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁹³² It promotes measures to supplement national stocks of essential products in times of crisis at the EU level, as well as supports measures that enable the mobilization of healthcare workers to crisis areas.⁶⁹³³

On 16 December 2020, the Federal Office of Economics and Export Control published a new guideline on federal funding of production facilities for point-of-care antigen testing.⁶⁹³⁴ The funding is intended to support companies building antigen-testing production capabilities in Germany.⁶⁹³⁵ Up to EUR200 million is available for investment in new production facilities or expansion of existing facilities, with the goal of allowing Germany to rely on the domestic market for COVID-19 testing.⁶⁹³⁶

On 21 December 2020, Minister Spahn presented the Coronavirus Vaccination Ordinance.⁶⁹³⁷ The ordinance specifies the order of priority for vaccinations.⁶⁹³⁸ The three priority groups outlined in the ordinance include people over the age of 80 and healthcare workers, people over the age of 70 and those with chronic health conditions, and people over the age of 60 and essential employees, including public servants and teachers.⁶⁹³⁹

⁶⁹²⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹³⁰ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹³¹ Protect people's health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/eu4health-gesundheitsprogramm.html>

⁶⁹³² Protect people's health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/eu4health-gesundheitsprogramm.html>

⁶⁹³³ Protect people's health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/eu4health-gesundheitsprogramm.html>

⁶⁹³⁴ Federal government starts promoting the production of antigen tests, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/antigentest.html>

⁶⁹³⁵ Federal government starts promoting the production of antigen tests, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/antigentest.html>

⁶⁹³⁶ Federal government starts promoting the production of antigen tests, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/antigentest.html>

⁶⁹³⁷ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹³⁸ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹³⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

On 31 January 2020, the Federal Cabinet adopted a new Coronavirus entry regulation.⁶⁹⁴⁰ The regulation requires that anyone entering Germany from a risk area be able to prove within 48 hours of entry that they are not infected with the coronavirus.⁶⁹⁴¹ Minister Spahn emphasized the need to protect Germany from emerging coronavirus variants.⁶⁹⁴² Additionally, all travelers entering Germany will receive an SMS on their mobile device informing them of current COVID-19 regulations in place.⁶⁹⁴³

On 19 January 2021, the Federal Ministry of Health issued the Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance.⁶⁹⁴⁴ The ordinance obliges laboratories and facilities carrying out sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 to transmit the genome sequence data to the Robert Koch Institute.⁶⁹⁴⁵ The goal of this ordinance is to ensure that data pertaining to the evolution of viruses and new variants is collected and evaluated at a central point.⁶⁹⁴⁶ This demonstrates Germany's efforts for early detection of COVID-19 variants.

On 19 February 2021, Germany committed EUR1.5 billion to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT) and the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX), which Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged at the Virtual G7 leaders meeting.⁶⁹⁴⁷ The ACT Accelerator aims to develop, produce and ensure the fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments.⁶⁹⁴⁸ COVAX is the vaccine pillar of the ACT Accelerator and is led by the WHO, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance and Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.⁶⁹⁴⁹ These three entities are working to ensure that vaccines are accessible and affordable for all countries, especially developing ones.⁶⁹⁵⁰

On 11 March 2021, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs extended the Corona Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance until April 30, 2021.⁶⁹⁵¹ The ordinance is in place to

⁶⁹⁴⁰ Cabinet adopts new coronavirus entry regulation, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/einreise-vo.html>

⁶⁹⁴¹ Cabinet adopts new coronavirus entry regulation, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/einreise-vo.html>

⁶⁹⁴² Cabinet adopts new coronavirus entry regulation, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/einreise-vo.html>

⁶⁹⁴³ Cabinet adopts new coronavirus entry regulation, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/einreise-vo.html>

⁶⁹⁴⁴ New Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance of the Federal Ministry of Health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/coronavirus-surveillanceverordnung.html>

⁶⁹⁴⁵ New Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance of the Federal Ministry of Health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/coronavirus-surveillanceverordnung.html>

⁶⁹⁴⁶ New Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance of the Federal Ministry of Health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/coronavirus-surveillanceverordnung.html>

⁶⁹⁴⁷ Ready for a "new chapter in the transatlantic partnership," German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/munich-security-conference-1860244>

⁶⁹⁴⁸ Ready for a "new chapter in the transatlantic partnership," German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/munich-security-conference-1860244>

⁶⁹⁴⁹ Ready for a "new chapter in the transatlantic partnership," German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/munich-security-conference-1860244>

⁶⁹⁵⁰ Ready for a "new chapter in the transatlantic partnership," German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/munich-security-conference-1860244>

⁶⁹⁵¹ Corona occupational health and safety ordinance, German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Corona/Fragen-und-Antworten/Fragen-und-Antworten-ASVO/faq-corona-asvo.html>

ensure the protection of employees' health as well as prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.⁶⁹⁵² It mandates at least 1.5-meter distance from others when possible, as well as the use of medical face masks when indoors.⁶⁹⁵³ Regular ventilation must be guaranteed and in companies with more than ten employees, these must be divided into small working groups when possible.⁶⁹⁵⁴

On 25 March 2021, Chancellor Merkel offered a statement before the beginning of the European Council.⁶⁹⁵⁵ She emphasized her support for the joint procurement and licensing of vaccines within the European Union, as well as the importance of the independent production of vaccines in Europe.⁶⁹⁵⁶ Chancellor Merkel advocated for a regionalized approach to opening, allowing municipalities to determine the severity of COVID-19 precautions.⁶⁹⁵⁷

On 26 March 2021, the Federal Cabinet amended the Coronavirus Entry Ordinance.⁶⁹⁵⁸ A general testing obligation for all air travelers was introduced, requiring a negative test result not older than 48 hours for travelers before departure.⁶⁹⁵⁹

On 27 March 2021, Germany passed a law on “The continued validity of regulations concerning the epidemic situation of national scope,” which determined that the epidemic situation in Germany remained of national importance.⁶⁹⁶⁰ This extended the public health regulations such as the Coronavirus Testing Regulation, the Coronavirus Vaccination Regulation and the Coronavirus Entry Regulation beyond their initial end date of 31 March.⁶⁹⁶¹ The law also strengthened the legal framework for vaccination priorities by including health conditions for priority vaccinations.⁶⁹⁶²

On 31 March 2021, the Standing Commission on Vaccination (STIKO) presented a revised draft of its COVID-19 vaccination recommendation.⁶⁹⁶³ In it, the STIKO recommends the use of the vaccine from AstraZeneca for people over 60 years of age.⁶⁹⁶⁴ The STIKO's recommendations are based on

⁶⁹⁵² Corona occupational health and safety ordinance, German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Corona/Fragen-und-Antworten/Fragen-und-Antworten-ASVO/faq-corona-asvo.html>

⁶⁹⁵³ Corona occupational health and safety ordinance, German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Corona/Fragen-und-Antworten/Fragen-und-Antworten-ASVO/faq-corona-asvo.html>

⁶⁹⁵⁴ Corona occupational health and safety ordinance, German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Corona/Fragen-und-Antworten/Fragen-und-Antworten-ASVO/faq-corona-asvo.html>

⁶⁹⁵⁵ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁵⁶ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁵⁷ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁵⁸ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁵⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶⁰ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶¹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶² The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶³ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶⁴ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

findings showing very rare but very serious cases of blood clotting in people vaccinated with AstraZeneca.⁶⁹⁶⁵

On 8 April 2021, Development Minister Gerd Muller emphasized the need for nature conservation on the occasion of World Health Day.⁶⁹⁶⁶ He noted that 75 per cent of newly emerging infectious diseases arise from animals.⁶⁹⁶⁷ “Where rainforests burn and wild animals are wiped out, viruses lose their original host and jump more easily to humans,” Minister Muller wrote in an article for the Rheinische Post.⁶⁹⁶⁸ Minister Muller also called on the international community to support coronavirus vaccinations in developing countries.⁶⁹⁶⁹

On 13 April 2021, the Federal Cabinet extended the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance until 28 April 2021.⁶⁹⁷⁰ The Ordinance requires that persons entering the country take a coronavirus test no more than 48 hours before entry.⁶⁹⁷¹ In virus variants areas, the test must be taken no more than 12 hours before departure.⁶⁹⁷²

On 13 April 2021, the Federal Cabinet adopted an amendment to the Infection Protection Act, which requires that if the number of new infections with the coronavirus per 100,000 inhabitants exceeds 100 in a set district or city on three consecutive days, additional measures will come into place the following day.⁶⁹⁷³ These measures are in place to reduce contacts and include closing leisure and sports facilities.⁶⁹⁷⁴

On 21 April 2021, the Federal Cabinet approved an amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance.⁶⁹⁷⁵ As of 20 April, employers are obligated to offer their employees that cannot work at home coronavirus tests at least once a week.⁶⁹⁷⁶ Risk groups are offered tests twice a week.⁶⁹⁷⁷ “In this way we can prevent chains of infection, protect health and ultimately avoid company closures. This new obligation has become necessary so that really all workers in the company receive an offer of testing,” explained Federal Labour Minister Hubertus Heil.⁶⁹⁷⁸ The cost

⁶⁹⁶⁵ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶⁶ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶⁷ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶⁸ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷⁰ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷¹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷² The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷³ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷⁴ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷⁵ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷⁶ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷⁷ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷⁸ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

of tests must be borne by employers, however employees are not obliged to accept the offer of the test.⁶⁹⁷⁹ The amendment extends Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance until 30 June 2021.⁶⁹⁸⁰

On 10 May 2021, Minister Spahn said that the Johnson and Johnson and AstraZeneca vaccines will be made available to all adults after the advice of their doctor.⁶⁹⁸¹ Even though, cases of a rare blood clotting appeared in US adults who received the dose, Europe's drug regulator backed the two vaccines. The decisions reflect Germany's progress in vaccinating its people and Minister Spahn added that any senior who wanted to get vaccinated could do so by late May or early June.⁶⁹⁸²

On 12 May 2021, the Federal Cabinet adopted regulations that will incorporate a transport ban from "areas of variant concern" into the COVID-19 Immigration Regulations.⁶⁹⁸³

On 19 May 2021, the Chancellor Angela Merkel attended the virtual Research Summit of German industry in which she advocated retaining a high level of research and development spending even after the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁹⁸⁴

On 21 May 2021, Angela Merkel attended the Global Health Summit, after which she announced that Germany will supply 30 million vaccine doses by the end of the year and a total of EUR2.2 billion to support ACT-Accelerator.⁶⁹⁸⁵ Of the EUR2.2 billion, EUR980 million will be available to the COVAX Facility to help developing countries procure vaccines.⁶⁹⁸⁶

On 26 May 2021, Angela Merkel discussed the impact of the pandemic on people engaged in voluntary work with volunteers from various aid organizations at the online citizen's dialogue.⁶⁹⁸⁷

On 2 June 2021, the Federal Cabinet set in place regulations that will ensure regular pay according to tariff for nursing care staff.⁶⁹⁸⁸ This involves increased relief according to the length of nursing care required.⁶⁹⁸⁹ The Federal Minister of Health Jens Spahn stated that "We are reducing the burden on

⁶⁹⁷⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁸⁰ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁸¹ Germany to make J&J's COVID-19 vaccine available to all (Berlin) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/europe/germany-to-make-jjs-covid-19-vaccine-available-to-all-adults/articleshow/82518880.cms>

⁶⁹⁸² Germany to make J&J's COVID-19 vaccine available to all (Berlin) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/europe/germany-to-make-jjs-covid-19-vaccine-available-to-all-adults/articleshow/82518880.cms>

⁶⁹⁸³ Immigration exemptions after vaccination or recovery, the Federal Government (Berlin). 12 May 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-19-immigration-regulations-1913692>

⁶⁹⁸⁴ Emerging from the crisis thanks to research, The Federal Government (Berlin). 19 May 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/research-summit-1915634>

⁶⁹⁸⁵ Germany supports global efforts to fight the pandemic, The Federal Government (Berlin). 21 May 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/chancellor-global-health-summit-1916604>

⁶⁹⁸⁶ Global immunisation campaign offers a way out of the crisis, The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). 21 May 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/development-policy/covid-19-pandemic/global-immunisation-campaign>

⁶⁹⁸⁷ The Chancellor talks with citizens engaged in voluntary work, The Federal Government (Berlin). 21 May 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/citizens-dialogue-voluntary-work-1916384>

⁶⁹⁸⁸ Improvements for nursing staff and care patients, The Federal Government (Berlin). 2 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/cabinet-nursing-care-1923636>

⁶⁹⁸⁹ Improvements for nursing staff and care patients, The Federal Government (Berlin). 2 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/cabinet-nursing-care-1923636>

care patients and their families by around EUR3 billion.”⁶⁹⁹⁰ The Federal Cabinet has also decided that the additional federal contribution to the statutory health insurance companies should be increased by EUR7 billion in 2022.⁶⁹⁹¹

On 17 June 2021, Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller, visited the Institut Pasteur de Dakar to discuss the future production of COVID-19 vaccines in Africa.⁶⁹⁹² Germany has stated it will provide funding of EUR20 million.⁶⁹⁹³

On 18 June 2021, the Federal Ministry of Finance released a report on the Financial Development in Statutory Health Insurance including Agricultural Health Insurance in the 1st Quarter of 2021.⁶⁹⁹⁴ The statutory health insurance companies stated a deficit of EUR148 million in the first quarter.⁶⁹⁹⁵ The Federal Cabinet is waiting on the data for the first half of the year to decide whether the supplementary federal subsidy of EUR7 billion for 2022 will have to be adjusted in order to keep the average additional contribution stable.⁶⁹⁹⁶

On 21 June 2021, Angela Merkel engaged in discussion with Italy’s Prime Minister Mario Draghi in preparation for the upcoming European Council.⁶⁹⁹⁷ The discussion was based on the consequences of the pandemic, the recovery plan and improved coordination in terms of entry regulations.⁶⁹⁹⁸

On 23 June 2021, the Federal Cabinet adjusted the COVID-19 Occupational Health and Safety Regulation “so that from 1 July 2021 workers will no longer need to work from home.”⁶⁹⁹⁹ Requirements to offer tests and the general rules of social distancing, hygiene, face coverings and ventilation are to remain in place.⁷⁰⁰⁰

⁶⁹⁹⁰ Improvements for nursing staff and care patients, The Federal Government (Berlin). 2 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/cabinet-nursing-care-1923636>

⁶⁹⁹¹ Improvements for nursing staff and care patients, The Federal Government (Berlin). 2 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/cabinet-nursing-care-1923636>

⁶⁹⁹² Minister Müller and Institut Pasteur fire starter pistol for the establishment of COVID-19 vaccine production capacity in Africa, The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/establishment-vaccine-production-capacity-in-africa-84350>

⁶⁹⁹³ Minister Müller and Institut Pasteur fire starter pistol for the establishment of COVID-19 vaccine production capacity in Africa, The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/establishment-vaccine-production-capacity-in-africa-84350>

⁶⁹⁹⁴ Financial development of the statutory health insurance in the 1st quarter of 2021, The Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/2-quartal/gkv-1-quartal-2021.html>

⁶⁹⁹⁵ Financial development of the statutory health insurance in the 1st quarter of 2021, The Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/2-quartal/gkv-1-quartal-2021.html>

⁶⁹⁹⁶ Financial development of the statutory health insurance in the 1st quarter of 2021, The Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/2-quartal/gkv-1-quartal-2021.html>

⁶⁹⁹⁷ Focus on the pandemic and migration, The Federal Government (Berlin). 21 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/merkel-receives-draghi-1934488>

⁶⁹⁹⁸ Focus on the pandemic and migration, The Federal Government (Berlin). 21 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/merkel-receives-draghi-1934488>

⁶⁹⁹⁹ Obligation to work from home to be lifted from 1 July, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-health-safety-regulation-1936424>

⁷⁰⁰⁰ Obligation to work from home to be lifted from 1 July, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-health-safety-regulation-1936424>

On 23 June 2021, the Federal Cabinet amended the Testing Ordinance to allow for greater control of testing and billing after several cases of individual testing providers committing fraud.⁷⁰⁰¹ “The ordinance will come into force on 1 July 2021.”⁷⁰⁰² The Associations of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians are in charge of reviewing the invoices and will be granted access to advanced review methods with increased cooperation between the association and the Public Health Service.⁷⁰⁰³ Remuneration will be standardized, simplified and reduced.⁷⁰⁰⁴ “Costs for materials will be covered with a lump sum based on current market prices.”⁷⁰⁰⁵ The amended ordinance also provides that in addition to rapid antigen tests, supervised self-tests can also be carried out in test centres or doctor’s offices.⁷⁰⁰⁶

On 25 June 2021, an Advisory Board made up of representatives from hospitals, statutory and private health insurance companies and renowned scientists released a report on the impact of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 Hospitals Relief Act on the economic situation of hospitals.⁷⁰⁰⁷ According to the COVID-19 Hospitals Relief Act, clinics received a flat rate for each free bed kept for the treatment of COVID-19 patients from 16 March to 30 September 2020.⁷⁰⁰⁸ In its report, the Advisory Board comes to the conclusion that the income situation of the hospitals did not deteriorate on average from January to May 2020, taking into account the compensation payments.⁷⁰⁰⁹ A continuation of the flat fee was therefore deemed not necessary.⁷⁰¹⁰ In the future, hospitals with corona-related revenue shortfalls and additional costs will be able to agree on individual compensation with the payers.⁷⁰¹¹

On 24 June 2021, the Federal Foreign Office stated that Germany will dispense 30 million vaccine doses from its own supply.⁷⁰¹² Germany will support 100 countries and launched three major

⁷⁰⁰¹ Greater control for test centres, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-testing-ordinance-1936432>

⁷⁰⁰² Greater control for test centres, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-testing-ordinance-1936432>

⁷⁰⁰³ Greater control for test centres, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-testing-ordinance-1936432>

⁷⁰⁰⁴ Greater control for test centres, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-testing-ordinance-1936432>

⁷⁰⁰⁵ Greater control for test centres, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-testing-ordinance-1936432>

⁷⁰⁰⁶ Greater control for test centres, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-testing-ordinance-1936432>

⁷⁰⁰⁷ Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the impact of COVID-19 - Krankenhausentlastungsgesetzes, The Federal Ministry of Health. 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/bericht-expertenbeirat.html>

⁷⁰⁰⁸ Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the impact of COVID-19 - Krankenhausentlastungsgesetzes, The Federal Ministry of Health. 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/bericht-expertenbeirat.html>

⁷⁰⁰⁹ Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the impact of COVID-19 - Krankenhausentlastungsgesetzes, The Federal Ministry of Health. 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/bericht-expertenbeirat.html>

⁷⁰¹⁰ Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the impact of COVID-19 - Krankenhausentlastungsgesetzes, The Federal Ministry of Health. 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/bericht-expertenbeirat.html>

⁷⁰¹¹ Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the impact of COVID-19 - Krankenhausentlastungsgesetzes, The Federal Ministry of Health. 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/bericht-expertenbeirat.html>

⁷⁰¹² Fighting COVID-19 together in a spirit of solidarity: Germany is contributing 2.2 billion euro to global efforts to fight the pandemic, The Federal Foreign Office (Berlin), 24 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/ausenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covax/2396914>

packages, 1400 ventilators, 24 million KN95 masks, 197 million surgical masks and EUR450 million for humanitarian aid.⁷⁰¹³

On 21 July 2021, the Federal Cabinet decided to extend and adapt the quarantine rules under the Coronavirus Immigration Regulations which are to come into force on 28 July 2021.⁷⁰¹⁴

On 28 July 2021, the Federal Ministry of Health conducted departmental research to provide important findings and information of effective and practical projects to teach people about health.⁷⁰¹⁵

On 30 July 2021, the Government of Germany decided to extend the testing requirement for those entering the country.⁷⁰¹⁶ Those who are fully vaccinated, recovered from COVID-19, or under 12 are exempt from the test requirements.⁷⁰¹⁷

On 10 August 2021, the Government of Germany delivered the first portion of COVID-19 vaccines produced by AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson through COVAX.⁷⁰¹⁸ Afghanistan will receive 213,600 vaccine doses, Ethiopia 271,200, Sudan 357,600, Tajikistan 100,800 and Uzbekistan 355,200.⁷⁰¹⁹

On 10 August 2021, the Government of Germany agreed on the 3G Rule, which will provide visiting access to hospitals, nursing and care homes, assisted living facilities for the disabled, indoor cafes, restaurants, indoor events, celebrations, personal care services, indoor sports and overnight accommodation only to those who are vaccinated, recovered, tested person with a rapid antigen test or PCR test or under the age of six.⁷⁰²⁰ The states of Germany have the power to suspend the 3G Rule.⁷⁰²¹

On 10 August 2021, the Government of Germany will stop free public testing for all citizens coming into effect from 11 October 2021, except for those who cannot be vaccinated and for whom there is no general vaccination recommendation.⁷⁰²²

⁷⁰¹³ Fighting COVID-19 together in a spirit of solidarity: Germany is contributing 2.2 billion euro to global efforts to fight the pandemic, The Federal Foreign Office (Berlin), 24 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheits/covax/2396914>

⁷⁰¹⁴ Coronavirus immigration regulations extended, The Federal Government (Berlin). 21 July 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/quarantine-rules-changed-1944540>

⁷⁰¹⁵ Practice-oriented research on health literacy, The Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/gesundheitskompetenz/praxisorientierte-forschung.html>

⁷⁰¹⁶ The following applies to travellers as of 1 August, The Federal Government (Berlin) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/faq-travel-1947564>

⁷⁰¹⁷ The following applies to travellers as of 1 August, The Federal Government (Berlin) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/faq-travel-1947564>

⁷⁰¹⁸ Developing countries receive first tranche of vaccine, The Federal Government (Berlin) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/vaccines-developing-countries-1949570>

⁷⁰¹⁹ Developing countries receive first tranche of vaccine, The Federal Government (Berlin) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/vaccines-developing-countries-1949570>

⁷⁰²⁰ "A contribution to the community that every individual can make", The Federal Government (Berlin) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/federal-regional-consultations-1949646>

⁷⁰²¹ "A contribution to the community that every individual can make", The Federal Government (Berlin) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/federal-regional-consultations-1949646>

⁷⁰²² "A contribution to the community that every individual can make", The Federal Government (Berlin) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/federal-regional-consultations-1949646>

On 21 August 2021, the Government of Germany sent 1.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Ukraine.⁷⁰²³

On 1 September 2021, the Government of Germany updated the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations to include that effective 10 September 2021 companies are to give their employees time off to get vaccinated.⁷⁰²⁴

On 6 September 2021, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research proposed funding of EUR150 million to the development of medications to treat COVID-19.⁷⁰²⁵ This funding is for projects that are already at an early stage of advanced clinical development and will continue through to final approval.⁷⁰²⁶

Germany has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by contributing to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, by issuing the Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance and the Corona Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance. Germany has also supported German research for companies engaging in antigen production testing capabilities.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

Analysts: Liva Zemitis and Janishan Jeyarajah

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic, preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 22 November 2020, India sent teams to the states of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh to support states in their COVID-19 response and management.⁷⁰²⁷ These teams supported national efforts towards prevention, control measures, testing, surveillance, and clinical management of positive cases.⁷⁰²⁸

On 30 November 2020, Minister for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan and the Indian Red Cross Society distributed masks and soaps at Old Delhi Railway Station, in an effort to prevent further COVID-19 outbreaks.⁷⁰²⁹ He reportedly said, “We will soon be completing

⁷⁰²³ Fighting COVID-19 together in a spirit of solidarity: Germany donates vaccines, The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covax/2396914>

⁷⁰²⁴ Occupational Health and Safety Regulations to be adapted, The Federal Government (Berlin) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-health-and-safety-regulation-1956814>

⁷⁰²⁵ Federal Government funds medications to treat COVID-19, The Federal Government (Berlin) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/medication-research-covid-19-1958022>

⁷⁰²⁶ Federal Government funds medications to treat COVID-19, The Federal Government (Berlin) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/medication-research-covid-19-1958022>

⁷⁰²⁷ Centre rushes high level teams to Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to support the States in COVID response and management, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1674849>

⁷⁰²⁸ Centre rushes high level teams to Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to support the States in COVID response and management, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1674849>

⁷⁰²⁹ Dr. Harsh Vardhan distributes masks and soaps with Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) at Old Delhi Railway Station, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677121>

eleven months in our fight against COVID-19, since then, our biggest weapon is mask and sanitizer.”⁷⁰³⁰

On 2 December 2020, the Ministry for Health and Family Welfare issued a standard operating procedure (SOP) on preventive and precautionary measures to help contain the spread of COVID-19.⁷⁰³¹ The SOP sought to protect vulnerable populations, promote COVID-19 appropriate behaviours, and maintain a healthy environment at marketplaces.⁷⁰³²

On 2 December 2020, Minister Vardhan chaired the inaugural session for the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre.⁷⁰³³ This centre seeks to increase collaboration and innovation among the states, in an effort to respond to health crises, including COVID-19.⁷⁰³⁴ Strategic plans emerged from the Joint Working Group to set-up a memorandum of understanding to further increase health cooperation between the two countries.⁷⁰³⁵

On 10 December 2020, at the World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Minister Vardhan announced India is building a digital platform for vaccine registration.⁷⁰³⁶ He also detailed the leveraging of existing digital interventions of India’s ”Mission Indradhanush,” immunization programs.⁷⁰³⁷ India is noted to have been building the advanced Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network digital platform.⁷⁰³⁸ This will allow citizens to self-register for vaccination, monitor their status and be provided with a QR code based electronic vaccination certificate upon completion of the process.⁷⁰³⁹

On 25 December 2020, India began preparation for COVID vaccine rollout.⁷⁰⁴⁰ 2,360 participants were trained in vaccine administration across various states, with more than 7,000 to be trained in the

⁷⁰³⁰ Dr. Harsh Vardhan distributes masks and soaps with Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) at Old Delhi Railway Station, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677121>

⁷⁰³¹ Health Ministry releases SOP on Preventive Measures in Markets to contain spread of COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677644>

⁷⁰³² Health Ministry releases SOP on Preventive Measures in Markets to contain spread of COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677644>

⁷⁰³³ Dr Harsh Vardhan chairs inaugural session of the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre – Annual Conference, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677716>

⁷⁰³⁴ Dr Harsh Vardhan chairs inaugural session of the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre – Annual Conference, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677716>

⁷⁰³⁵ Dr Harsh Vardhan chairs inaugural session of the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre – Annual Conference, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677716>

⁷⁰³⁶ Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679742>

⁷⁰³⁷ Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679742>

⁷⁰³⁸ Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679742>

⁷⁰³⁹ Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679742>

⁷⁰⁴⁰ Central Government gears up for roll out of COVID19 Vaccine – 2,360 Training of Trainers sessions held; more than 7,000 district trainees trained – Dry Run for vaccine administration in 4 States next week, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683529>

upcoming week.⁷⁰⁴¹ As a preparations step for administration of COVID-19 vaccine a dry run was planned in four states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Punjab. Each state will plan it in two districts and preferably in five different session type settings.⁷⁰⁴²

On 26 December 2020, the National Task Force convened to discuss testing, treatment, and surveillance strategies to combat the UK strain of COVID-19.⁷⁰⁴³ This included testing at all points of entry, community surveillance, and prospective surveillance.⁷⁰⁴⁴ Moreover, the National Centre for Disease Control informed India to take note of the reports of mutant variant of SARS-CoV-2 from the UK and the response of other affected countries.⁷⁰⁴⁵

On 16 January 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the national COVID-19 vaccine drive.⁷⁰⁴⁶ Over 190,000 individuals were vaccinated on the first day of the program.⁷⁰⁴⁷ The two types of COVID-19 vaccines that were supplied were Covishield vaccine, made by Serum Institute of India Ltd and Covaxin vaccine, made by Bharat Biotech International Ltd.⁷⁰⁴⁸ The vaccines were initially supplied to 12 States. Adequate quantities of vaccines and logistics were ensured at all COVID-19 vaccination session sites.⁷⁰⁴⁹

On 21 January 2021, Minister Vardhan unveiled a poster campaign to address vaccine hesitancy and misinformation prevalent throughout certain regions of the State.⁷⁰⁵⁰ Containing factual information from credible government sources such as the Health ministry and Press Information Bureau, the posters aimed to explain the role of vaccines in eliminating disease using historical examples such as Smallpox and Polio.⁷⁰⁵¹

On 5 April 2021, Minister Vardhan launched the Integrated Health Information Platform, the revision to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program.⁷⁰⁵² The digital platform will provide real time

⁷⁰⁴¹ Central Government gears up for roll out of COVID19 Vaccine – 2,360 Training of Trainers sessions held; more than 7,000 district trainees trained – Dry Run for vaccine administration in 4 States next week, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683529>

⁷⁰⁴² Central Government gears up for roll out of COVID19 Vaccine – 2,360 Training of Trainers sessions held; more than 7,000 district trainees trained – Dry Run for vaccine administration in 4 States next week, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683529>

⁷⁰⁴³ National Task Force Discusses testing, treatment and surveillance strategies for COVID-19 in view of the new virus strain from UK, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 26 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683835>

⁷⁰⁴⁴ National Task Force Discusses testing, treatment and surveillance strategies for COVID-19 in view of the new virus strain from UK, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 26 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683835>

⁷⁰⁴⁵ National Task Force Discusses testing, treatment and surveillance strategies for COVID-19 in view of the new virus strain from UK, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 26 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683835>

⁷⁰⁴⁶ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689167>

⁷⁰⁴⁷ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689167>

⁷⁰⁴⁸ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689167>

⁷⁰⁴⁹ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689167>

⁷⁰⁵⁰ Dr Harsh Vardhan unveils IEC Campaign to address Vaccine Hesitancy and Misinformation, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690821>

⁷⁰⁵¹ Dr Harsh Vardhan unveils IEC Campaign to address Vaccine Hesitancy and Misinformation, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690821>

⁷⁰⁵² Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), the revised next generation Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) digital platform, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1709676>

data and analytics on 33 infectious diseases, including COVID-19.⁷⁰⁵³ Through this program the government looks to locate and prevent disease spread within the nation, in hopes of preventing any potential outbreaks.⁷⁰⁵⁴

On 17 April 2021, Prime Minister Modi tweeted that he had spoken to Swami Avdheshanand Giri of Juna Akhada and advised that the Haridwar Mahakumbh Mela (a religious pilgrimage) be curtailed and be “symbolic.”⁷⁰⁵⁵ Swami Avdheshanand replied by saying, “We support honorable Prime Minister’s appeal and now the Kumbh is symbolic only. No one is saying that Mahakumbh should end. We appeal our emotional devotees to try and not travel to Haridwar in big numbers.”⁷⁰⁵⁶ The Akhada confirmed that COVID-19 precautionary measures must be followed fully, and the number of daily COVID-19 cases reached 2000–2500 per day after the commencement of the Mahakumbh in Haridwar on April 1 compared to the 30–60 cases every day in February in the state of Uttarakhand.⁷⁰⁵⁷

On 19 April 2021, India announced the Phase 3 strategy for its vaccination program.⁷⁰⁵⁸ Beginning 1 May 2021, anyone over the age of 18 is eligible for vaccination.⁷⁰⁵⁹ The government looks to liberalize vaccine pricing and increase coverage by opening the program to the open market.⁷⁰⁶⁰ Under this new program, vaccine manufacturers are required to allocate 50 percent of vaccines to state governments, while the remaining 50 percent will be in the open market.⁷⁰⁶¹ Thus, allowing citizens to purchase privately.⁷⁰⁶²

On 21 April 2021, Prime Minister Modi addressed the nation amid the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic that had started in mid-March.⁷⁰⁶³ He reported a peak of 295,000 new COVID-19 cases,

⁷⁰⁵³ Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), the revised next generation Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) digital platform, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1709676>

⁷⁰⁵⁴ Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), the revised next generation Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) digital platform, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1709676>

⁷⁰⁵⁵ Mahakumbh 2021: After PM Modi's appeal to keep Kumbh 'Symbolic', seers come out in support (Dehradun) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/17/mahakumbh-2021-after-pm-modis-appeal-to-keep-kumbh-symbolic-seers-come-out-in-support-2291170.html>

⁷⁰⁵⁶ Mahakumbh 2021: After PM Modi's appeal to keep Kumbh 'Symbolic', seers come out in support (Dehradun) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/17/mahakumbh-2021-after-pm-modis-appeal-to-keep-kumbh-symbolic-seers-come-out-in-support-2291170.html>

⁷⁰⁵⁷ Mahakumbh 2021: After PM Modi's appeal to keep Kumbh 'Symbolic', seers come out in support (Dehradun) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/17/mahakumbh-2021-after-pm-modis-appeal-to-keep-kumbh-symbolic-seers-come-out-in-support-2291170.html>

⁷⁰⁵⁸ Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁷⁰⁵⁹ Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁷⁰⁶⁰ Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁷⁰⁶¹ Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁷⁰⁶² Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁷⁰⁶³ India's second COVID wave hits like a 'tsunami' as hospitals buckle under weight (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/21/india/india-covid-hospital-shortage-intl-hnk/index.html>

the highest daily figure since the pandemic began.⁷⁰⁶⁴ Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal reported that the country was left with only a "few hours of oxygen" and that, "our healthcare system has reached its limit. It is now in a state of distress. It has not collapsed yet, but it is in distress."⁷⁰⁶⁵

On 23 April 2021, the Chief Ministers of many states had made the demand to the Central Government that they were in dire need of food rations.⁷⁰⁶⁶ The Modi Government responded by announcing to promise to give free rations to poor families, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.⁷⁰⁶⁷ Ration card holders will now be able to take 5 kilograms more rice and wheat per person in the month of May and June. Union Home Minister, Amit Shah added that this will benefit 8 million people of the country.⁷⁰⁶⁸

On 26 April 2021, Prime Minister Modi ordered setting up of 551 oxygen plants in hospitals. These plants will be set up with financial assistance from the Prime Minister Cares fund.⁷⁰⁶⁹ The Prime Minister's Office said, "these plants will be established in identified government hospitals in district headquarters in various States and Union Territories. They are to be operational as soon as possible."⁷⁰⁷⁰

On 27 April 2021, India imported 20 cryogenic tankers to address the shortage of medical oxygen in the country.⁷⁰⁷¹ The tankers will assist in the transportation of medical oxygen to the eastern portion of India.⁷⁰⁷²

On 29 April 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that over 150 million COVID vaccination doses have been administered since the start of the vaccination drive.⁷⁰⁷³ Over 24 million individuals have received their second vaccination dose.⁷⁰⁷⁴

On 4 May 2021, the Government of India revealed its ongoing efforts of allocating global aid through the "Whole of Government approach."⁷⁰⁷⁵ In collaboration with the States and Union

⁷⁰⁶⁴ India's second COVID wave hits like a 'tsunami' as hospitals buckle under weight (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/21/india/india-covid-hospital-shortage-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁷⁰⁶⁵ India's second COVID wave hits like a 'tsunami' as hospitals buckle under weight (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/21/india/india-covid-hospital-shortage-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁷⁰⁶⁶ Modi govt announces free ration to poor families for two months (New Delhi) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-modi-govt-announces-free-ration-to-poor-families-for-two-months-2887609>

⁷⁰⁶⁷ Modi govt announces free ration to poor families for two months (New Delhi) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-modi-govt-announces-free-ration-to-poor-families-for-two-months-2887609>

⁷⁰⁶⁸ Modi govt announces free ration to poor families for two months (New Delhi) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-modi-govt-announces-free-ration-to-poor-families-for-two-months-2887609>

⁷⁰⁶⁹ Prime Minister Narendra Modi orders setting up of 551 oxygen plants in hospitals from PM Cares fund (New Delhi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=415067>

⁷⁰⁷⁰ Prime Minister Narendra Modi orders setting up of 551 oxygen plants in hospitals from PM Cares fund (New Delhi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=415067>

⁷⁰⁷¹ To address shortage of oxygen tankers in the country, the Union Government imports 20 cryogenic tankers of 10 MT and 20 MT capacity and allocates them to States, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1714280>

⁷⁰⁷² To address shortage of oxygen tankers in the country, the Union Government imports 20 cryogenic tankers of 10 MT and 20 MT capacity and allocates them to States, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1714280>

⁷⁰⁷³ India's crosses a major landmark with more than 15 Crore Cumulative Vaccination Coverage, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1714778>

⁷⁰⁷⁴ India's crosses a major landmark with more than 15 Crore Cumulative Vaccination Coverage, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1714778>

⁷⁰⁷⁵ Effective Allocation by Government of India of COVID -19 supplies received from the Global Community for Fight against the Global Pandemic, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1715896>

territories, the Government of India has developed a systematic and streamlined approach to allocating COVID-19 global aid.⁷⁰⁷⁶ The Union government issues faster custom clearances and utilizes road and airways to ensure prompt delivery of aid to states and territories.⁷⁰⁷⁷ Global aid includes medical equipment, medication, and oxygen and oxygen related equipment.⁷⁰⁷⁸

On 5 May 2021, two medical oxygen plants were installed at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and RML hospital in New Delhi.⁷⁰⁷⁹ “The plants were funded through the Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES).”⁷⁰⁸⁰ The fund was established by the Government of India on 27 March 2020, in order to undertake and provide relief measures for public health emergencies.⁷⁰⁸¹ Relief measures include direct support, creating and upgrading healthcare and pharmaceutical facilities, and funding healthcare research.⁷⁰⁸²

On 13 May 2021, the Drugs Controller General of India approved phase II and III of India’s COVID-19 vaccines, COVAXIN’s, clinical trial on children from the ages of 2 to 8.⁷⁰⁸³ The trial will consist of 525 healthy participants.⁷⁰⁸⁴ Participants will be dosed with two intramuscular injections, with the second injection being administered 28 days after the first.⁷⁰⁸⁵

On 17 May 2021, Minister of Defence Shri Rajnath Singh and Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan, announced the launch of a new anti COVID-19 drug, 2-DG.⁷⁰⁸⁶ In COVID-19 patients, 2-DG reduces dependence on oxygen sources.⁷⁰⁸⁷ The drug has been clinically trialled in over thirty hospitals prior to the launch and was developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), Defence Research and Development Organization, and Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories.⁷⁰⁸⁸

⁷⁰⁷⁶ Effective Allocation by Government of India of COVID -19 supplies received from the Global Community for Fight against the Global Pandemic, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1715896>

⁷⁰⁷⁷ Global Aid comprising of Oxygen concentrators, cylinders, generation plants and more than 3 L Remdesivir Vials received and expedited to States/UTs in their fight against COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1717365>

⁷⁰⁷⁸ Effective Allocation by Government of India of COVID -19 supplies received from the Global Community for Fight against the Global Pandemic, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1715896>

⁷⁰⁷⁹ Installation of Two High Flow Medical Oxygen Plants funded by PM CARES at AIIMS, New Delhi and RML Hospital completed, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1716089>

⁷⁰⁸⁰ Installation of Two High Flow Medical Oxygen Plants funded by PM CARES at AIIMS, New Delhi and RML Hospital completed, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1716089>

⁷⁰⁸¹ ABOUT PM CARES FUND, PM Cares (Delhi) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

https://www.pmcared.gov.in/en/web/page/about_us

⁷⁰⁸² ABOUT PM CARES FUND, PM Cares (Delhi) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

https://www.pmcared.gov.in/en/web/page/about_us

⁷⁰⁸³ DCGI approves Phase II/III clinical trial of COVAXIN in the age group of 2 to 18 Years, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1718192>

⁷⁰⁸⁴ DCGI approves Phase II/III clinical trial of COVAXIN in the age group of 2 to 18 Years, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1718192>

⁷⁰⁸⁵ DCGI approves Phase II/III clinical trial of COVAXIN in the age group of 2 to 18 Years, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1718192>

⁷⁰⁸⁶ Anti Covid drug 2-DG launched by Defence Minister and Health Minister, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1719393>

⁷⁰⁸⁷ Anti Covid drug 2-DG launched by Defence Minister and Health Minister, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1719393>

⁷⁰⁸⁸ Anti Covid drug 2-DG launched by Defence Minister and Health Minister, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1719393>

On 31 May 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family welfare released an ongoing selection of press releases on debunking COVID-19 vaccination myths, in order to combat misinformation.⁷⁰⁸⁹ The Ministry stated that “India’s Co-Win platform, facilitates registration, appointment scheduling, and certification.”⁷⁰⁹⁰ Citizens will receive a text message with their certification post-vaccination, and if they do not receive it, it is their responsibility to bring it to the attention of the vaccinator who will rectify the issue.⁷⁰⁹¹

On 8 June 2021, the Government of India placed a new order for COVID-19 vaccines in order to achieve universal vaccination.⁷⁰⁹² The Union Ministry placed an order for 25 crore doses of Covishield, and 19 crore doses of Covaxin, which is expected to be administered till December 2021.⁷⁰⁹³ The influx of vaccinations enables all citizens over the age of 18 to receive COVID-19 vaccinations for free at government health facilities.⁷⁰⁹⁴

On 11 June 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family welfare announced that three villages in Maharashtra’s Nandurbar district have achieved 100 per cent vaccination rate for those over the age of 45.⁷⁰⁹⁵ District Administration and elected representatives in Maharashtra had started a public awareness drive to dispel misconceptions of COVID-19 vaccine in order to reduce vaccine hesitancy.⁷⁰⁹⁶ The tribal community in these villages had believed that people could die due to side effects from the vaccine and were initially hesitant to get vaccinated.⁷⁰⁹⁷

On 2 July 2021, the Government of India sent out “COVID-19 control and containment teams to the states of Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Manipur” due to an increased number of COVID-19 cases.⁷⁰⁹⁸ The teams will monitor COVID-19 management, testing, surveillance, and resource availability within the states.⁷⁰⁹⁹

⁷⁰⁸⁹ Busting Myths of Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723265>

⁷⁰⁹⁰ Busting Myths of Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723265>

⁷⁰⁹¹ Busting Myths of Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723265>

⁷⁰⁹² Fresh Order for Vaccines placed to achieve Universalization of Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1725339>

⁷⁰⁹³ Fresh Order for Vaccines placed to achieve Universalization of Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1725339>

⁷⁰⁹⁴ Fresh Order for Vaccines placed to achieve Universalization of Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1725339>

⁷⁰⁹⁵ District Administration and People’s representatives join hands to dispel misconceptions and rumours regarding vaccination in tribal-dominated areas: Three villages in Nandurabar district of Maharashtra have successfully achieved the target of 100% vaccination of 45+ age-group., Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1726191>

⁷⁰⁹⁶ District Administration and People’s representatives join hands to dispel misconceptions and rumours regarding vaccination in tribal-dominated areas: Three villages in Nandurabar district of Maharashtra have successfully achieved the target of 100% vaccination of 45+ age-group., Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1726191>

⁷⁰⁹⁷ District Administration and People’s representatives join hands to dispel misconceptions and rumours regarding vaccination in tribal-dominated areas: Three villages in Nandurabar district of Maharashtra have successfully achieved the target of 100% vaccination of 45+ age-group., Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1726191>

⁷⁰⁹⁸ Centre rushes teams to 6 States for COVID-19 control and containment measures, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1732169>

⁷⁰⁹⁹ Centre rushes teams to 6 States for COVID-19 control and containment measures, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1732169>

On 8 July 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved India COVID-19 Emergency Response & Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-II.⁷¹⁰⁰ The scheme will cost INR23,123 crores for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.⁷¹⁰¹ Under this scheme, the Government of India will accelerate healthcare preparedness for early prevention, detection, and management.⁷¹⁰² Further, support will be given to improve paediatric units, improve healthcare access in rural and tribal areas, and improve hospital management.⁷¹⁰³

On 27 July 2021, the Government of India revealed its ongoing initiatives on upgrading existing healthcare infrastructure for effective management of COVID-19.⁷¹⁰⁴ To limit transmission of COVID-19 and ensure the continuity of essential healthcare services, the government of India has created designated COVID-19 facilities including the COVID Care Centre, the Dedicated COVID Healthcare Centre, and the Dedicated COVID Hospital.⁷¹⁰⁵ Further, the central and state governments have been increasing ICU and isolation bed capacities.⁷¹⁰⁶

On 29 July 2021, the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare sent a 6-member multi-disciplinary team to Kerala, in response to increasing COVID-19 cases.⁷¹⁰⁷ Working alongside the State Health Departments, the team will evaluate the situation and propose public health measures to contain the cases.⁷¹⁰⁸

On 7 August 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that India had administered over 5 million vaccine doses.⁷¹⁰⁹ The vaccination efforts have led to fewer than 50, 000

⁷¹⁰⁰ Cabinet approves "India COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package: Phase II" at a cost of Rs 23,123 crore, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733841>

⁷¹⁰¹ Cabinet approves "India COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package: Phase II" at a cost of Rs 23,123 crore, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733841>

⁷¹⁰² Cabinet approves "India COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package: Phase II" at a cost of Rs 23,123 crore, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733841>

⁷¹⁰³ Cabinet approves "India COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package: Phase II" at a cost of Rs 23,123 crore, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733841>

⁷¹⁰⁴ Upgradation of Healthcare System for Effective Management of COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739460>

⁷¹⁰⁵ Upgradation of Healthcare System for Effective Management of COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739460>

⁷¹⁰⁶ Upgradation of Healthcare System for Effective Management of COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1715896>

⁷¹⁰⁷ Central Team to support the State in effective public health interventions for COVID19 management, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1715896>

⁷¹⁰⁸ Central Team to support the State in effective public health interventions for COVID19 management, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1715896>

⁷¹⁰⁹ India's Cumulative COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage achieved a significant milestone of 50 Cr, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743457>

cases daily over the past 41 days.⁷¹¹⁰ The overall recovery rate of individuals infected with COVID-19 stands at 97.37 per cent.⁷¹¹¹

On 9 August 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that over 90 Lakh telemedicine consultations had occurred using the Government of India's eSanjeevani initiative.⁷¹¹² eSanjeevani provided a user-accessible and practical solution for implementing telemedicine throughout India, with over 60 000 doctors trained to use the program.⁷¹¹³ The program allowed for patients to get timely access to healthcare without leaving their homes.⁷¹¹⁴ Further, in efforts to reduce COVID-19 transmission, the Ministry announced that foreign nationals in India were now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷¹¹⁵

On 13 August 2021, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that it will fast-track the implementation of the 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response & Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-II (ECRP-II package).⁷¹¹⁶ The package looks to accelerate healthcare preparedness in order to have early prevention, detection, and management.⁷¹¹⁷ Fast tracking the package means that 50 per cent of funding is now available to improve healthcare infrastructure throughout India.⁷¹¹⁸

On 10 September 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that CO-Win platform will now allow employers and certain businesses such as hotels, railways, and airways, to view if an individual has been vaccinated against COVID-19.⁷¹¹⁹ A consent-based system, individuals elect to give businesses their information such as name and phone number to book services.⁷¹²⁰ The CO-Win platform will send the business a numerical code which indicates whether the person is unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or fully vaccinated.⁷¹²¹

⁷¹¹⁰ India's Cumulative COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage achieved a significant milestone of 50 Cr, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743457>

⁷¹¹¹ India's Cumulative COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage achieved a significant milestone of 50 Cr, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743457>

⁷¹¹² Health Ministry's eSanjeevani completes 90 Lakh consultations, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1744167>

⁷¹¹³ Health Ministry's eSanjeevani completes 90 Lakh consultations, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1744167>

⁷¹¹⁴ Health Ministry's eSanjeevani completes 90 Lakh consultations, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1744167>

⁷¹¹⁵ Foreign nationals are now eligible for Vaccination in India, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1744146>

⁷¹¹⁶ Implementation of ECRP-II Package on fast track mode, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745541>

⁷¹¹⁷ Implementation of ECRP-II Package on fast track mode, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745541>

⁷¹¹⁸ Implementation of ECRP-II Package on fast track mode, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745541>

⁷¹¹⁹ CoWIN launches new API: KYC-VS: Know Your Customer's/Client's Vaccination Status, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1753802>

⁷¹²⁰ CoWIN launches new API: KYC-VS: Know Your Customer's/Client's Vaccination Status, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1753802>

⁷¹²¹ CoWIN launches new API: KYC-VS: Know Your Customer's/Client's Vaccination Status, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1753802>

On 24 September 2021, the leaders of the United States, Japan, India and Australia met at their first in-person summit of the Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.⁷¹²² Following the summit in March, the leaders released a joint statement promoting “a free, open rules-based order.” The statement encouraged and pledged to combine “medical, scientific, financing, manufacturing and delivery” capacity for COVID-19 vaccines, and combating climate change.⁷¹²³

India has taken some action to advance global pandemic prevention, detection, and response by implementing initiatives such as executing the national vaccination roll out by a digital platform and the disbursement of masks and sanitizer to citizens. However, it has not demonstrated strong action in the area of pandemic preparedness.

Thus, India has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Shafna Kallil

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic, preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 24 November 2020, Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health Abdul Kadir issued a circular regarding the Readiness of Health Service Facilities in the Implementation of COVID-19 Vaccination.⁷¹²⁴ The target recipients of vaccination are Indonesians aged 18-59.⁷¹²⁵ Indonesia also announced that it has requested provincial and district officials to begin preparing health facilities to deliver the COVID-19 vaccination program when vaccines become available.⁷¹²⁶ Provincial and district health offices were instructed to designate a coordinator in charge of the COVID-19 vaccination program, optimize COVID-19 surveillance activities and develop plans to ensure that the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination does not interfere with other essential health services.⁷¹²⁷

On 24 November 2020, the Ministry of Health in partnership with the Health Human Resources Development Agency, held a COVID-19 Vaccination Preparation Workshop aimed at improving health workers understanding and knowledge of the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷¹²⁸ The workshop included instruction on how to address misinformation about the vaccine among the public.⁷¹²⁹ Special Staff

⁷¹²² Here to stay': Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁷¹²³ Here to stay': Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁷¹²⁴ Vaccination for COVID-19 is taken in stages, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112400002/vaksinasi-covid-19-dilakukan-bertahap.html>

⁷¹²⁵ Vaccination for COVID-19 is taken in stages, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112400002/vaksinasi-covid-19-dilakukan-bertahap.html>

⁷¹²⁶ Vaccination for COVID-19 is taken in stages, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112400002/vaksinasi-covid-19-dilakukan-bertahap.html>

⁷¹²⁷ Vaccination for COVID-19 is taken in stages, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112400002/vaksinasi-covid-19-dilakukan-bertahap.html>

⁷¹²⁸ To Increase the competence of Medical and Health Workers, the Ministry of Health Holds a Vaccination Preparation Workshop, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112500002/tingkatkan-kompetensi-tenaga-medis-dan-tenaga-kesehatan-kemenkes-gelar-workshop-persiapan-vaksinasi.html>

⁷¹²⁹ To Increase the competence of Medical and Health Workers, the Ministry of Health Holds a Vaccination Preparation Workshop, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112500002/tingkatkan-kompetensi-tenaga-medis-dan-tenaga-kesehatan-kemenkes-gelar-workshop-persiapan-vaksinasi.html>

to the Minister of Health for Human Resources Dr. Mariya Mubarika encouraged medical and health workers to be the spokesperson for the government in conveying and inviting people to vaccinate in due time, and thereby ward off any hesitancy in taking the vaccine.⁷¹³⁰

On 13 January 2021, Chairman of the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency Penny Lukito officially issued an Emergency Use Authorization for the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine.⁷¹³¹ From the results of the third clinical trial of the vaccine in Indonesia, Turkey and Brazil the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency said that Sinovac had greater than 50 per cent efficacy in the three countries and had met all the standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO).⁷¹³² Indonesia, therefore launched its public vaccination program, with President Joko Widodo being the first citizen to be vaccinated along with several other high-ranking government officials to set examples for others and remove any vaccine hesitancy.⁷¹³³

On 8 March 2021, the National COVID-19 Task Force announced the extension of micro-scale restrictions on community activities from 9 March to 22 March to help control the spread of COVID-19.⁷¹³⁴ The restrictions have also been extended to include three new provinces (in addition to the provinces of Java and Bali) East Kalimantan, North Sumatra, and South Sulawesi.⁷¹³⁵ The restriction is included in the Instruction of the Minister of State (Number 5 of 2021).⁷¹³⁶

On 11 March 2021, Indonesia began the third stage of its national vaccination program, which covers 63.9 million citizens from vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities.⁷¹³⁷ The vaccination program was in line with President Widodo's International Disability Day celebrations when the Indonesian government is planning to issue seven governmental regulations and two presidential regulations for people with disabilities.⁷¹³⁸

On 12 March 2021, the Ministry of Health signed an agreement with the Ministry of Research and Technology to improve detection of new COVID-19 variants through whole genome sequencing (WGS).⁷¹³⁹ It was stated that 17 laboratories across the country have the capacity to conduct WGS to

⁷¹³⁰ To Increase the competence of Medical and Health Workers, the Ministry of Health Holds a Vaccination Preparation Workshop, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112500002/tingkatkan-kompetensi-tenaga-medis-dan-tenaga-kesehatan-kemenkes-gelar-workshop-persiapan-vaksinasi.html>

⁷¹³¹ Safe, Ready to Implement Vaccinations! Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-dalam-angka/2301/aman-siap-laksanakan-vaksinasi>

⁷¹³² Safe, Ready to Implement Vaccinations! Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-dalam-angka/2301/aman-siap-laksanakan-vaksinasi>

⁷¹³³ A New Chapter of COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Begins, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-dalam-angka/2304/babak-baru-pemulihan-pandemi-covid-19-dimulai>

⁷¹³⁴ Micro-scale restrictions expected to curb COVID spread: task force, AntaraNews 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/169423/micro-scale-restrictions-expected-to-curb-covid-spread-task-force>

⁷¹³⁵ Micro-scale restrictions expected to curb COVID spread: task force, AntaraNews 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/169423/micro-scale-restrictions-expected-to-curb-covid-spread-task-force>

⁷¹³⁶ Micro-scale restrictions expected to curb COVID spread: task force, AntaraNews 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/169423/micro-scale-restrictions-expected-to-curb-covid-spread-task-force>

⁷¹³⁷ Persons with Disabilities with a Jakarta ID Card Receive COVID-19 Vaccination Today, Kompas Daily 11 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2021/03/11/13233201/penyandang-disabilitas-ber-ktp-dki-jalani-vaksinasi-covid-19-hari-ini>

⁷¹³⁸ Persons with Disabilities with a Jakarta ID Card Receive COVID-19 Vaccination Today, Kompas Daily 11 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2021/03/11/13233201/penyandang-disabilitas-ber-ktp-dki-jalani-vaksinasi-covid-19-hari-ini>

⁷¹³⁹ The Government Focuses on Tracking 3 Types of Corona Mutations, CNN (Atlanta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20210312225257-20-616933/pemerintah-fokus-telusuri-3-jenis-mutasi-corona>

improve detection.⁷¹⁴⁰ Moreover, the government had regulated access restrictions at the entrance to Indonesia in accordance with the Task Force Circular Letter Number 8 of 2021.⁷¹⁴¹ This circular stipulated the suppression of the transmission of the mutant COVID-19 variant throughout Indonesia.⁷¹⁴²

On 12 March 2021, Indonesia entered a partnership with the WHO and the EU to strengthen the health system in Indonesia in order to prepare for pandemics and health emergencies.⁷¹⁴³ This is part of the South East Asia Health Pandemic Response and Preparedness program.⁷¹⁴⁴ The EU plans to provide support of over EUR200 million to finance new COVID-19 response and public health programs in Indonesia, and to support the Ministry of Health's efforts to suppress community transmission.⁷¹⁴⁵ Minister Sadikin welcomed the WHO-EU Partnership and expressed appreciation in the implantation of the COVID-19 control approach in Indonesia, including the strengthening of Indonesia's health system ecosystem to be more resilient.⁷¹⁴⁶

On 13 March 2021, the Ministry of Health received over 1 million antigen-detecting rapid diagnosis tests from the WHO to support improvements to COVID-19 testing capacity.⁷¹⁴⁷ The estimated cost of the tests is approximately USD4.9 million.⁷¹⁴⁸ The use of antigen-detecting rapid diagnosis tests is expected to support improvements in COVID-19 testing capacity, especially in areas with limited access to polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and high turnaround time for test results.⁷¹⁴⁹

⁷¹⁴⁰ The Government Focuses on Tracking 3 Types of Corona Mutations, CNN (Atlanta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20210312225257-20-616933/pemerintah-fokus-telusuri-3-jenis-mutasi-corona>

⁷¹⁴¹ The Government Focuses on Tracking 3 Types of Corona Mutations, CNN (Atlanta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20210312225257-20-616933/pemerintah-fokus-telusuri-3-jenis-mutasi-corona>

⁷¹⁴² The Government Focuses on Tracking 3 Types of Corona Mutations, CNN (Atlanta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20210312225257-20-616933/pemerintah-fokus-telusuri-3-jenis-mutasi-corona>

⁷¹⁴³ WHO and EU announce a new partnership to support the COVID-19 response and strengthen the health system in Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March, 2021. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-03-2021-who-and-eu-announce-a-new-partnership-to-support-covid-19-response-and-strengthen-the-health-system-in-indonesia>

⁷¹⁴⁴ WHO and EU announce a new partnership to support the COVID-19 response and strengthen the health system in Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March, 2021. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-03-2021-who-and-eu-announce-a-new-partnership-to-support-covid-19-response-and-strengthen-the-health-system-in-indonesia>

⁷¹⁴⁵ WHO and EU announce a new partnership to support the COVID-19 response and strengthen the health system in Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March, 2021. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-03-2021-who-and-eu-announce-a-new-partnership-to-support-covid-19-response-and-strengthen-the-health-system-in-indonesia>

⁷¹⁴⁶ WHO and EU announce a new partnership to support the COVID-19 response and strengthen the health system in Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March, 2021. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-03-2021-who-and-eu-announce-a-new-partnership-to-support-covid-19-response-and-strengthen-the-health-system-in-indonesia>

⁷¹⁴⁷ Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 47 Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/searo/indonesia/covid19/external-situation-report-47_17-march-2021.pdf?sfvrsn=9bfe3e14_5

⁷¹⁴⁸ Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 47 Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/searo/indonesia/covid19/external-situation-report-47_17-march-2021.pdf?sfvrsn=9bfe3e14_5

⁷¹⁴⁹ Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 47 Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/searo/indonesia/covid19/external-situation-report-47_17-march-2021.pdf?sfvrsn=9bfe3e14_5

On 7 April 2021, Minister Sadikin, met with UK Foreign Minister Dominic Raab to discuss bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and the UK in controlling the pandemic⁷¹⁵⁰ Both countries agreed to collaborate in sharing vaccine and drug production technology, and capacity-building for research and public health surveillance.⁷¹⁵¹ The UK also committed to supporting Indonesia's genome sequencing capabilities through training and information technology.⁷¹⁵²

On 18 April 2021, the Ministry of Health launched an online COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard to provide data to the public about the progress of vaccinations in the country and promote transparency.⁷¹⁵³ The site also contains information about vaccine facilities and vaccination centers.⁷¹⁵⁴ The data provided on the website is obtained from Indonesia's COVID-19 Handling Committee.⁷¹⁵⁵

On 21 April 2021, the Ministry of Health launched the Home Care and Home Delivery Vaccination Program, which aims to promote vaccine uptake among the elderly, aged 60 and above.⁷¹⁵⁶ It provides transportation to and from COVID-19 vaccination centers and implements vaccination delivery in nursing homes.⁷¹⁵⁷ The program is currently available in Jakarta.⁷¹⁵⁸

On 23 April 2021, Indonesia announced plans to impose travel restrictions from 6-17 May ahead of Eid al-Fitr, a holiday which results in millions of citizens travelling to their hometowns each year.⁷¹⁵⁹ During this time, those travelling by air, sea, and rail will need to present a negative PCR/antigen or GeNose breathalyzer COVID-19 test 24 hours prior to departure.⁷¹⁶⁰ Those travelling by road will also need to carry proof of a negative test, as police will be stationed at road blocks along major toll

⁷¹⁵⁰ Minister of Health Meets British Foreign Minister to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation to Face the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21040900001/menkes-bertemu-menlu-inggris-perkuat-kerja-sama-bilateral-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁵¹ Minister of Health Meets British Foreign Minister to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation to Face the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21040900001/menkes-bertemu-menlu-inggris-perkuat-kerja-sama-bilateral-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁵² Minister of Health Meets British Foreign Minister to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation to Face the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21040900001/menkes-bertemu-menlu-inggris-perkuat-kerja-sama-bilateral-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁵³ Transparency of Vaccination Data, Ministry of Health Launches COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21041900003/transparansikan-data-vaksinasi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-vaksinasi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁵⁴ Transparency of Vaccination Data, Ministry of Health Launches COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21041900003/transparansikan-data-vaksinasi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-vaksinasi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁵⁵ Transparency of Vaccination Data, Ministry of Health Launches COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21041900003/transparansikan-data-vaksinasi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-vaksinasi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁵⁶ Ball Pickup System Starts Encouraged To Accelerate Vaccination Of The Elderly, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21042200001/sistem-jemput-bola-mulai-digalakkan-untuk-percepat-vaksinasi-lansia.html>

⁷¹⁵⁷ Ball Pickup System Starts Encouraged To Accelerate Vaccination Of The Elderly, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21042200001/sistem-jemput-bola-mulai-digalakkan-untuk-percepat-vaksinasi-lansia.html>

⁷¹⁵⁸ Ball Pickup System Starts Encouraged To Accelerate Vaccination Of The Elderly, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21042200001/sistem-jemput-bola-mulai-digalakkan-untuk-percepat-vaksinasi-lansia.html>

⁷¹⁵⁹ Strict and Measured, People's Mobility During Eid are Tightened, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2721/strict-and-measured-people-s-mobility-during-eid-are-tightened>

⁷¹⁶⁰ Strict and Measured, People's Mobility During Eid are Tightened, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 66 April 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2721/strict-and-measured-people-s-mobility-during-eid-are-tightened>

routes to conduct random checks.⁷¹⁶¹ The governments hopes to reduce community transmission of COVID-19 with these travel regulations.⁷¹⁶²

On 10 May 2021, the Ministry of Health announced plans to begin recording data on bed capacities in COVID-19 wards across the country, and data on the availability of pharmaceuticals and medical devices needed for COVID-19 treatment.⁷¹⁶³ These were preparatory measures taken in anticipation of increased COVID-19 transmission during Eid.⁷¹⁶⁴ At the time of the initial press release, 23,000 of 70,000 COVID-19-designated beds across the country were occupied.⁷¹⁶⁵

On 12 May 2021, the Indonesian government sent 200 oxygen concentrator units to India to assist with the surge of COVID-19 cases in the country.⁷¹⁶⁶ A symbolic handover of aid was conducted between Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi and Indian Ambassador to Indonesia, Pradeep Kumar Rawat.⁷¹⁶⁷ In a press release issued shortly thereafter, the Ministry of Health communicated its commitment to supporting India and other countries affected by the COVID-19 crisis.⁷¹⁶⁸

On 17 May 2021, the Ministry of Health and the regional government of West Java began a 13-day initiative called the Vaccination Festival aimed at increasing vaccination rates among the elderly.⁷¹⁶⁹ A vaccination clinic was held at the Otista Soreang Hospital, with a bus service organized by the local Bandung Regency government to transport citizens to the clinic.⁷¹⁷⁰

⁷¹⁶¹ Strict and Measured, People's Mobility During Eid are Tightened, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2721/strict-and-measured-people-s-mobility-during-eid-are-tightened>

⁷¹⁶² Strict and Measured, People's Mobility During Eid are Tightened, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2721/strict-and-measured-people-s-mobility-during-eid-are-tightened>

⁷¹⁶³ Anticipating a spike in cases after Lebaran, the Ministry of Health increases the capacity of hospital beds, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051100001/antisipasi-lonjakan-kasus-pasca-lebaran-kemenkes-tambah-kapasitas-tempat-tidur-rs.html>

⁷¹⁶⁴ Anticipating a spike in cases after Lebaran, the Ministry of Health increases the capacity of hospital beds, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051100001/antisipasi-lonjakan-kasus-pasca-lebaran-kemenkes-tambah-kapasitas-tempat-tidur-rs.html>

⁷¹⁶⁵ Anticipating a spike in cases after Lebaran, the Ministry of Health increases the capacity of hospital beds, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051100001/antisipasi-lonjakan-kasus-pasca-lebaran-kemenkes-tambah-kapasitas-tempat-tidur-rs.html>

⁷¹⁶⁶ Indonesia Sends 200 Oxygen Concentrators to India, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051200003/indonesia-kirim-200-oxygen-concentrators-ke-india.html>

⁷¹⁶⁷ Indonesia Sends 200 Oxygen Concentrators to India, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051200003/indonesia-kirim-200-oxygen-concentrators-ke-india.html>

⁷¹⁶⁸ Indonesia Sends 200 Oxygen Concentrators to India, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051200003/indonesia-kirim-200-oxygen-concentrators-ke-india.html>

⁷¹⁶⁹ Increasing the Coverage of COVID-19 Vaccination for the Elderly in West Java, Minister of Health Launches Vaccination Festival, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051900001/tingkatkan-cakupan-vaksinasi-covid-19-lansia-di-jabar-menkes-launching-gebyar-vaksinasi.html>

⁷¹⁷⁰ Increasing the Coverage of COVID-19 Vaccination for the Elderly in West Java, Minister of Health Launches Vaccination Festival, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051900001/tingkatkan-cakupan-vaksinasi-covid-19-lansia-di-jabar-menkes-launching-gebyar-vaksinasi.html>

On 28 May 2021, the Ministry of Health released a press statement addressing misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷¹⁷¹ The Ministry clarified that the vaccine does not contain a magnetic microchip, which was a narrative spreading quickly on social media platforms.⁷¹⁷² This communication was meant to address and avoid further vaccine hesitancy.⁷¹⁷³

On 18 June 2021, the Ministry of Health launched a website to facilitate public disclosure of COVID-19-related data, including daily case numbers, hospitalizations, deaths, and the community transmission rate.⁷¹⁷⁴ Data is obtained from local Health Offices and informs policy-making about the control of COVID-19.⁷¹⁷⁵

On 21 June 2021, the Minister of Health, Budi Gunadi Sadikin, announced new COVID-19 restrictions following a spike in infections after Eid.⁷¹⁷⁶ The government tightened the implementation of Micro-scale Community Activity Restrictions (PPKM), which limit mobility and community interaction from 22 June 2021 to 5 July 2021.⁷¹⁷⁷ Alongside these restrictions, the government announced strengthening of its testing capacity and prioritization of testing for families where an individual has tested positive for COVID-19.⁷¹⁷⁸

On 1 July 2021, the Ministry of Health announced the implementation of a new telemedicine program to treat COVID-positive patients with mild symptoms self-isolating at home or in a centralized isolation center.⁷¹⁷⁹ This was done in an effort to reduce the burden on hospitals and to prioritize hospital services for moderate and severely ill patients.⁷¹⁸⁰ The Health Minister

⁷¹⁷¹ HOAX: COVID-19 Vaccine Contains Magnetic Microchips, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21052800002/hoax-vaksin-covid-19-mengandung-mikrocip-magnetis.html>

⁷¹⁷² HOAX: COVID-19 Vaccine Contains Magnetic Microchips, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21052800002/hoax-vaksin-covid-19-mengandung-mikrocip-magnetis.html>

⁷¹⁷³ HOAX: COVID-19 Vaccine Contains Magnetic Microchips, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21052800002/hoax-vaksin-covid-19-mengandung-mikrocip-magnetis.html>

⁷¹⁷⁴ Monitoring Pandemic Developments, Ministry of Health Launches COVID-19 Dashboard, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21061900001/pantau-perkembangan-pandemi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁷⁵ Monitoring Pandemic Developments, Ministry of Health Launches COVID-19 Dashboard, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21061900001/pantau-perkembangan-pandemi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁷⁶ Micro PPKM Tightened, Community Mobility in Red Zone Areas Restricted to 100%, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21062200001/ppkm-mikro-diperketat-mobilitas-masyarakat-daerah-zona-merah-dibatasi-hingga-100-.html>

⁷¹⁷⁷ Micro PPKM Tightened, Community Mobility in Red Zone Areas Restricted to 100%, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21062200001/ppkm-mikro-diperketat-mobilitas-masyarakat-daerah-zona-merah-dibatasi-hingga-100-.html>

⁷¹⁷⁸ Micro PPKM Tightened, Community Mobility in Red Zone Areas Restricted to 100%, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21062200001/ppkm-mikro-diperketat-mobilitas-masyarakat-daerah-zona-merah-dibatasi-hingga-100-.html>

⁷¹⁷⁹ Ministry of Health Prepares Telemedicine Services for Self-Isolating Patients, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200005/kemenkes-siapkan-layanan-telemedicine-untuk-pasien-isolasi-mandiri.html>

⁷¹⁸⁰ Ministry of Health Prepares Telemedicine Services for Self-Isolating Patients, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200005/kemenkes-siapkan-layanan-telemedicine-untuk-pasien-isolasi-mandiri.html>

communicated that the telemedicine service will include regular consultations with health care staff and medicinal treatment where necessary.⁷¹⁸¹

On 1 July 2021, the Ministry of Health launched PeduliLindung, a COVID-19 application for contact tracing.⁷¹⁸² The application is integrated with national COVID-19 test result data and notifies those who have come into close contact with an infected individual over the last 14 days.⁷¹⁸³ The application can also be used to track the density of individuals in indoor spaces, such as shopping centers, and to check for necessary COVID-19 travel documents.⁷¹⁸⁴ The Ministry states that user data collected by the application is kept strictly confidential.⁷¹⁸⁵

On 3 July 2021, the Ministry of Health set maximum retail prices for 11 commonly-used COVID-19 therapeutics, including Remdesivir and Oseltamivir.⁷¹⁸⁶ This was done in an effort to prevent retailers from inflating the price of critical drugs needed during the pandemic.⁷¹⁸⁷ The Ministry announced that it will be coordinating with the Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the National Police and the Attorney General's Office to enforce the new regulations.⁷¹⁸⁸

On 2 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it would be prioritizing COVID-19 vaccinations for pregnant women as they are at high risk of experiencing severe symptoms from infection.⁷¹⁸⁹ This new policy is contained within Circular HK.02.01/I/2007/2021 entitled COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant Women and Screening Adjustments in the Implementation of COVID-

⁷¹⁸¹ Ministry of Health Prepares Telemedicine Services for Self-Isolating Patients, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200005/kemenkes-siapkan-layanan-telemedicine-untuk-pasien-isolasi-mandiri.html>

⁷¹⁸² Ministry of Health Launches QR Code for Care to Protect Applications, Strengthens COVID-19 Tracking and Contact Tracing COVID, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200002/kemenkes-luncurkan-qr-code-untuk-aplikasi-pedulilindungi-perkuat-tracking-dan-contact-tracing-covid-.html>

⁷¹⁸³ Ministry of Health Launches QR Code for Care to Protect Applications, Strengthens COVID-19 Tracking and Contact Tracing COVID, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200002/kemenkes-luncurkan-qr-code-untuk-aplikasi-pedulilindungi-perkuat-tracking-dan-contact-tracing-covid-.html>

⁷¹⁸⁴ Ministry of Health Launches QR Code for Care to Protect Applications, Strengthens COVID-19 Tracking and Contact Tracing COVID, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200002/kemenkes-luncurkan-qr-code-untuk-aplikasi-pedulilindungi-perkuat-tracking-dan-contact-tracing-covid-.html>

⁷¹⁸⁵ Ministry of Health Launches QR Code for Care to Protect Applications, Strengthens COVID-19 Tracking and Contact Tracing COVID, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200002/kemenkes-luncurkan-qr-code-untuk-aplikasi-pedulilindungi-perkuat-tracking-dan-contact-tracing-covid-.html>

⁷¹⁸⁶ Minister of Health Sets Highest Retail Price for COVID-19 Therapy Drugs, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070400001/menkes-tetapkan-harga-eceran-tertinggi-obat-terapi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁸⁷ Minister of Health Sets Highest Retail Price for COVID-19 Therapy Drugs, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070400001/menkes-tetapkan-harga-eceran-tertinggi-obat-terapi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁸⁸ Minister of Health Sets Highest Retail Price for COVID-19 Therapy Drugs, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070400001/menkes-tetapkan-harga-eceran-tertinggi-obat-terapi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁸⁹ High risk of experiencing severe symptoms, the Ministry of Health Allows the Provision of COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant Women, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300001/berisiko-tinggi-alami-gejala-berat-kemenkes-izinkan-pemberian-vaksinasi-covid-19-pada-ibu-hamil.html>

19 Vaccination.⁷¹⁹⁰ The first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will be delivered in the second trimester of pregnancy and the second dose will be delivered in accordance with the recommended interval for each type of vaccine.⁷¹⁹¹ The government also plans to monitor vaccinated, pregnant individuals for any adverse effects of the vaccine.⁷¹⁹²

On 3 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that those individuals living in Indonesia who do not have a population identification number (NIK) can now be vaccinated against COVID-19.⁷¹⁹³ The NIK is used to verify the identity of Indonesian citizens, including their name, address, and date of birth, and has also recently been used to collect COVID-19 vaccination data.⁷¹⁹⁴ However, the NIK is no longer required for COVID-19 vaccination, and the Ministry plans to coordinate the tracking of vaccinations for individuals without an NIK with the Population and Civil Registry Office.⁷¹⁹⁵

On 6 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it would be collaborating with the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Directorate General of Postal and Informatics, the Ministry of Communications and Informatics and BPJS Health, to improve the utilization of population data for pandemic control and vaccination services.⁷¹⁹⁶ This collaboration allows the Ministry of Health to have access to population data collected by these various governmental institutions.⁷¹⁹⁷ This data will be used for the registration of COVID-19 vaccination and issuance of COVID-19 digital vaccine certificates.⁷¹⁹⁸

⁷¹⁹⁰ High risk of experiencing severe symptoms, the Ministry of Health Allows the Provision of COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant Women, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300001/berisiko-tinggi-alami-gejala-berat-kemenkes-izinkan-pemberian-vaksinasi-covid-19-pada-ibu-hamil.html>

⁷¹⁹¹ High risk of experiencing severe symptoms, the Ministry of Health Allows the Provision of COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant Women, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300001/berisiko-tinggi-alami-gejala-berat-kemenkes-izinkan-pemberian-vaksinasi-covid-19-pada-ibu-hamil.html>

⁷¹⁹² High risk of experiencing severe symptoms, the Ministry of Health Allows the Provision of COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant Women, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300001/berisiko-tinggi-alami-gejala-berat-kemenkes-izinkan-pemberian-vaksinasi-covid-19-pada-ibu-hamil.html>

⁷¹⁹³ Residents who don't have a NIK can be vaccinated, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300005/warga-tak-punya-nik-bisa-divaksinasi.html>

⁷¹⁹⁴ Residents who don't have a NIK can be vaccinated, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300005/warga-tak-punya-nik-bisa-divaksinasi.html>

⁷¹⁹⁵ Residents who don't have a NIK can be vaccinated, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300005/warga-tak-punya-nik-bisa-divaksinasi.html>

⁷¹⁹⁶ Ministry of Health Agrees to Cooperate on Utilization of Population Data for COVID-19 Control and Vaccination, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080600003/kemenkes-sepakati-kerja-sama-pemanfaatan-data-kependudukan-untuk-penanggulangan-covid-19-dan-vaksina.html>

⁷¹⁹⁷ Ministry of Health Agrees to Cooperate on Utilization of Population Data for COVID-19 Control and Vaccination, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080600003/kemenkes-sepakati-kerja-sama-pemanfaatan-data-kependudukan-untuk-penanggulangan-covid-19-dan-vaksina.html>

⁷¹⁹⁸ Ministry of Health Agrees to Cooperate on Utilization of Population Data for COVID-19 Control and Vaccination, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080600003/kemenkes-sepakati-kerja-sama-pemanfaatan-data-kependudukan-untuk-penanggulangan-covid-19-dan-vaksina.html>

On 6 August 2021, the Government of Indonesia announced that it is scheduled to receive 700 oxygen cylinders and accompanying supplies from the World Health Organization (WHO).⁷¹⁹⁹ The supplies arrived at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport and were distributed to hospitals and intensive care units for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.⁷²⁰⁰

On 12 August 2021, the Government of Indonesia released the results of an independent study on the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccination, primarily with the Sinovac vaccine, conducted by the Health Research and Development Agency of the Indonesian Ministry of Health.⁷²⁰¹ The study, which was conducted using data from 71,455 health care workers in Jakarta from January to June 2021, demonstrated that the COVID-19 vaccine is effective in reducing the risk of being infected with COVID-19, as well as reducing complications and death from infection among healthcare workers.⁷²⁰²

On 13 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it received eight million doses of the Moderna vaccine from the COVAX initiative.⁷²⁰³ The government affirmed that these vaccines would be used to provide a third booster shot to healthcare workers at high risk of contracting COVID-19 and to members of the public, particularly pregnant individuals and those with comorbidities, who have not yet received the vaccine.⁷²⁰⁴

On 14 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it would accelerate the vaccination of disability groups in the provinces of Banten, West Java, Central Java, DI Yogyakarta, East Java, and Bali to reach 225,000 people by October 2021.⁷²⁰⁵ Persons with disabilities living in Java and Bali will be given the Sinopharm vaccine, recently obtained through a partnership with the United Arab Emirates in the amount of 450,000 doses.⁷²⁰⁶

On 16 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it has reduced the price of real-time chain polymerase reaction (RT-PCR) tests for COVID-19 to IDR495 thousand for Java and Bali and

⁷¹⁹⁹ WHO Sends 700 Oxygen Concentrators and Other Essential Supplies as Indonesia Continues to Race to contain the spread of COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080900003/who-kirim-700-konsentrator-oksigen-dan-pasokan-penting-lainnya-saat-indonesia-terus-berlomba-untuk-m.html>

⁷²⁰⁰ WHO Sends 700 Oxygen Concentrators and Other Essential Supplies as Indonesia Continues to Race to contain the spread of COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080900003/who-kirim-700-konsentrator-oksigen-dan-pasokan-penting-lainnya-saat-indonesia-terus-berlomba-untuk-m.html>

⁷²⁰¹ Recent Study: COVID-19 Vaccine Effectively Prevents Treatment and Death, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081200002/studi-terbaru-vaksin-covid-19-efektif-mencegah-perawatan-dan-kematian.html>

⁷²⁰² Recent Study: COVID-19 Vaccine Effectively Prevents Treatment and Death, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081200002/studi-terbaru-vaksin-covid-19-efektif-mencegah-perawatan-dan-kematian.html>

⁷²⁰³ Ministry of Health Affirms Moderna Vaccine Only for Healthcare Boosters and the Public Who Have Never Received a COVID-19 Vaccine, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081300003/kemenkes-tegaskan-vaksin-moderna-hanya-untuk-booster-nakes-dan-publik-yang-belum-pernah-menerima-vak.html>

⁷²⁰⁴ Ministry of Health Affirms Moderna Vaccine Only for Healthcare Boosters and the Public Who Have Never Received a COVID-19 Vaccine, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081300003/kemenkes-tegaskan-vaksin-moderna-hanya-untuk-booster-nakes-dan-publik-yang-belum-pernah-menerima-vak.html>

⁷²⁰⁵ Government Accelerates Vaccination of Disability Groups, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 14 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081400001/pemerintah-percepat-vaksinasi-kelompok-disabilitas.html>

⁷²⁰⁶ Government Accelerates Vaccination of Disability Groups, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 14 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081400001/pemerintah-percepat-vaksinasi-kelompok-disabilitas.html>

IDR595 thousand across the rest of the country, reducing the total cost by 45 per cent.⁷²⁰⁷ This cost applies only to individuals seeking tests on their own accord, and does not apply to contact tracing activities or referrals for COVID-19 tests from hospitals, where operations receive financial assistance from the government.⁷²⁰⁸ The price reduction has been implemented to ensure the public can request COVID-19 tests at a reasonable price.⁷²⁰⁹

On 19 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced an update to its COVID-19 data tracking website (the COVID-19 Vaccination One Data Information System), which was established earlier in the year to provide the public with access to information about COVID-19 infection and vaccination rates.⁷²¹⁰ The website now also includes information about the availability of COVID-19 vaccine stock at the provincial and local levels.⁷²¹¹ Data is sourced through the Electronic Immunization and Logistics Monitoring System (SMILE), which is used to track real-time data about vaccine supply, and entry and exit of vaccines through healthcare facilities across the country.⁷²¹² Data collected and recorded in SMILE will be used to update the COVID-19 Vaccination One Data Information System website once a day at 17:00 WIB.⁷²¹³

On 19 August 2021, over 1.5 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine arrived in Indonesia through a direct purchase scheme.⁷²¹⁴ On 21 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that these doses would be prioritized for those who have not yet received a dose of the vaccine.⁷²¹⁵ An additional 4.6 million

⁷²⁰⁷ The Government Lowers the Price of RT-PCR Examination by 45%, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081600001/pemerintah-menurunkan-harga-pemeriksaan-rt--pcr-sebesar-45-.html>

⁷²⁰⁸ The Government Lowers the Price of RT-PCR Examination by 45%, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081600001/pemerintah-menurunkan-harga-pemeriksaan-rt--pcr-sebesar-45-.html>

⁷²⁰⁹ The Government Lowers the Price of RT-PCR Examination by 45%, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081600001/pemerintah-menurunkan-harga-pemeriksaan-rt--pcr-sebesar-45-.html>

⁷²¹⁰ Ministry of Health Releases Vaccination Dashboard Update, Community Can Monitor Vaccine Stock in Real Time, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082000001/kemenkes-rilis-pembaruan-dashboard-vaksinasi-masyarakat-bisa-pantau-stock-vaksin-secara-real-time.html>

⁷²¹¹ Ministry of Health Releases Vaccination Dashboard Update, Community Can Monitor Vaccine Stock in Real Time, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082000001/kemenkes-rilis-pembaruan-dashboard-vaksinasi-masyarakat-bisa-pantau-stock-vaksin-secara-real-time.html>

⁷²¹² Ministry of Health Releases Vaccination Dashboard Update, Community Can Monitor Vaccine Stock in Real Time, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082000001/kemenkes-rilis-pembaruan-dashboard-vaksinasi-masyarakat-bisa-pantau-stock-vaksin-secara-real-time.html>

⁷²¹³ Ministry of Health Releases Vaccination Dashboard Update, Community Can Monitor Vaccine Stock in Real Time, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082000001/kemenkes-rilis-pembaruan-dashboard-vaksinasi-masyarakat-bisa-pantau-stock-vaksin-secara-real-time.html>

⁷²¹⁴ Initial Pfizer Vaccine Intended for the General Public in Jabodetabek, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082100001/vaksin-pfizer-tahap-awal-diperuntukan-untuk-masyarakat-umum-di-jabodetabek.html>

⁷²¹⁵ Initial Pfizer Vaccine Intended for the General Public in Jabodetabek, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082100001/vaksin-pfizer-tahap-awal-diperuntukan-untuk-masyarakat-umum-di-jabodetabek.html>

doses of the Pfizer vaccine are expected to arrive in Indonesia over the coming weeks through the COVAX initiative.⁷²¹⁶

On 24 August 2021, Minister of Health Budi Gunadi Sadikin advised regional governments to avoid maintaining an extra stockpile of vaccines at the local level.⁷²¹⁷ The minister reiterated that should a region begin to run out of doses, more will be arranged for delivery by the central government.⁷²¹⁸ The minister also expects more doses of vaccines to arrive in the country in September to be distributed to regions in need.⁷²¹⁹

On 1 September 2021, the Government of Indonesia reduced the highest allowed price of the Rapid Diagnostic Test Antigen (RDT-Ag) from IDR250,000 to IDR99,000 for Java and Bali and IDR109,000 outside of Java and Bali.⁷²²⁰ RDT-Ag is a method used to detect COVID-19 and can be used for contact tracing and diagnostic purposes.⁷²²¹ The highest price applies to anyone who wants to be tested for COVID-19 but has not been required to get a COVID-19 test by a public health office.⁷²²² All health facilities, such as hospitals and laboratories, are required to comply with the highest allowed price of testing.⁷²²³

On 2 September 2021, the Government of Indonesia announced that it received an additional 1.2 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine.⁷²²⁴ This delivery is the second phase of a total of 54.6 million doses the government will acquire over the coming months.⁷²²⁵

On 2 September 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that PT. Biofarma, a local pharmaceutical company, developed a new COVID-19 diagnostic tool called BioSaliva.⁷²²⁶ The test involves

⁷²¹⁶ Initial Pfizer Vaccine Intended for the General Public in Jabodetabek, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082100001/vaksin-pfizer-tahap-awal-diperuntukan-untuk-masyarakat-umum-di-jabodetabek.html>

⁷²¹⁷ Minister of Health Budi asks Local Government Not to Keep Vaccine Stock, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082500002/menkes-budi-minta-pemerintah-daerah-tidak-simpan-stok-vaksin.html>

⁷²¹⁸ Minister of Health Budi asks Local Government Not to Keep Vaccine Stock, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082500002/menkes-budi-minta-pemerintah-daerah-tidak-simpan-stok-vaksin.html>

⁷²¹⁹ Minister of Health Budi asks Local Government Not to Keep Vaccine Stock, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082500002/menkes-budi-minta-pemerintah-daerah-tidak-simpan-stok-vaksin.html>

⁷²²⁰ Government Lowers Tariffs for Testing RDT Antigen, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090200001/pemerintah-turunkan-tarif-pemeriksaan-rdt-antigen.html>

⁷²²¹ Government Lowers Tariffs for Testing RDT Antigen, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090200001/pemerintah-turunkan-tarif-pemeriksaan-rdt-antigen.html>

⁷²²² Government Lowers Tariffs for Testing RDT Antigen, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090200001/pemerintah-turunkan-tarif-pemeriksaan-rdt-antigen.html>

⁷²²³ Government Lowers Tariffs for Testing RDT Antigen, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090200001/pemerintah-turunkan-tarif-pemeriksaan-rdt-antigen.html>

⁷²²⁴ Indonesia Receives Additional 1.2 Million Pfizer Vaccines, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090200005/indonesia-dapat-tambahan-1-2-juta-vaksin-pfizer.html>

⁷²²⁵ Indonesia Receives Additional 1.2 Million Pfizer Vaccines, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090200005/indonesia-dapat-tambahan-1-2-juta-vaksin-pfizer.html>

collecting saliva samples and is a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test with a sensitivity of up to 95 per cent.⁷²²⁷ Biofarma is conducting testing of BioSaliva in three university laboratories across the country.⁷²²⁸

Indonesia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic prevention, detection and response. It has taken steps to advance its capabilities in testing, detection, and contact tracing, and has taken several measures to make COVID-19 vaccinations accessible. Indonesia has been proactive in implementing measures to control surges in community transmission around religious holidays. It has also supported other countries in the fight against COVID-19.

Thus, Indonesia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Amandeep Saini

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 3 December 2020, Italy approved a new decree which required all travelers from the European Union and United Kingdom to either present a test completed in the last 48 hours or be tested upon arrival.⁷²²⁹ All travelers will also be subject to quarantining for two weeks.⁷²³⁰ Those exempt from the quarantine requirement include, flight crew, cross-border workers, healthcare staff, people transiting through Italy for 36 hours or less, those travelling for urgent reasons and people travelling from the United States on special “COVID-tested flights.”⁷²³¹

On 27 December 2020, Italy administered the first doses of the vaccine to health personnel on “vaccine day.”⁷²³² During phase one of the vaccination program, the vaccine will be given to health care officials and seniors residing in long term care facilities.⁷²³³ Since 20 September, 470,000 doses of

⁷²²⁶ BioSaliva PCR Test Tool with Gargle Method, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090300002/biosaliva-alat-tes-pcr-dengan-metode-kumur.html>

⁷²²⁷ BioSaliva PCR Test Tool with Gargle Method, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090300002/biosaliva-alat-tes-pcr-dengan-metode-kumur.html>

⁷²²⁸ BioSaliva PCR Test Tool with Gargle Method, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090300002/biosaliva-alat-tes-pcr-dengan-metode-kumur.html>

⁷²²⁹ Italy Obliges All Travellers From EU, Schengen, and UK to Test for COVID-19 Upon Arrival, Schengen Visa Info, 7 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.schengenvisa.info/news/italy-obliges-all-travellers-from-eu-schengen-uk-to-test-for-covid-19-upon-arrival/>

⁷²³⁰ Italy Obliges All Travellers From EU, Schengen, and UK to Test for COVID-19 Upon Arrival, Schengen Visa Info, 7 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.schengenvisa.info/news/italy-obliges-all-travellers-from-eu-schengen-uk-to-test-for-covid-19-upon-arrival/>

⁷²³¹ Italy Obliges All Travellers From EU, Schengen, and UK to Test for COVID-19 Upon Arrival, Schengen Visa Info, 7 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.schengenvisa.info/news/italy-obliges-all-travellers-from-eu-schengen-uk-to-test-for-covid-19-upon-arrival/>

⁷²³² Vaccine day, Speranza: 'Today is the day we all have been waiting for. There is still a long way to go, but we finally have a vaccine', Ministry of Health. 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²³³ Vaccine day, Speranza: 'Today is the day we all have been waiting for. There is still a long way to go, but we finally have a vaccine', Ministry of Health. 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

the Pfizer-Biontech vaccine were distributed every week, throughout Italy in order to ease administration.⁷²³⁴

On 14 January 2021, Italy signed a new decree-law to contain the spread of COVID-19.⁷²³⁵ The decree law extended the state of emergency until 30 April 2021. The decree also reaffirmed the ban on regional movement, introduced a new regulation which allowed a maximum of two people to visit another private home, and banned travelers from non-European countries.⁷²³⁶ It also included provisions for restaurants and workplaces.⁷²³⁷

On 26 January 2021, as president of the G20, Italy established a High-Level Independent Panel on financing global commons for pandemic preparedness and response. This “intends to integrate the lessons learned from the current pandemic in the design of future national and international policies, as part of the update of the G20 Action Plan in 2021. In this context, the Italian Presidency decided to propose this Panel to assess the current financing systems and propose viable solutions for the longer term. In particular, the G20 High Level Independent Panel is tasked with: Identifying the gaps in the financing system for the global commons for pandemic prevention, surveillance, preparedness and response; And proposing actionable solutions to meet these gaps on a systematic and sustainable basis, and to optimally leverage resources from the public, private and philanthropic sectors and the International Financial Institutions.”⁷²³⁸

On 1 February 2021, Italy secured medical supplies from the US.⁷²³⁹ Soldiers from US Army Garrison Italy helped deliver roughly USD500,000 worth of medical supplies to Italian hospitals in Vicenza, Pisa and Livorno. This delivery was just one small part of the larger USD10 million financial aid package of US Department of Defense-funded supplies. The partnership with US European Command and the US Embassy in Rome helped facilitate the delivery of surgical gowns and face masks.⁷²⁴⁰

On 1 March 2021, Italy unveiled its new vaccine acceleration program to speed up the rollout of vaccines.⁷²⁴¹ Italy aims to administer 56 million doses by June 2021, which would cover just under

⁷²³⁴ Vaccine day, Speranza: 'Today is the day we all have been waiting for. There is still a long way to go, but we finally have a vaccine', Ministry of Health. 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²³⁵ COVID-19, Government Passes Decree-Law with New Measures, State of Emergency Extended until April 30, Ministry of Health. 14 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²³⁶ COVID-19, Government Passes Decree-Law with New Measures, State of Emergency Extended until April 30, Ministry of Health. 14 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²³⁷ COVID-19, Government Passes Decree-Law with New Measures, State of Emergency Extended until April 30, Ministry of Health. 14 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²³⁸ The G20 establishes a High Level Independent Panel on financing the Global Pandemic Preparedness and Response, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

<https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/The-G20-establishes-a-High-Level-Independent-Panel-on-financing-the-Global-Pandemic-Preparedness-and-Response-00001/>

⁷²³⁹ US Army Delivers COVID-19 Medical Supplies to Italian Hospitals, US Army Garrison Italy (Vicenza) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021 https://www.army.mil/article/242916/u_s_army_delivers_covid_19_medical_supplies_to_italian_hospitals

⁷²⁴⁰ US Army Delivers COVID-19 Medical Supplies to Italian Hospitals, US Army Garrison Italy (Vicenza) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021 https://www.army.mil/article/242916/u_s_army_delivers_covid_19_medical_supplies_to_italian_hospitals

⁷²⁴¹ '56 Million By June': Italy Unveils New Plan to Accelerate COVID Vaccines, The Local (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210302/56-million-by-june-italys-plan-to-accelerate-vaccines-under-new-pandemic-commissioner/>

half of Italy's population.⁷²⁴² Italy plans to increase the number of vaccination sites across Italy, which are expected to be functional by April 2021.⁷²⁴³

On 2 March 2021, Italy signed a new decree to combat and control the spread of COVID-19.⁷²⁴⁴ The decree reinforced the division of Italy into coloured zones based upon the number of COVID-19 cases in each region.⁷²⁴⁵ The decree also confirmed a ban on travel between regions and confirmed a curfew from 10pm to 5am.⁷²⁴⁶ The decree also introduced measures outlining the health guidelines for cinemas, schools, businesses, private homes and museums.⁷²⁴⁷ According to this decree, gyms, swimming pools, spas, and ski resorts remain closed.⁷²⁴⁸

On 12 March 2021, Italy introduced a lockdown in half of Italy's 20 regions to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁷²⁴⁹ The lockdown will be in effect from 15 March to 6 April 2021, with the entire country being in a lockdown over the Easter weekend.⁷²⁵⁰ In red zoned regions people will only be allowed to leave home for work or health related reasons and in orange zoned regions, restaurants will be allowed to carry out delivery functions.⁷²⁵¹

On 12 March 2021, the Italian Medicines Agency approved the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines.⁷²⁵² The vaccines would be used for people over 18 and would be available at the expense of the National Health Emergency.⁷²⁵³

On 17 March 2021, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza provided an update before the Social Affairs Committees of the Chamber and Health of the Senate.⁷²⁵⁴ Minister Speranza provided an update on the vaccination campaign, explaining that it was divided into quarters.⁷²⁵⁵ He also

⁷²⁴² '56 Million By June': Italy Unveils New Plan to Accelerate COVID Vaccines, The Local (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210302/56-million-by-june-italys-plan-to-accelerate-vaccines-under-new-pandemic-commissioner/>

⁷²⁴³ '56 Million By June': Italy Unveils New Plan to Accelerate COVID Vaccines, The Local (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210302/56-million-by-june-italys-plan-to-accelerate-vaccines-under-new-pandemic-commissioner/>

⁷²⁴⁴ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²⁴⁵ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5354>

⁷²⁴⁶ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²⁴⁷ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²⁴⁸ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²⁴⁹ Italy Prepares for an Easter Lockdown as COVID-19 Cases Grow Exponentially, CNN (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/13/europe/italy-coronavirus-national-lockdown-intl/index.html>

⁷²⁵⁰ Italy Prepares for an Easter Lockdown as COVID-19 Cases Grow Exponentially, CNN (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/13/europe/italy-coronavirus-national-lockdown-intl/index.html>

⁷²⁵¹ Italy Prepares for an Easter Lockdown as COVID-19 Cases Grow Exponentially, CNN (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/13/europe/italy-coronavirus-national-lockdown-intl/index.html>

⁷²⁵² AIFA Approves the Janssen Vaccine, Italian Medicines Agency. 12 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aifa.gov.it/web/guest/-/aifa-approva-il-vaccino-janssen>

⁷²⁵³ AIFA Approves the Janssen Vaccine, Italian Medicines Agency. 12 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aifa.gov.it/web/guest/-/aifa-approva-il-vaccino-janssen>

⁷²⁵⁴ Minister Speranza in Hearing with the Chamber and Senate Committees, Minister of Health. 17 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp

⁷²⁵⁵ Minister Speranza in Hearing with the Chamber and Senate Committees, Minister of Health. 17 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp

discussed the plan for the future of the Italian healthcare which is presented in five different axes.⁷²⁵⁶ The first axis concerns the integrated approach to reduce inequalities, the second axis concerns the connection between animals and the environment, the third looks at hospitals, the fourth concerns the widespread use of technologies in the health sector, and the last axis aims toward innovation in the health care sector.⁷²⁵⁷

On 26 April 2021, Italy banned entry to those who had travelled to India in the last fourteen days.⁷²⁵⁸ Those who are returning to Italy as residents or citizens must undergo testing and strict isolation and must be referred to a trustee for a period of ten days.⁷²⁵⁹

On 28 April 2021, Minister Speranza signed an ordinance banning entry to travelers from Bangladesh and India in the last fourteen days.⁷²⁶⁰ The ordinance also strengthened the quarantine measures for Italians authorized to return.⁷²⁶¹

On 29 April 2021, Italy issued an ordinance that would prohibit entry to those who had visited Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the last fourteen days with the exception of Italian citizens.⁷²⁶² Italians who had visited these countries in the last 14 days are required to undergo mandatory testing upon arrival at the airport, isolate in a hotel and must complete another test after the isolation period is completed.⁷²⁶³

On 3 May 2021, Italy sent to India a team of experts, from the Maxiemergenza group of the Piedmont Region, a doctor from the Lombardy region, a representative of the Ministry of Health and an oxygen generation plant and 20 ventilators to assist the country in its fight against a devastating second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.⁷²⁶⁴

On 21 May 2021, Italy hosted the Global Health Summit alongside the European Union. At this summit, the participants adopted the Rome Declaration. The Rome Declaration is a set of 16 principles and guiding commitments that “serve as voluntary orientation for current and future action for global health to support the financing, building, and sustaining of effective health system capabilities and capacities and Universal Health Coverage to improve preparedness, early warning of,

⁷²⁵⁶ Minister Speranza in Hearing with the Chamber and Senate Committees, Minister of Health. 17 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp

⁷²⁵⁷ Minister Speranza in Hearing with the Chamber and Senate Committees, Minister of Health. 17 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp

⁷²⁵⁸ Ministerial Order of April 25, 2020, Ministry of Health. 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=80073>

⁷²⁵⁹ Ministerial Order of April 25, 2020, Ministry of Health. 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=80073>

⁷²⁶⁰ COVID-19: Hope Signs New Ordinance for Bangladesh and India, Ministry of Health. 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioComunicatiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²⁶¹ COVID-19: Hope Signs New Ordinance for Bangladesh and India, Ministry of Health. 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioComunicatiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²⁶² Further Urgent Measures Regarding the Containment and Management of the Epidemiological Emergency from COVID-19, Ministry of Health. 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=80154&>

⁷²⁶³ Further Urgent Measures Regarding the Containment and Management of the Epidemiological Emergency from COVID-19, Ministry of Health. 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=80154&>

⁷²⁶⁴ COVID-19: Italy sends team of experts; oxygen generation plant (New Delhi) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid19-italy-sends-team-of-experts-oxygen-generation-plant-11620052142087.html>

prevention, detection, coordinated response, and resilience to, and recovery from, the current pandemic and future potential public health emergencies.⁷²⁶⁵

On 12 June 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it would reserve the AstraZeneca vaccine for people over the age of 60.⁷²⁶⁶ People who are younger than 60 and who have already received one dose of AstraZeneca will complete their vaccination with the Pfizer, or the Moderna vaccine.⁷²⁶⁷

On 18 June 2021, the G20 member decided to move forward with the COVID-19 Green Certificate, which would make it easier to attend public events in Italy, to enter nursing homes, and to travel within Italy.⁷²⁶⁸ The document is available in digital and printable format, and includes information about an individual's vaccination, a negative COVID-19 test result, and information on recovery from COVID-19.⁷²⁶⁹

On 22 June 2021, the European Commission adopted a positive assessment of Italy's recovery and resilience plan.⁷²⁷⁰ The EU will be disbursing EUR68.9 billion in grants and EUR122.6 billion in loans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). This financing will play a key role in enabling Italy to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷²⁷¹

On 26 July 2021, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza signed a decree that would extend measures that restrict entry from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Brazil.⁷²⁷² The 10-day quarantine for non-European countries has been reduced to 5 days.⁷²⁷³

On 11 August 2021, Government of Italy's special COVID Commissioner, Francesco Paolo Figliuolo wrote a letter to Italy's governors, requesting them to ramp up vaccinations for those aged between 12 and 18.⁷²⁷⁴ He urged them to fast-track vaccinations before schools and sports activities resume.⁷²⁷⁵

⁷²⁶⁵ Rome Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/210521-rome-declaration.html>

⁷²⁶⁶ Italy Limits Use of AstraZeneca Vaccines to Over 60s, The Local (Rome). 12 June 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://www.thelocal.it/20210612/italy-limits-astrazeneca-vaccination-to-over-60s/>

⁷²⁶⁷ Italy Limits Use of AstraZeneca Vaccines to Over 60s, The Local (Rome). 12 June 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://www.thelocal.it/20210612/italy-limits-astrazeneca-vaccination-to-over-60s/>

⁷²⁶⁸ Go Ahead for COVID-19 Green Certificate, The Local (Rome). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5531>

⁷²⁶⁹ Go Ahead for COVID-19 Green Certificate, The Local (Rome). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5531>

⁷²⁷⁰ NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Italy's €191.5 billion recovery and resilience plan (Brussels) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3126

⁷²⁷¹ NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Italy's €191.5 billion recovery and resilience plan (Brussels) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3126

⁷²⁷² Hope Extends Ordinance on Measures for Entry into Italy, Ministry of Health (Rome) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5580

⁷²⁷³ Hope Extends Ordinance on Measures for Entry into Italy, Ministry of Health (Rome) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5580

⁷²⁷⁴ Italy to Boost Vaccination of Teenagers Ahead of School Reopening, Reuters (London) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-boost-vaccination-teenagers-ahead-school-reopening-2021-08-11/>

⁷²⁷⁵ Italy to Boost Vaccination of Teenagers Ahead of School Reopening, Reuters (London) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-boost-vaccination-teenagers-ahead-school-reopening-2021-08-11/>

On 27 August 2021, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza, signed an executive order, mandating the wearing of masks outdoors in Sicily.⁷²⁷⁶ The order was signed to curb the number of COVID-19 cases and due to the low number of vaccinations in the region.⁷²⁷⁷

On 1 September 2021, the Italian Government extended the use of the green pass for those travelling on trains, planes, ferries and coaches.⁷²⁷⁸ The green pass serves as an encouragement for people to get vaccinated against COVID-19.⁷²⁷⁹

On 9 September 2021, the Italian Government agreed to extend the COVID-19 health pass to workers in health care settings and schools.⁷²⁸⁰ The ‘green pass’ will be mandatory for staff working in universities and was implemented to deal with COVID-19 in schools.⁷²⁸¹ Employees in these sectors will be required to show their proof of vaccination, testing, and recovery from COVID-19.⁷²⁸²

Italy has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention and response by participation in a vaccination campaign, partnering with the US Department of Defense to distribute medical supplies and enacting various decrees to protect its citizens. However, it has not demonstrated strong action in the area of detection.

Thus, Italy has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Ujala Iqbal

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide delivered a video speech at the General Debate of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷²⁸³ He was reported to have said that “Japan has been promptly taking multi-layered efforts; first, to overcome the current crisis of the pandemic; second, to strengthen health and medical systems for future crises; and, third, to generate an environment that is resilient to infectious diseases.” To support developing countries, Japan implemented the COVID-19 Crisis Response

⁷²⁷⁶ Italy Tightens COVID-19 Curbs in Sicily, Reuters (London) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSL1N2PY1WU>

⁷²⁷⁷ Italy Tightens COVID-19 Curbs in Sicily, Reuters (London) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSL1N2PY1WU>

⁷²⁷⁸ Italy Extends COVID-19 Green Pass to Trains, Planes, Ferries, and Coaches, Reuters (London) 1 September 2021.

Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-extends-covid-19-green-pass-trains-planes-ferries-coaches-2021-09-01/>

⁷²⁷⁹ Italy Extends COVID-19 Green Pass to Trains, Planes, Ferries, and Coaches, Reuters (London) 1 September 2021.

Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-extends-covid-19-green-pass-trains-planes-ferries-coaches-2021-09-01/>

⁷²⁸⁰ UPDATE: Italy Approves Mandatory COVID ‘Green Pass’ in More Workplaces, The Local (Stockholm) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210909/italy-set-to-release-roadmap-for-workplace-covid-green-pass/>

⁷²⁸¹ UPDATE: Italy Approves Mandatory COVID ‘Green Pass’ in More Workplaces, The Local (Stockholm) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210909/italy-set-to-release-roadmap-for-workplace-covid-green-pass/>

⁷²⁸² UPDATE: Italy Approves Mandatory COVID ‘Green Pass’ in More Workplaces, The Local (Stockholm) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210909/italy-set-to-release-roadmap-for-workplace-covid-green-pass/>

⁷²⁸³ Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html

Emergency Support Loan of up to USD4.5 billion. Japan affirmed its commitment to provide contributions and supplies for vaccine development and manufacturing under the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) program.⁷²⁸⁴ The COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX), aims to provide universally safe and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccinations.⁷²⁸⁵

On 7 January 2021, according to Article 32, Paragraph 1 of the Act on Special Measures for Pandemic Influenza and New Infectious Diseases Preparedness and Response (Act No. 31 of 2012), Japan declared a state of emergency in the prefectures of Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, and Kanagawa to contain outbreaks of the COVID-19 virus.⁷²⁸⁶ Emergency measures for infection control were set to expire after one month.⁷²⁸⁷

On 18 January 2021, Japan announced preparations for administering COVID-19 vaccines to citizens were underway and said that the vaccination campaign will be launched by late February.⁷²⁸⁸ Minister for Administrative Reform and Regulatory Reform Taro Kono was appointed to oversee vaccine distribution and administration.⁷²⁸⁹

On 26 January 2021, the House of Representatives approved a supplementary budget of USD185 billion for national COVID-19 response.⁷²⁹⁰ An additional USD763 million was allocated towards international pandemic response initiatives, including COVAX, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and Unitaid.⁷²⁹¹

On 16 February 2021, Japan commenced its mass COVID-19 inoculation program.⁷²⁹² The first stage of the program targeted highly vulnerable populations, including healthcare workers and elderly citizens.⁷²⁹³

On 19 February 2021, Japan contributed an additional USD79 million to the ACT-A partnership, directed towards COVAX vaccine development and manufacturing.⁷²⁹⁴ Funding also went towards

⁷²⁸⁴ Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html

⁷²⁸⁵ Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html

⁷²⁸⁶ Declaration of a State of Emergency in Response to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (January 7), Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00038.html

⁷²⁸⁷ Declaration of a State of Emergency in Response to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (January 7), Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00038.html

⁷²⁸⁸ Press Conference by the Prime Minister on Novel Coronavirus Vaccines, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202101/_00010.html

⁷²⁸⁹ Press Conference by the Prime Minister on Novel Coronavirus Vaccines, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202101/_00010.html

⁷²⁹⁰ Japan's 3rd Extra Budget for FY 2020 Clears Parliament, Jiji Press (Tokyo) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2021012801113/>

⁷²⁹¹ Japan's 3rd Extra Budget for FY 2020 Clears Parliament, Jiji Press (Tokyo) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2021012801113/>

⁷²⁹² Past Ministerial Conference (COVID-19), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00096.html

⁷²⁹³ Past Ministerial Conference (COVID-19), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00096.html

⁷²⁹⁴ G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>

Unitaid, an international initiative aimed towards tackling current and future health threats in low- and middle-income countries.⁷²⁹⁵

On 5 March 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide announced at a press conference at the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters the reinforcement of routine inspections to ensure individuals and businesses are complying with public health restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷²⁹⁶ Domestic surveillance measures include contact tracing via mobile phones, nationwide testing for COVID-19 variants, and monitoring of asymptomatic individuals.⁷²⁹⁷

On 9 March 2021, Japan implemented new travel restrictions and quarantine guidelines.⁷²⁹⁸ Foreign nationals from 152 countries specified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are denied entry to Japan, while those from approved countries must present negative COVID-19 test results prior to departure.⁷²⁹⁹ Upon entering Japan, travellers must complete a 14-day quarantine period in a designated facility.⁷³⁰⁰

On 12 March 2021, Japan joined the Quad Vaccine Partnership with the United States, India, and Australia.⁷³⁰¹ The partnership is aimed towards strengthening vaccination efforts in the Indo-Pacific region, expanding global COVID-19 vaccine development and distribution, coordinating with international pandemic response initiatives, and assisting in health workforce preparedness and training.⁷³⁰²

On 1 April 2021, Japan implemented priority measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 infections in Miyagi, Osaka, and Hyogo prefectures.⁷³⁰³ Drinking and dining establishments within these regions were required to shorten operating hours.⁷³⁰⁴ Ongoing inspections are carried out by designated authorities to enforce preventative measures and penalize non-compliance.⁷³⁰⁵

On 16 April 2021, Japan attended the virtual Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment One World Protected Event concerning international cooperation to ensure equitable access to COVID-

⁷²⁹⁵ G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>

⁷²⁹⁶ Press Conference by Prime Minister Regarding the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202103/_00005.html

⁷²⁹⁷ Press Conference by Prime Minister Regarding the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202103/_00005.html

⁷²⁹⁸ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁷²⁹⁹ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁷³⁰⁰ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁷³⁰¹ Leaders of US, Japan, India, and Australia to meet in first-ever 'Quad' summit, CNN (Tokyo) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/09/asia/first-ever-quad-leaders-summit-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁷³⁰² Leaders of US, Japan, India, and Australia to meet in first-ever 'Quad' summit, CNN (Tokyo) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/09/asia/first-ever-quad-leaders-summit-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁷³⁰³ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Decision to Implement Priority Measures to Prevent the Spread of Disease in Miyagi, Osaka, and Hyogo Prefectures, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202104/_00001.html

⁷³⁰⁴ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Decision to Implement Priority Measures to Prevent the Spread of Disease in Miyagi, Osaka, and Hyogo Prefectures, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202104/_00001.html

⁷³⁰⁵ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Decision to Implement Priority Measures to Prevent the Spread of Disease in Miyagi, Osaka, and Hyogo Prefectures, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202104/_00001.html

19 vaccines.⁷³⁰⁶ Japan reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the supply and distribution of effective vaccines and medical resources in low and middle-income countries.⁷³⁰⁷

On 23 April 2021, Japan held a Strategic Dialogue with the World Health Organization to discuss strengthening cooperation in COVID-19 prevention and response efforts.⁷³⁰⁸ Japan reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to global pandemic prevention and response via its cooperation with the COVAX vaccine procurement facility.⁷³⁰⁹

On 25 April 2021, Japan declared a state of emergency in Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, and Hyogo prefectures in response to surges in COVID-19 infections.⁷³¹⁰ Japan further announced the enactment of priority preventative measures in Ehime prefecture, and the extension of priority preventative measures in Miyagi, Okinawa, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, and Aichi prefectures.⁷³¹¹ Emergency and priority measures are set to expire on 11 May 2021.⁷³¹²

On 30 April 2021, Japan updated border enforcement measures for the prevention of COVID-19 transmission and spread. Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs identified 152 countries and regions as sites of community transmission of COVID-19 variants of concern.⁷³¹³ Foreign nationals who have entered these designated regions within a 14-day period prior to travel are subject to denial of entry upon landing in Japan.⁷³¹⁴

On 30 April 2021, Japan provided emergency medical supplies to India in response to a recent surge in COVID-19 infections.⁷³¹⁵ Supplies included 300 oxygen concentrators and 300 ventilators.⁷³¹⁶

On 12 May 2021, the Health Ministry confirmed that 200 oxygen concentrators will be sent to India as a part of the emergency assistance from Japan in response to the current surge of COVID-19 infections in India.⁷³¹⁷ During the previous week External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had a virtual

⁷³⁰⁶ Video Message by Minister for Foreign Affairs MOTEGI at the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) One World Protected Event, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000281.html

⁷³⁰⁷ Video Message by Minister for Foreign Affairs MOTEGI at the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) One World Protected Event, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000281.html

⁷³⁰⁸ Minister Tamura/Deputy Minister Yamamoto and WHO Secretary-General Tedros hold a meeting – Japan and WHO agree to strengthen cooperation, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_18230.html

⁷³⁰⁹ Minister Tamura/Deputy Minister Yamamoto and WHO Secretary-General Tedros hold a meeting – Japan and WHO agree to strengthen cooperation, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_18230.html

⁷³¹⁰ COVID-19 Declaration of State of Emergency, Office for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control (Tokyo) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://corona.go.jp/en/>

⁷³¹¹ COVID-19 Declaration of State of Emergency, Office for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control (Tokyo) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://corona.go.jp/en/>

⁷³¹² COVID-19 Declaration of State of Emergency, Office for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control (Tokyo) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://corona.go.jp/en/>

⁷³¹³ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁷³¹⁴ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁷³¹⁵ Emergency Assistance to India in Response to the Current Surge of COVID-19 Infections, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000288.html

⁷³¹⁶ Emergency Assistance to India in Response to the Current Surge of COVID-19 Infections, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000288.html

⁷³¹⁷ COVID-19: Japan to send 200 oxygen concentrators to India (New Delhi) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/covid19-japan-to-send-200-oxygen-concentrators-to-india-101620739674942.html>

meeting with his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi and the later conveyed that Japan is ready to provide grant assistance of up to USD50 million to India, based on its needs.⁷³¹⁸

On 13 May 2021, Japan International Cooperation Agency enacted a Grant Agreement with Guinea to extend aid of up to USD2 million for preventing the future spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and Ebola virus.⁷³¹⁹ The grant includes financing for the construction of medical facilities; the installation of essential medical equipment; and the development of improved infrastructure for disease tracing, surveillance, and diagnosis.⁷³²⁰

On 14 May 2021, the Government of Japan granted an additional USD18.5 million in emergency funding to India in response to surges of COVID-19 outbreaks and infections.⁷³²¹ The grant included 800 ventilators and oxygen concentrators to address oxygen shortages in hospitals.⁷³²²

On 2 June 2021, Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide together with Gavi Board Chair José Manuel Barroso hosted the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Summit, which procured approximately USD2.4 billion in funding from donor governments worldwide.⁷³²³ It further pledged USD800 million to the COVAX program.⁷³²⁴

On 25 June 2021, the Government of Japan provided USD9.3 million in emergency funding and aid towards combating COVID-19 spread in India, particularly for strengthening cold chain vaccine storage and transportation.⁷³²⁵ The contribution included medical equipment and vaccine storage facilities.⁷³²⁶

On 8 July 2021, Prime Minister Suga announced that the Olympic games would take place without spectators in Tokyo.⁷³²⁷ Moreover, Japan was forced to declare a state of emergency throughout the event as the new delta variant was spreading and becoming the source of a new wave of infections.⁷³²⁸

⁷³¹⁸ COVID-19: Japan to send 200 oxygen concentrators to India (New Delhi) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/covid19-japan-to-send-200-oxygen-concentrators-to-india-101620739674942.html>

⁷³¹⁹ Signing of Grant Agreement with Guinea: Contributing to the prevention of infectious diseases including COVID-19 and Ebola virus, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210518_en_21.html

⁷³²⁰ Signing of Grant Agreement with Guinea: Contributing to the prevention of infectious diseases including COVID-19 and Ebola virus, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210518_en_21.html

⁷³²¹ Emergency Grant Aid in Response to COVID-19 in India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press24e_000031.html

⁷³²² Emergency Grant Aid in Response to COVID-19 in India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press24e_000031.html

⁷³²³ World leaders unite to commit to global equitable access for COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Tokyo/Geneva) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/world-leaders-unite-commit-global-equitable-access-covid-19-vaccines>

⁷³²⁴ World leaders unite to commit to global equitable access for COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Tokyo/Geneva) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/world-leaders-unite-commit-global-equitable-access-covid-19-vaccines>

⁷³²⁵ Support for Cold Chain System Building in response to COVID-19 pandemic in India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000304.html

⁷³²⁶ Support for Cold Chain System Building in response to COVID-19 pandemic in India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000304.html

⁷³²⁷ Tokyo bans Olympic spectators as Japan declares COVID-19 state of emergency (Tokyo) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/8012643/tokyo-bans-olympic-spectators-as-japan-declares-covid/>

⁷³²⁸ Tokyo bans Olympic spectators as Japan declares COVID-19 state of emergency (Tokyo) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/8012643/tokyo-bans-olympic-spectators-as-japan-declares-covid/>

On 16 July 2021, the Government of Japan extended an emergency grant of USD4.66 million to cover logistical costs for the global distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations in cooperation with the COVAX facility.⁷³²⁹ The inoculation programs will target low-income countries worldwide.⁷³³⁰

On 23 July 2021, Japan donated over 11 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to the Gavi COVAX initiative.⁷³³¹ The vaccines were set to be distributed and administered in Cambodia, Iran, and Bangladesh.⁷³³²

On 30 July 2021, Prime Minister Suga declared a state of emergency in the prefectures of Kanagawa, Osaka, Saitama, and Chiba, in response to surging cases of COVID-19.⁷³³³ Prime Minister Suga extended the state of emergency for Tokyo and Okinawa prefectures for 1 month, and enacted priority prevention measures in the prefectures of Hyogo, Kyoto, Hokkaido, Ishikawa, and Fukuoka.⁷³³⁴ The announcement occurred in response to rising cases of the B.1.617.2 (Delta) SARS-CoV-2 variant, which was identified as approximately 1.5 times more infectious than the B.1.1.7 (Alpha) SARS-CoV-2 strain.⁷³³⁵

On 3 August 2021, Japan committed to donating approximately USD2.5 million worth of medical equipment for the containment of COVID-19 to Thailand and Laos.⁷³³⁶ 775 oxygen concentrators were designated for Thailand, while an additional 100 oxygen concentrators, 100 suction pumps, and 100 patient monitors were designated for Laos.⁷³³⁷ Japan further provided 600 thousand doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Laos via the COVAX facility.⁷³³⁸

⁷³²⁹ Emergency Grant Aid for logistical support including transportation of vaccines manufactured in Japan to be donated through COVAX facility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000311.html

⁷³³⁰ Emergency Grant Aid for logistical support including transportation of vaccines manufactured in Japan to be donated through COVAX facility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000311.html

⁷³³¹ First doses donated by Japan to COVAX reach lower-income countries, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/first-doses-donated-japan-covax-reach-lower-income-countries>

⁷³³² First doses donated by Japan to COVAX reach lower-income countries, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/first-doses-donated-japan-covax-reach-lower-income-countries>

⁷³³³ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202107/_00017.html

⁷³³⁴ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202107/_00017.html

⁷³³⁵ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202107/_00017.html

⁷³³⁶ Provision of Oxygen Concentrators and Other Equipment in Response to COVID-19 in Thailand and Laos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000224.html

⁷³³⁷ Provision of Oxygen Concentrators and Other Equipment in Response to COVID-19 in Thailand and Laos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000224.html

⁷³³⁸ Provision of Oxygen Concentrators and Other Equipment in Response to COVID-19 in Thailand and Laos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000224.html

On 4 August 2021, Japan committed to providing 1.6 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to Nepal via the COVAX facility, in response to dire outbreaks and limited vaccine uptake throughout the country.⁷³³⁹

On 17 August 2021, Prime Minister Suga declared a state of emergency in the prefectures of Tochigi, Gunma, Ibaraki, Kyoto, Hyogo, Fukuoka, and Shizuoka in response to rising COVID-19 outbreaks.⁷³⁴⁰ Further, Prime Minister Suga enacted priority prevention measures in Miyagi, Toyama, Gifu, Mie, Okayama, Hiroshima, Kagawa, Ehime, Yamanashi, and Kagoshima prefectures, effective until 12 September 2021.⁷³⁴¹ The remaining prefectures were required to maintain a state of emergency or priority measures until this expiry date.⁷³⁴² Prime Minister Suga announced steps toward improving remote and in-home medical services, as well as improving systems for oxygen administration within hospitals and other facilities.⁷³⁴³ On behalf of the Japanese government, Prime Minister Suga called for a 50 per cent capacity reduction in commercial establishments and public areas, along with a return to teleworking to avoid congregations in workplaces.⁷³⁴⁴

On 18 August 2021, Japan donated 110,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Samoa via the COVAX facility, in order to achieve global immunization targets for containing the virus.⁷³⁴⁵ Japan committed to providing a total of 3 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Samoa and other Pacific Island countries by the end of 2021, accompanied by cold chain equipment and facilities for vaccine storage and transportation.⁷³⁴⁶

On 25 August 2021, Prime Minister Suga announced an expansion of remote medical services, including telephone doctor's consultations and at-home symptom monitoring for those infected with the COVID-19 virus.⁷³⁴⁷ The National Hospital Organization supplied an additional 200 hospital beds to COVID-19 patients in Tokyo, while the government of Japan committed to increasing the

⁷³³⁹ The provision of COVID-19 vaccines to Nepal throughout the COVAX facility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000225.html

⁷³⁴⁰ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00009.html

⁷³⁴¹ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00009.html

⁷³⁴² Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00009.html

⁷³⁴³ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00009.html

⁷³⁴⁴ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00009.html

⁷³⁴⁵ The provision of COVID-19 vaccines to the Independent State of Samoa through the COVAX facility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000230.html

⁷³⁴⁶ The provision of COVID-19 vaccines to the Independent State of Samoa through the COVAX facility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000230.html

⁷³⁴⁷ Press conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00013.html

number of temporary field hospitals across the country.⁷³⁴⁸ To pre-emptively combat COVID-19 outbreaks in educational facilities, the government distributed 800,000 antigen testing kits to schools for early detection, and established 700 vaccination venues at university campuses.⁷³⁴⁹

On 9 September 2021, the Japanese Government announced a pandemic exit strategy. This will ease restrictions on travel, dining and public events for vaccinated people.⁷³⁵⁰ With the hope to reignite the economy, restore public morale and incentivize inoculations the plan will start on an experimental basis on October and will be in full swing by November.⁷³⁵¹

On 18 September 2021, Japan's Digital Agency announced that digitized certificates for people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 will be issued by the end of this year.⁷³⁵² Digitalized infrastructure is also being built so that restaurants and hotels can access inoculation data records of clients.⁷³⁵³

On 21 September 2021, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare announced that it would give booster shots to people who are above the age of 65 and have gone at least eight months since receiving their second dose early next year.⁷³⁵⁴ Medical personnel are expected to get their booster shots within this year.⁷³⁵⁵

On 24 September 2021, the leaders of the United States, Japan, India and Australia met at their first in-person person summit of the Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.⁷³⁵⁶ Following the summit in March, the quartet released a joint statement promoting “a free, open rules-based order.” This statement encouraged and pledged to combine “medical, scientific, financing, manufacturing and delivery” capacity for COVID-19 vaccines, and combating climate change.⁷³⁵⁷

Japan has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by enacting quarantine guidelines, entering a Quad Vaccine Partnership and administering a robust vaccination strategy.

⁷³⁴⁸ Press conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00013.html

⁷³⁴⁹ Press conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00013.html

⁷³⁵⁰ Japan sets out pandemic exit strategy after emergency extended (Osaka) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/09/09/national/covid-19-exit-strategy-emergency-extension/>

⁷³⁵¹ Japan sets out pandemic exit strategy after emergency extended (Osaka) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/09/09/national/covid-19-exit-strategy-emergency-extension/>

⁷³⁵² Digitized vaccination certificates to start within the year in Japan (Tokyo) 18 September 2021. Access Date 25 September 2021. <https://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0007788761>

⁷³⁵³ Digitized vaccination certificates to start within the year in Japan (Tokyo) 18 September 2021. Access Date 25 September 2021. <https://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0007788761>

⁷³⁵⁴ Japan's elderly to get COVID-19 booster shots in early 2022 (Tokyo) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/09/21/national/kono-coronavirus-boosters-elderly-2022/>

⁷³⁵⁵ Japan's elderly to get COVID-19 booster shots in early 2022 (Tokyo) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/09/21/national/kono-coronavirus-boosters-elderly-2022/>

⁷³⁵⁶ Here to stay': Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁷³⁵⁷ Here to stay': Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Tamara Saadi

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 23 November 2020, President Moon Jae-in has pledged to the G20 economies that Korea will cooperate with the international community to guarantee fair access to vaccines against COVID-19.⁷³⁵⁸ “He said Korea actively supports the roles of international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Vaccine Institute, adding that the country will help supply vaccines to developing countries.”⁷³⁵⁹

On 23 November 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Welfare co-hosted the “2020 Korea-Latin America and the Caribbean Future Cooperation Forum.”⁷³⁶⁰ Minister of Health and Welfare Park Neunghoo proposed that the participants reinforce solidarity to end COVID-19, including sharing experiences in “3T (Test, Trace, and Treat),” Korea’s key strategy for COVID-19 response, and stressed the importance of joint efforts in fostering medical personnel, promoting cooperation in information communications and technology, and digital health and medical care, and ensuring a fair distribution of vaccines and treatments.⁷³⁶¹

On 25 November 2020, Korea announced it would contribute USD3 million in 2020 to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), which leads global efforts for the development of vaccines for infectious diseases, including COVID-19.⁷³⁶² CEPI is a global health partnership launched in 2017 with the aim to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics.⁷³⁶³ With regard to COVID-19, it is aiming to support the development of a total of nine vaccine candidates, including those under development by Moderna and AstraZeneca.⁷³⁶⁴

On 26 November 2020, the five member states of MIKTA (Korea, Mexico, Indonesia, Turkey and Australia) held the 1st MIKTA Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM).⁷³⁶⁵ The MIKTA Foreign Affairs and Health SOM leaders stressed that it is an urgent matter to improve and reinforce the current global health system, which is led by the WHO and the International Health Regulations, in order to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare for similar health

⁷³⁵⁸ President Moon urges fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 23 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=192059&pageIndex=6>

⁷³⁵⁹ President Moon urges fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 23 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=192059&pageIndex=6>

⁷³⁶⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Welfare Co-host 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 24 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321380

⁷³⁶¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Welfare Co-host 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 24 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321380

⁷³⁶² ROK Government Joins Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321385

⁷³⁶³ ROK Government Joins Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321385

⁷³⁶⁴ ROK Government Joins Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321385

⁷³⁶⁵ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

crises, and agreed to step up cooperation in relevant discussions of the international community as well as in the overall areas of infectious diseases and health and medical care.⁷³⁶⁶

On 2 December 2020, Director-General for Development Cooperation Cho Yeongmoo and Unitaïd’s Executive Director Philippe Duneton held a virtual signing ceremony during which they signed the memorandum of understanding outlining Korea’s support.⁷³⁶⁷ Korea will contribute USD1 million to support the Diagnostic Partnership of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator. This is on top of the contribution of USD5 million made through the Global Disease Eradication Fund.⁷³⁶⁸

On 15 December 2020, the member states of the “Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security” led by Korea, together with co-chairs of the “Global Preparedness Monitoring Board” made up of prominent figures in infectious disease response, held a high-level meeting assessing the COVID-19 response so far in terms of health security and discussed the way forward.⁷³⁶⁹ The participants agreed on the necessity of continued investment in domestic and global health response systems; decisive and responsible leadership and civic engagement; strengthening social security system including universal access to medical care; and response based on multilateralism including partnerships with international financial institutions in order to respond to and prepare for COVID-19 and health security threats in the future.⁷³⁷⁰

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the second virtual meeting on “Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security (NEACHS).”⁷³⁷¹ Deputy Minister for Political Affairs Kim Gunn underscored the need to continue strengthening the momentum for implementing the initiative of NEACHS amid the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and presented ways forward, including seeking out and implementing substantive cooperation projects, cooperating with non-participating countries in a flexible and open manner when needed, and establishing a sustainable institutional framework.⁷³⁷²

On 28 April 2021, Korea announced it will provide India with oxygen concentrators, COVID-19 diagnostic kits and other aid items.⁷³⁷³

On 29 April 2021, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong-moon attended the 77th Session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which took place from 26 to 29 April.⁷³⁷⁴ In his statement, Vice Minister Jong-moon proposed the way forward for regional

⁷³⁶⁶ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

⁷³⁶⁷ Korean Government Contributes US\$1 Million to Unitaïd to Increase Access to COVID-19 Diagnostics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 4 December 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321412

⁷³⁶⁸ Korean Government Contributes US\$1 Million to Unitaïd to Increase Access to COVID-19 Diagnostics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 4 December 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321412

⁷³⁶⁹ Korea-led “Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security” Holds High-level Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321458

⁷³⁷⁰ Korea-led “Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security” Holds High-level Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321458

⁷³⁷¹ 2nd Virtual Meeting on “Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security” Held on Mar. 30, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 31 March 2021. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321611

⁷³⁷² 2nd Virtual Meeting on “Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security” Held on Mar. 30, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 31 March 2021. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321611

⁷³⁷³ The Korean Government to provide support to India in its fight against COVID-19, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of India (New Delhi) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/in-en/brd/m_22090/view.do?seq=761427

⁷³⁷⁴ Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jongmoon Attends 77th Session of UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 29 April 2021. Access date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320612

cooperation in the post-COVID-19 era and expressed Korea's commitment to make contributions and that Korea will continuously contribute to recovering from COVID-19 crisis and shaping an inclusive Asia-Pacific region in the post-COVID-19 era.⁷³⁷⁵

On 12 May 2021, a consignment of medical equipment including 200 oxygen concentrators from Korea reached India as it battles against the second wave of the COVID-19 crisis.⁷³⁷⁶ In addition to this it has already sent another consignment of 230 oxygen concentrators and 100 negative pressure isolation stretchers. India has received outpouring of support from several countries including the US, UK and Russia.⁷³⁷⁷

On 14 May 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Yeo Si-jae (Future Consensus Institute) co-hosted a webinar with global health strategy experts from the US and Korea who monitored ways that the two countries can help mitigate future pandemics.⁷³⁷⁸

On 21 May 2021, on the occasion of President Moon Jae-in's visit to the United States from 19 May to 23 May 2021, the KORUS Global Vaccine Partnership was established to speed up the production and global supply of COVID-19 vaccines, which include the United States' vaccine development technologies, supply raw materials, and the ROK's vaccine manufacturing capabilities.⁷³⁷⁹

On 3 June 2021, the Global Vaccine Production Hub Task Force was launched as an interdepartmental initiative.⁷³⁸⁰ The Task Force will operate programs under the KORUS Global Vaccine Partnership.⁷³⁸¹ It is an interdepartmental team led by the Minister of Health and Welfare, and comprises ten departments, including the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.⁷³⁸²

⁷³⁷⁵ Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jongmoon Attends 77th Session of UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 29 April 2021. Access date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320612

⁷³⁷⁶ COVID-19: Consignment of medical equipment from South Korea (New Delhi) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/covid-19-consignment-of-medical-equipment-from-south-korea-reaches-india/articleshow/82565590.cms>

⁷³⁷⁷ COVID-19: Consignment of medical equipment from South Korea (New Delhi) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/covid-19-consignment-of-medical-equipment-from-south-korea-reaches-india/articleshow/82565590.cms>

⁷³⁷⁸ Webinar on Strengthening the Global Rapid Response System for the Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321686&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=10&titleNm=

⁷³⁷⁹ The Establishment of ROK-US Global Vaccine Partnership, Ministry of Health and Welfare, (Seoul) 24 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=365768

⁷³⁸⁰ Korea as a Global Vaccine Production Hub : Ironing out the Details in the Whole-of-Government Strategy for Scaling-up Production, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 7 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=366323

⁷³⁸¹ Korea as a Global Vaccine Production Hub : Ironing out the Details in the Whole-of-Government Strategy for Scaling-up Production, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 7 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=366323

⁷³⁸² Korea as a Global Vaccine Production Hub : Ironing out the Details in the Whole-of-Government Strategy for Scaling-up Production, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 7 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=366323

On 4 June 2021, Minister Kwon participated in the G7 Health Ministers' Meeting and discussed measures to overcome COVID-19 and future pandemics.⁷³⁸³ The ministers discussed “integrating pandemics surveillance systems based on the One Health approach, utilizing digital technology, supporting developing countries, and realizing sustainable” investment and financing.⁷³⁸⁴

On 4 August 2021, the Government of Korea recommended all foreigners residing in Korea to receive COVID-19 vaccine shots as they will undergo the same application and vaccination process as Korean nationals.⁷³⁸⁵ The government stated that all foreigners residing long-term are eligible to receive free COVID-19 vaccinations regardless of their visa status.⁷³⁸⁶ The announcement also specified that illegal or undocumented long-term residents can also receive vaccinations by visiting community health centers available nationwide.⁷³⁸⁷

On 31 August 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea hosted the 4th virtual meeting on Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security (NEACHS).⁷³⁸⁸ NEACHS is a regional cooperative initiative to strengthen joint response capacity for transboundary health security issues, including COVID-19 and other new infectious diseases.⁷³⁸⁹

On 22 September 2021, the Government of Korea announced that it will donate more than 1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to Vietnam in October.⁷³⁹⁰ This donation will constitute as its first cross-border sharing of its vaccine stockpiles.⁷³⁹¹

On 25 September 2021, the Korea Disease Control Prevention Agency announced that it will begin administering COVID-19 vaccine doses to pregnant women and younger women in order to expand its

⁷³⁸³ Minister Kwon participates in G7 Health Ministers' Meeting (6.4.), Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 11 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=366060

⁷³⁸⁴ Minister Kwon participates in G7 Health Ministers' Meeting (6.4.), Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 11 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=366060

⁷³⁸⁵ Korea urges foreigners to quickly get free COVID-19 vaccines, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210804008900315>

⁷³⁸⁶ Korea urges foreigners to quickly get free COVID-19 vaccines, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210804008900315>

⁷³⁸⁷ Korea urges foreigners to quickly get free COVID-19 vaccines, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210804008900315>

⁷³⁸⁸ Fourth Virtual Meeting on Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security Held on August 31, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 7 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321832&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=1&titleNm=

⁷³⁸⁹ Fourth Virtual Meeting on Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security Held on August 31, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 7 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321832&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=1&titleNm=

⁷³⁹⁰ S. Korea to donate 1 mln COVID-19 vaccine doses to Vietnam in October, Reuters (London) 22 September 2021.

Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/skorea-donate-1-mln-covid-19-vaccine-doses-vietnam-october-2021-09-22/>

⁷³⁹¹ S. Korea to donate 1 mln COVID-19 vaccine doses to Vietnam in October, Reuters (London) 22 September 2021.

Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/skorea-donate-1-mln-covid-19-vaccine-doses-vietnam-october-2021-09-22/>

vaccination campaign.⁷³⁹² As of 25 September 2021, a total of 27.13 million people received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, or 72.3 per cent of the country's population.⁷³⁹³

Korea has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by participating in the 3T (Test, Trace, Treat) program with Latin America, contributing USD6 million to Unitaaid and to fund vaccine equity and providing support to CEPI and demonstrating other public health initiatives.

Thus, Korea has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sydney Grad

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 21 December 2020, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced the expansion of hospital capacity in Mexico City to care for COVID-19 patients.⁷³⁹⁴ He mentioned the creation of a newly built and fully equipped 120 bed hospital in Mexico City.⁷³⁹⁵ He added that the Secretary of the Navy and Secretary of Defense are managing the expansion of spaces, the acquisition of equipment, and the hiring of doctors to tend to COVID-19 patients.⁷³⁹⁶

On 22 December 2020, President López Obrador announced the arrival of the first shipment of the Pfizer vaccine.⁷³⁹⁷ He stated that vaccines will be universally available and free for the population.⁷³⁹⁸ Vaccines will be distributed through a priority system, where health personnel and elderly/vulnerable populations are prioritized.⁷³⁹⁹

On 19 January 2021, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard announced Mexico reached agreements with several pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer, Astrazeneca, and CanSino for vaccination doses.⁷⁴⁰⁰

⁷³⁹² Korea to start vaccinating pregnant women, younger children next month, The Korea Times (Seoul) 25 September 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/09/113_315991.html

⁷³⁹³ Korea to start vaccinating pregnant women, younger children next month, The Korea Times (Seoul) 25 September 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/09/113_315991.html

⁷³⁹⁴ Hospital Capacity Is Expanded in CDMX To Attend COVID-19: President; Summons Citizens to Stay at Home, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/se-amplia-capacidad-hospitalaria-en-cdmx-para-atender-covid-19-presidente-convoca-a-ciudadania-a-quedarse-en-casa/>

⁷³⁹⁵ Hospital Capacity Is Expanded in CDMX To Attend COVID-19: President; Summons Citizens to Stay at Home, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/se-amplia-capacidad-hospitalaria-en-cdmx-para-atender-covid-19-presidente-convoca-a-ciudadania-a-quedarse-en-casa/>

⁷³⁹⁶ Hospital Capacity Is Expanded in CDMX To Attend COVID-19: President; Summons Citizens to Stay at Home, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/se-amplia-capacidad-hospitalaria-en-cdmx-para-atender-covid-19-presidente-convoca-a-ciudadania-a-quedarse-en-casa/>

⁷³⁹⁷ Vaccine application will be universal and free: president; Tomorrow the first shipment of Pfizer will arrive in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/aplicacion-de-vacuna-sera-universal-y-gratuita-presidente-manana-arribara-primer-embarque-de-pfizer-a-mexico/>

⁷³⁹⁸ Vaccine application will be universal and free: president; Tomorrow the first shipment of Pfizer will arrive in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/aplicacion-de-vacuna-sera-universal-y-gratuita-presidente-manana-arribara-primer-embarque-de-pfizer-a-mexico/>

⁷³⁹⁹ Vaccine application will be universal and free: president; Tomorrow the first shipment of Pfizer will arrive in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/aplicacion-de-vacuna-sera-universal-y-gratuita-presidente-manana-arribara-primer-embarque-de-pfizer-a-mexico/>

⁷⁴⁰⁰ Over 14 million Mexicans will receive COVID-19 vaccinations in the first quarter of 2021, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/over-14-million-mexicans-will-receive-covid-19-vaccinations-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021>

Mexico is to receive over 21 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine during the first quarter of 2021.⁷⁴⁰¹ This will aim to vaccinate approximately 14 million people.⁷⁴⁰²

On 3 March 2021, the Foreign Ministry and the National Autonomous University of Mexico announced a partnership that would administer a centralized laboratory to measure immunity against COVID-19.⁷⁴⁰³ The capacities of this lab will be essential in developing vaccines for COVID-19 and any future pandemics. The partnership is also a part of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), which is a member of the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access group, a facility that seeks equitable vaccine distribution.⁷⁴⁰⁴

On 9 March 2021, President López Obrador and Foreign Secretary Ebrard announced that Mexico will be receiving an additional 22 million doses of China's Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines against COVID-19.⁷⁴⁰⁵ Foreign Secretary Ebrard also added that, with the input of local authorities, Mexico's consulates in Atlanta, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Sacramento and Saint Paul are vaccinating the Mexican community in the US against COVID-19.⁷⁴⁰⁶

On 13 April 2021, President López Obrador announced the development of the Mexican COVID Vaccine Patria.⁷⁴⁰⁷ The National Council of Science and Technology, the Mexican Agency of International Development and the Ministry of Exterior Relations invested a total of MXN150 million for vaccine development.⁷⁴⁰⁸ The Patria vaccine would assist in ensuring the welfare of the population and reduce national cost of vaccine imports.⁷⁴⁰⁹

On 10 May 2021, the Monitoring Committee of Mexico City downgraded the traffic light status from orange to yellow.⁷⁴¹⁰ This allowed for face-to-face interaction to resume in the office space as along as capacity was at 20 per cent. In addition to this companies that bring employees back on site must strictly adhere to sanitizing procedures and must conduct at their own expense a COVID-19 test on

⁷⁴⁰¹ Over 14 million Mexicans will receive COVID-19 vaccinations in the first quarter of 2021, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/over-14-million-mexicans-will-receive-covid-19-vaccinations-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021>

⁷⁴⁰² Over 14 million Mexicans will receive COVID-19 vaccinations in the first quarter of 2021, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/over-14-million-mexicans-will-receive-covid-19-vaccinations-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021>

⁷⁴⁰³ Mexico to play a leading role in developing vaccines, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-to-enhance-its-capabilities-and-play-a-leading-role-in-developing-vaccines>

⁷⁴⁰⁴ Mexico to play a leading role in developing vaccines, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-to-enhance-its-capabilities-and-play-a-leading-role-in-developing-vaccines>

⁷⁴⁰⁵ Mexico accelerates National Vaccination Plan; will receive 22 million additional doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/mexico-accelerates-national-vaccination-plan-will-receive-22-million-additional-doses-of-sinovac-and-sinopharm-vaccines-266424>

⁷⁴⁰⁶ Mexico accelerates National Vaccination Plan; will receive 22 million additional doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/mexico-accelerates-national-vaccination-plan-will-receive-22-million-additional-doses-of-sinovac-and-sinopharm-vaccines-266424>

⁷⁴⁰⁷ Development of The Mexican Vaccine 'Patria' Against COVID-19 Advances, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/avanza-desarrollo-de-la-vacuna-mexicana-patria-contra-covid-19/>

⁷⁴⁰⁸ Development of The Mexican Vaccine 'Patria' Against COVID-19 Advances, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/avanza-desarrollo-de-la-vacuna-mexicana-patria-contra-covid-19/>

⁷⁴⁰⁹ Development of The Mexican Vaccine 'Patria' Against COVID-19 Advances, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/avanza-desarrollo-de-la-vacuna-mexicana-patria-contra-covid-19/>

⁷⁴¹⁰ Mexico's COVID-19 Traffic Light Monitoring System: News for May 10–23, 2021 (Mexico City) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/mexico-s-covid-19-traffic-light-monitoring-system-news-may-10-23-2021>

20 per cent of their staff.⁷⁴¹¹ It was also announced to the public that employees must be aware of the Administrative Verification Institute which along with Mexico City will carry out supervision and surveillance activities ensuing that protocols are being abided by. In absence of these measures' fines and partial or total suspension may be ordered for a period of 15 days.⁷⁴¹²

On 11 May 2021, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard announced that Mexico will host the Phase III trials of the Chinese Walvax Vaccine.⁷⁴¹³ Following approval from the Federal Commission for Protection against Health Risks (Cofepris), 6000 volunteers will be administered the vaccine in order to test its safety and efficacy.⁷⁴¹⁴ Ebrard further stated that Mexico is finalizing details surrounding the administration of Russia's Sputnik Light Vaccine in Mexico.⁷⁴¹⁵

On 18 May 2021, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard announced that Mexico will double its supply of COVID-19 vaccines.⁷⁴¹⁶ Mexico has received approximately 35 million doses.⁷⁴¹⁷ It is expected to receive over 68 million more doses by the end of June.⁷⁴¹⁸ Ebrard stated that this was possible due to the President's Vaccine strategy, which saw Mexico packaging the active ingredient of vaccines in return for establishing contact with foreign entities.⁷⁴¹⁹

On 15 June 2021, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced that 1.35 million doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine had arrived.⁷⁴²⁰ He stated that another shipment has been requested of the same amount to vaccinate the border population within Mexico.⁷⁴²¹ Foreign Secretary Marcelo

⁷⁴¹¹ Mexico's COVID-19 Traffic Light Monitoring System: News for May 10–23, 2021 (Mexico City) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/mexico-s-covid-19-traffic-light-monitoring-system-news-may-10-23-2021>

⁷⁴¹² Mexico's COVID-19 Traffic Light Monitoring System: News for May 10–23, 2021 (Mexico City) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/mexico-s-covid-19-traffic-light-monitoring-system-news-may-10-23-2021>

⁷⁴¹³ Phase III trials of the Chinese Walvax vaccine to take place in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/phase-iii-trials-of-the-chinese-walvax-vaccine-to-take-place-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴¹⁴ Phase III trials of the Chinese Walvax vaccine to take place in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/phase-iii-trials-of-the-chinese-walvax-vaccine-to-take-place-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴¹⁵ Phase III trials of the Chinese Walvax vaccine to take place in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/phase-iii-trials-of-the-chinese-walvax-vaccine-to-take-place-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴¹⁶ Mexico to double the supply of vaccines: Secretary Ebrard, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-to-double-the-supply-of-vaccines-secretary-ebrard?idiom=en>

⁷⁴¹⁷ Mexico to double the supply of vaccines: Secretary Ebrard, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-to-double-the-supply-of-vaccines-secretary-ebrard?idiom=en>

⁷⁴¹⁸ Mexico to double the supply of vaccines: Secretary Ebrard, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-to-double-the-supply-of-vaccines-secretary-ebrard?idiom=en>

⁷⁴¹⁹ COVID-19 vaccine supply ramps up thanks to fill and finish capacity in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/covid-19-vaccine-supply-ramps-up-thanks-to-fill-and-finish-capacity-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁰ 1.35 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine arrive following bilateral agreement with US, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/bilateral-agreement-with-us-leads-to-the-arrival-of-1-35-million-doses-of-the-johnson-johnson-vaccine?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²¹ 1.35 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine arrive following bilateral agreement with US, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/bilateral-agreement-with-us-leads-to-the-arrival-of-1-35-million-doses-of-the-johnson-johnson-vaccine?idiom=en>

Ebrard stated that the shipment was a result of collaboration between Mexico and the United States.⁷⁴²²

On 21 July 2021, the Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights Martha Delgado, went to Italy to meet with the Director of Italy's Lazzaro Spallanzani National Institute for Infectious disease.⁷⁴²³ Delgado sought cooperation to produce the Institute's GRAD-COV2 vaccine in Mexico.⁷⁴²⁴ The vaccine will soon be undergoing its Phase III trials, and is expected to be authorized for emergency use by the European Medicines Agency.⁷⁴²⁵

On 28 July 2021, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard announced that Mexico's final shipment of the Sinovac vaccine had arrived.⁷⁴²⁶ The shipment contained 2.5 million doses of the vaccine, completing the 20 million dose contract.⁷⁴²⁷ Mexico has received over 82 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine through the nation's vaccination campaign.⁷⁴²⁸

On 8 August 2021, the Mexican Foreign Ministry announced that passport issuance will be reduced to 30 per cent in states with higher COVID case numbers.⁷⁴²⁹ This is in response to a resurgence of COVID-19 cases within the country.⁷⁴³⁰ The ministry hopes to reduce overall case numbers by preventing transmission within passport offices.⁷⁴³¹ The rest of the states will be monitored, and immediate action will be taken if case numbers rise.⁷⁴³²

On 10 August 2021, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard reported that Mexico will receive 3.5 million doses of Moderna and 5 million doses of the Astrazeneca vaccine from the United States⁷⁴³³ This is

⁷⁴²² 1.35 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine arrive following bilateral agreement with US, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/bilateral-agreement-with-us-leads-to-the-arrival-of-1-35-million-doses-of-the-johnson-johnson-vaccine?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²³ The Foreign Ministry holds talks in Italy on producing a new Covid-19 vaccine in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-holds-talks-in-italy-on-potential-production-of-new-covid-19-vaccine-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁴ The Foreign Ministry holds talks in Italy on producing a new Covid-19 vaccine in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-holds-talks-in-italy-on-potential-production-of-new-covid-19-vaccine-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁵ The Foreign Ministry holds talks in Italy on producing a new Covid-19 vaccine in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-holds-talks-in-italy-on-potential-production-of-new-covid-19-vaccine-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁶ Final shipment of Sinovac vaccines delivered, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/final-shipment-of-sinovac-vaccines-delivered?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁷ Final shipment of Sinovac vaccines delivered, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/final-shipment-of-sinovac-vaccines-delivered?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁸ Final shipment of Sinovac vaccines delivered, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/final-shipment-of-sinovac-vaccines-delivered?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁹ The Foreign Ministry reduces passport service due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-reduces-passport-service-due-to-the-rising-number-of-covid-19-cases?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³⁰ The Foreign Ministry reduces passport service due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-reduces-passport-service-due-to-the-rising-number-of-covid-19-cases?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³¹ The Foreign Ministry reduces passport service due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-reduces-passport-service-due-to-the-rising-number-of-covid-19-cases?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³² The Foreign Ministry reduces passport service due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-reduces-passport-service-due-to-the-rising-number-of-covid-19-cases?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³³ Mexico will receive up to 8.5 million vaccine doses thanks to cooperation with US, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-will-receive-up-to-8-5-million-vaccine-doses-thanks-to-cooperation-with-us?idiom=en>

due to the cooperation of Mexican President López Obrador and United States Vice President Kamala Harris.⁷⁴³⁴ Further, it is revealed the Mexican government advocated to the G20 that all countries should utilize WHO authorized emergency vaccines.⁷⁴³⁵

On 7 September 2021, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard announced that Mexico has received over a 100 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷⁴³⁶ He stated that by the end of 2021, Mexico is on track to achieve its target of 150 million doses.⁷⁴³⁷ Further, Mexico will be sending vaccine shipments to Honduras, Bolivia, Jamaica, Paraguay, Nicaragua, and Belize in the coming months, in order to combat the global spread of COVID-19.⁷⁴³⁸

Mexico has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by administering the vaccination campaign, becoming a member of the COVAX group and demonstrating other public health initiatives.

Thus, Mexico has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Shafna Kallil

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 28 November 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs announced that 1.1 million people have been fined for violating coronavirus rules, including not wearing a mask and gloves, bringing in at least RUB1.7 billion.⁷⁴³⁹ The aim of these fines is to enforce the rules that prevent the spread of the virus and prosecute those who put public health at risk.⁷⁴⁴⁰

On 22 December 2020, Russia temporarily suspended air travel from the United Kingdom.⁷⁴⁴¹ The aim of the flight restrictions is to avoid the new strain of the novel coronavirus from entering the country.⁷⁴⁴²

⁷⁴³⁴ Mexico will receive up to 8.5 million vaccine doses thanks to cooperation with US, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-will-receive-up-to-8-5-million-vaccine-doses-thanks-to-cooperation-with-us?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³⁵ Mexico will receive up to 8.5 million vaccine doses thanks to cooperation with US, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-will-receive-up-to-8-5-million-vaccine-doses-thanks-to-cooperation-with-us?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³⁶ Mexico will have received a total of 120 million vaccine doses by early October: Ebrard, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-will-have-received-a-total-of-120-million-vaccine-doses-by-early-october-ebrard?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³⁷ Mexico will have received a total of 120 million vaccine doses by early October: Ebrard, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-will-have-received-a-total-of-120-million-vaccine-doses-by-early-october-ebrard?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³⁸ Mexico will have received a total of 120 million vaccine doses by early October: Ebrard, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-will-have-received-a-total-of-120-million-vaccine-doses-by-early-october-ebrard?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³⁹ Over 1.1 million Russians fined for violating coronavirus restrictions, TASS (Moscow) 28 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/10119985>

⁷⁴⁴⁰ Over 1.1 million Russians fined for violating coronavirus restrictions, TASS (Moscow) 28 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/10119985>

⁷⁴⁴¹ Russia temporarily suspends UK flights, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41178/>

⁷⁴⁴² Russia temporarily suspends UK flights, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41178/>

On 12 February 2021, Russia allocated RUB25.4 billion to fund hospitals.⁷⁴⁴³ The goal of this funding is to alleviate the high financial burden hospitals have faced due to the coronavirus and to allow the healthcare system to fulfil their responsibilities to their patients.⁷⁴⁴⁴

On 18 February 2021, the National International Health Regulations Focal Point for the Russian Federation alerted the World Health Organization (WHO) of the first reported cases of avian influenza A(H5N8) in seven humans working in a poultry farm.⁷⁴⁴⁵ There are no reported cases of transmission and chances “of human-to-human transmission remains low.”⁷⁴⁴⁶ The reason for Russia notifying the WHO is to ensure that proper protocols are taken to prevent the spread of a potential virus, and to research and assess the influenza.⁷⁴⁴⁷ The WHO is assisting health officials in Russia to ensure that proper measures are taken to protect public health, and is also assessing virus samples.⁷⁴⁴⁸

On 16 March 2021, Russia announced that it had detected two cases of the South African COVID-19 variant and 28 cases of the UK COVID-19 variant within Russia’s border.⁷⁴⁴⁹ The announcement aimed to alert Russians that the foreign strains have made their way into the country and stay alert of them.⁷⁴⁵⁰

On 25 March 2021, President Vladimir Putin declared the coming week to be a non-working week from 28 March to 5 April 2021, encouraging people to stay home.⁷⁴⁵¹ The aim of this order is to prevent the accelerating spread of COVID-19.⁷⁴⁵²

On 13 April 2021, Russia announced that most flights from and to Turkey and Tanzania would be suspended due to the accelerating COVID-19 cases from 15 April to 1 June 2021.⁷⁴⁵³ Many Russian tourists from these two destinations have contracted COVID-19, with a 80 per cent of COVID-19 cases that came from abroad were from Turkey.⁷⁴⁵⁴

⁷⁴⁴³ Mikhail Mishustin signed an order on the allocation of more than 25.4 billion rubles for additional financing of hospitals and clinics, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41557/>

⁷⁴⁴⁴ Mikhail Mishustin signed an order on the allocation of more than 25.4 billion rubles for additional financing of hospitals and clinics, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41557/>

⁷⁴⁴⁵ Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N8) – the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

⁷⁴⁴⁶ Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N8) – the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

⁷⁴⁴⁷ Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N8) – the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

⁷⁴⁴⁸ Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N8) – the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

⁷⁴⁴⁹ Russia detects 78 cases of British coronavirus strain, TASS (Moscow) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.com/society/1273029>

⁷⁴⁵⁰ Russia detects 78 cases of British coronavirus strain, TASS (Moscow) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.com/society/1273029>

⁷⁴⁵¹ Putin declared the next week non-working, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/25/03/2020/5e7b5c939a7947f15a9150f0>

⁷⁴⁵² Putin declared the next week non-working, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/25/03/2020/5e7b5c939a7947f15a9150f0>

⁷⁴⁵³ Half a Million Russians Shut Out of Turkey After Virus Restricts Travel Again, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/04/13/half-a-million-russians-shut-out-of-turkey-after-virus-restricts-travel-again-a73571>

⁷⁴⁵⁴ Russia Suspends Most Air Travel With Turkey Over COVID Outbreak, BloombergQuint (Mumbai) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.bloombergquint.com/politics/russia-suspends-most-air-travel-with-turkey-until-june-1>

On 13 April 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that they will make the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory for specific professions, such as doctors and teachers.⁷⁴⁵⁵ This measure will ensure all frontline and vulnerable workers are eventually vaccinated to protect themselves.⁷⁴⁵⁶

On 20 April 2021, Russia announced that starting 1 May 2021, all Russians arriving from abroad must complete two coronavirus tests within 5 days after their arrival, both tests at least one day apart.⁷⁴⁵⁷ Those arriving from Turkey and Tanzania will have to fulfil this requirement starting 21 April 2021.⁷⁴⁵⁸ Rospotrebnadzor employees can conduct selective testing for foreign travelers into Russia.⁷⁴⁵⁹ This measure is intended to ensure most incoming travelers do not carry the virus and carry the risk of spreading it.⁷⁴⁶⁰

On 26 April 2021, President Vladimir Putin announced that the dates 4 May 2021 until 7 May 2021 would be non-working days.⁷⁴⁶¹ Considering 1 May 2021 to 3 May 2021 and 8 May 2021 to 10 May 2021 are national holidays, Russians will have a total of 10 days off work.⁷⁴⁶² This measure is a part of the Ministry of Health's efforts to ensure that coronavirus cases do not spike due to the May holidays.⁷⁴⁶³

On 13 May 2021, Russia announced its detection its first case of the Indian variant of COVID-19.⁷⁴⁶⁴

On 13 July 2021, Russia was announced that 31 regions throughout the country introduced mandatory vaccinations.⁷⁴⁶⁵ The heads of all these regions in Russia have signed decrees that make it mandatory for certain categories of people to vaccinate, such as those who work within the service sectors.⁷⁴⁶⁶ For instance, the Perm Territory requires a minimum of “60 per cent of employees in the spheres of trade, services, catering, education” and other industries to vaccinate.⁷⁴⁶⁷ Due to the high

⁷⁴⁵⁵ The Ministry of Health will change the rules of vaccination against coronavirus for doctors and teachers, Association of Lawyers of Russia (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://alrf.ru/news/minzdrav-izmenit-pravila-vaktsinatsii-ot-koronavirusa-dlya-medikov-i-uchiteley/>

⁷⁴⁵⁶ The Ministry of Health will change the rules of vaccination against coronavirus for doctors and teachers, Association of Lawyers of Russia (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://alrf.ru/news/minzdrav-izmenit-pravila-vaktsinatsii-ot-koronavirusa-dlya-medikov-i-uchiteley/>

⁷⁴⁵⁷ Russians arriving from abroad will be obliged to take a test for COVID-19 twice, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/20/04/2021/607ef8459a794748b206f674>

⁷⁴⁵⁸ Russians arriving from abroad will be obliged to take a test for COVID-19 twice, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/20/04/2021/607ef8459a794748b206f674>

⁷⁴⁵⁹ Russians arriving from abroad will be obliged to take a test for COVID-19 twice, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/20/04/2021/607ef8459a794748b206f674>

⁷⁴⁶⁰ Russians arriving from abroad will be obliged to take a test for COVID-19 twice, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/20/04/2021/607ef8459a794748b206f674>

⁷⁴⁶¹ The Ministry of Health takes measures to prevent the growth of cases of COVID-19 during the May holidays, TASS (Moscow) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/11243647>

⁷⁴⁶² The Ministry of Health takes measures to prevent the growth of cases of COVID-19 during the May holidays, TASS (Moscow) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/11243647>

⁷⁴⁶³ The Ministry of Health takes measures to prevent the growth of cases of COVID-19 during the May holidays, TASS (Moscow) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/11243647>

⁷⁴⁶⁴ Russia records first cases of COVID variant found in India (New Delhi) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/russia-records-first-cases-of-covid-variant-found-in-india/articleshow/82598450.cms>

⁷⁴⁶⁵ Mandatory vaccination introduced in more than 30 regions, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/13/07/2021/60edd92e9a7947759b36f922?>

⁷⁴⁶⁶ Mandatory vaccination introduced in more than 30 regions, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/13/07/2021/60edd92e9a7947759b36f922?>

⁷⁴⁶⁷ Mandatory vaccination introduced in more than 30 regions, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/13/07/2021/60edd92e9a7947759b36f922?>

number of cases throughout Russia, various regions started to follow Moscow's lead in taking strict measures to ensure the protection of their people.⁷⁴⁶⁸

On 15 July 2021, Russia was announced that over 70 per cent of healthcare workers were already vaccinated against the coronavirus in Moscow.⁷⁴⁶⁹ This comes after Moscow "mandated the shots for many of those employed in health care, education, retail, public transport and hospitality and services sector."⁷⁴⁷⁰ In addition, 66 per cent of education workers and 76 per cent of social workers also got the vaccine.⁷⁴⁷¹ This increase in vaccination came as a result of Moscow's decision to make vaccines obligatory to certain sectors due to the increased number of cases.⁷⁴⁷²

On 19 July 2021, Russia announced that vaccination centers will open at the seaport, central market, shopping centres and the city circus in Sochi.⁷⁴⁷³ So far, 43 per cent of Sochi's residents are vaccinated.⁷⁴⁷⁴ This initiative is supposed to provide its residents with several accessible areas to vaccinate in order to protect everyone from the novel coronavirus and its variants.⁷⁴⁷⁵

On 19 July 2021, Deputy Prime Minister for Social Policy, Labour, Health and Pension Provision Tatyana Golikova, announced that Russia had developed a project known as the "sanitary shield" in which RUB30 billion was going to be allocated to protect Russia against future pandemics and viruses.⁷⁴⁷⁶ The project's goal is to prevent the transfer of dangerous viruses into Russia, prevent potential pandemics from arising, create new testing systems in only four days to detect viruses, develop new vaccines within four months, and create a reliable information source where people can receive updates on the public health situation.⁷⁴⁷⁷ Moreover, existing laboratories will be modernized and new laboratories will be built to further this program.⁷⁴⁷⁸ These goals are to be achieved by the

⁷⁴⁶⁸ Mandatory vaccination introduced in more than 30 regions, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/13/07/2021/60edd92e9a7947759b36f922?>

⁷⁴⁶⁹ Official: Nearly 70% of medical workers in Moscow vaccinated, The Associated Press (New York) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-moscow-da5cc58ff54588907ca7daf73d16ea13>

⁷⁴⁷⁰ Official: Nearly 70% of medical workers in Moscow vaccinated, The Associated Press (New York) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-moscow-da5cc58ff54588907ca7daf73d16ea13>

⁷⁴⁷¹ Official: Nearly 70% of medical workers in Moscow vaccinated, The Associated Press (New York) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-moscow-da5cc58ff54588907ca7daf73d16ea13>

⁷⁴⁷² Official: Nearly 70% of medical workers in Moscow vaccinated, The Associated Press (New York) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-moscow-da5cc58ff54588907ca7daf73d16ea13>

⁷⁴⁷³ In Sochi, vaccination points will be opened in shopping centers, a seaport, a market and a circus, Kommersant (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4908761>

⁷⁴⁷⁴ In Sochi, vaccination points will be opened in shopping centers, a seaport, a market and a circus, Kommersant (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4908761>

⁷⁴⁷⁵ In Sochi, vaccination points will be opened in shopping centers, a seaport, a market and a circus, Kommersant (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4908761>

⁷⁴⁷⁶ Golikova announced the allocation of 30 billion rubles. on the "sanitary shield" of Russia, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/economics/19/07/2021/60f58d8e9a79479b9181263c>

⁷⁴⁷⁷ Golikova announced the allocation of 30 billion rubles. on the "sanitary shield" of Russia, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/economics/19/07/2021/60f58d8e9a79479b9181263c>

⁷⁴⁷⁸ Golikova announced the allocation of 30 billion rubles. on the "sanitary shield" of Russia, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/economics/19/07/2021/60f58d8e9a79479b9181263c>

year 2024.⁷⁴⁷⁹ The initiative ensures that Russia is fully capable of dealing with any future health crises and avoiding a catastrophic pandemic.⁷⁴⁸⁰

On 7 August 2021, the Government of Russia announced that they were allocating RUB127 million from the government's reserve fund "to ensure the work of mobile teams for the treatment of patients with coronavirus."⁷⁴⁸¹ Mobile teams, which are used in many territories in the country, allow specialists "from federal medical institutions and specialized universities" to go to regions with extremely high cases to assist colleagues and help patients.⁷⁴⁸² This fund allocation covers the medical professionals' wages and travel costs.⁷⁴⁸³ The reason for this funding is to assist regions facing difficult waves of the coronavirus by sending professionals.⁷⁴⁸⁴

On 7 August 2021, Egypt announced that it received 175,000 Sputnik V coronavirus vaccinations from Russia.⁷⁴⁸⁵ This exchange is a part of the several shipments Egypt expects in order to fully vaccinate its whole population.⁷⁴⁸⁶ The shipment was implemented to help protect people against the coronavirus and avoid deaths, as well as ensure that every country worldwide has access to vaccines.⁷⁴⁸⁷

On 16 August 2021, Russia extended the suspension of travel from and to Tanzania until 2 September 2021 due to the current health situation in Tanzania.⁷⁴⁸⁸ This measure is to help protect Russia from additional coronavirus cases from entering the country.⁷⁴⁸⁹

On 17 August 2021, Russia announced that it is going to create 15 biosafety level laboratories by the year 2024 under Russia's sanitary shield program.⁷⁴⁹⁰ The country also announced that Moscow

⁷⁴⁷⁹ Golikova announced the allocation of 30 billion rubles. on the "sanitary shield" of Russia, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021.

<https://www.rbc.ru/economics/19/07/2021/60f58d8e9a79479b9181263c>

⁷⁴⁸⁰ Golikova announced the allocation of 30 billion rubles. on the "sanitary shield" of Russia, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021.

<https://www.rbc.ru/economics/19/07/2021/60f58d8e9a79479b9181263c>

⁷⁴⁸¹ The government allocated more than 127 million rubles for the work of mobile teams to help patients with coronavirus, The Russian Government (Moscow) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021.

<http://government.ru/docs/42980/>

⁷⁴⁸² The government allocated more than 127 million rubles for the work of mobile teams to help patients with coronavirus, The Russian Government (Moscow) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021.

<http://government.ru/docs/42980/>

⁷⁴⁸³ The government allocated more than 127 million rubles for the work of mobile teams to help patients with coronavirus, The Russian Government (Moscow) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021.

<http://government.ru/docs/42980/>

⁷⁴⁸⁴ The government allocated more than 127 million rubles for the work of mobile teams to help patients with coronavirus, The Russian Government (Moscow) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021.

<http://government.ru/docs/42980/>

⁷⁴⁸⁵ Egypt receives 175K Russian Sputnik V vaccine doses, Egypt Today (Giza) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/106700/Egypt-receives-175K-Russian-Sputnik-V-vaccine-doses>

⁷⁴⁸⁶ Egypt receives 175K Russian Sputnik V vaccine doses, Egypt Today (Giza) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/106700/Egypt-receives-175K-Russian-Sputnik-V-vaccine-doses>

⁷⁴⁸⁷ Egypt receives 175K Russian Sputnik V vaccine doses, Egypt Today (Giza) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/106700/Egypt-receives-175K-Russian-Sputnik-V-vaccine-doses>

⁷⁴⁸⁸ Russia extends suspension of flights with Tanzania until September 2, TASS (Moscow) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1326425>

⁷⁴⁸⁹ Russia extends suspension of flights with Tanzania until September 2, TASS (Moscow) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1326425>

⁷⁴⁹⁰ Russia to set up 15 highest biosafety level labs by 2024 — watchdog chief, TASS (Moscow) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/science/1327029>

would “expand the network of overseas labs cooperating with Russian laboratories.”⁷⁴⁹¹ The reason for these measures is to ensure Russia is prepared and secured in the case of any future health emergencies.⁷⁴⁹² Additionally, expanding the network of foreign labs will help Russia identify potential arising risks.⁷⁴⁹³ The development of these biosafety level laboratories will also help develop “express testing methods to detect various infections within an hour.”⁷⁴⁹⁴

On 3 September 2021, Russia announced that it will have 30 laboratories open by the year 2030 which will function to work with dangerous viruses that may develop to fatal diseases.⁷⁴⁹⁵ These labs will ensure that sufficient research can be done on these viruses to ensure the security of Russians against potentially dangerous health crises.⁷⁴⁹⁶

On 3 September 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers announced that they were allocating RUB2 billion from the government’s reserve fund to open 15 new PCR screening centers in large Russian cities and laboratories, such as mobile laboratories, as well as other measures to ensure the effectiveness of the sanitary shield.⁷⁴⁹⁷ The reason behind this investment is to accelerate “diagnosis of infectious diseases” in order to prevent the spread of contagious diseases and to create a sanitary shield around the country.⁷⁴⁹⁸

On 4 September 2021, it was announced that Russia will send 20 million Sputnik V coronavirus vaccinations to Vietnam.⁷⁴⁹⁹ This is due to the fact that only three per cent of Vietnam’s 98 million population has been vaccinated, and the Delta variant has devastated the country despite strict measures to keep the virus under control.⁷⁵⁰⁰ In addition, providing vaccines will help prevent deaths as well as ensure that every country worldwide has access to vaccines.⁷⁵⁰¹

On 6 September 2021, Russia announced that RUB223 million, out of the RUB2 billion fund for curbing the spread of infectious diseases, will be allocated to set up PCR screening centres in regional capitals and large cities throughout Russia, including Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Samara and

⁷⁴⁹¹ Russia to set up 15 highest biosafety level labs by 2024 — watchdog chief, TASS (Moscow) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/science/1327029>

⁷⁴⁹² Russia to set up 15 highest biosafety level labs by 2024 — watchdog chief, TASS (Moscow) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/science/1327029>

⁷⁴⁹³ Russia to set up 15 highest biosafety level labs by 2024 — watchdog chief, TASS (Moscow) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/science/1327029>

⁷⁴⁹⁴ Russia to set up 15 highest biosafety level labs by 2024 — watchdog chief, TASS (Moscow) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/science/1327029>

⁷⁴⁹⁵ In Russia in 2030 there will be 30 laboratories working with dangerous viruses, Kommersant (Moscow) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4968471>

⁷⁴⁹⁶ In Russia in 2030 there will be 30 laboratories working with dangerous viruses, Kommersant (Moscow) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4968471>

⁷⁴⁹⁷ The Cabinet of Ministers will direct 2 billion rubles for measures to create a sanitary shield, TASS (Moscow) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/12297199>

⁷⁴⁹⁸ The Cabinet of Ministers will direct 2 billion rubles for measures to create a sanitary shield, TASS (Moscow) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/12297199>

⁷⁴⁹⁹ Vietnam to get 20 million Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine doses from Russia in 2021, The Straits Times (Toa Payoh) 4 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/vietnam-to-get-20-million-sputnik-v-covid-19-doses-from-russia-in-2021>

⁷⁵⁰⁰ Vietnam to get 20 million Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine doses from Russia in 2021, The Straits Times (Toa Payoh) 4 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/vietnam-to-get-20-million-sputnik-v-covid-19-doses-from-russia-in-2021>

⁷⁵⁰¹ Vietnam to get 20 million Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine doses from Russia in 2021, The Straits Times (Toa Payoh) 4 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/vietnam-to-get-20-million-sputnik-v-covid-19-doses-from-russia-in-2021>

Omsk.⁷⁵⁰² The funding will come from the government's reserve fund.⁷⁵⁰³ The purpose of this fund allocation is to ensure that sufficient diagnostic measures are set in place to reduce the risk of the fast spread of the coronavirus.⁷⁵⁰⁴

On 7 September 2021, the Government of Russia announced that the rest of the RUB2 billion will go towards funding the creation of four biochemical laboratories.⁷⁵⁰⁵ These laboratories are meant to focus on studying the coronavirus variants and other new infectious diseases.⁷⁵⁰⁶ The laboratories also focus on tracking, identifying and diagnosing viruses.⁷⁵⁰⁷ The reason for funding the creation of these new biochemical laboratories is to ensure the success of the sanitary shield in protecting Russians against the spread of viruses.⁷⁵⁰⁸

On 7 September 2021, the Government of Russia announced that PCR centers were opening in the city of Yekaterinburg following the RUB223 million allocation towards opening PCR centers throughout the country.⁷⁵⁰⁹ The reason behind the opening of this center in Yekaterinburg is to boost diagnostic tests to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.⁷⁵¹⁰

Russia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic prevention, detection and response. Through social distancing and quarantine, it has prevented the spread of infectious diseases, detected COVID-19 variants and concealed viruses, and responded to the health emergency by administering a robust vaccination strategy. However, it has not demonstrated strong action in the preparedness area.

Thus, Russia has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Rawan Barakat

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

⁷⁵⁰² The government approves the allocation of 2 billion rubles for measures to combat the spread of infections, The Russian Government (Moscow) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021.

<http://government.ru/docs/43198/>

⁷⁵⁰³ The government approves the allocation of 2 billion rubles for measures to combat the spread of infections, The Russian Government (Moscow) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021.

<http://government.ru/docs/43198/>

⁷⁵⁰⁴ The government approves the allocation of 2 billion rubles for measures to combat the spread of infections, The Russian Government (Moscow) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021.

<http://government.ru/docs/43198/>

⁷⁵⁰⁵ The government aligned funds for opening a PCR center in Petersburg, 78 (Saint Petersburg) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. https://78.ru/news/2021-09-07/pravitelstvo_videlilo_sredstva_na_otkритie_pcrcentra_v_peterburge

⁷⁵⁰⁶ The government aligned funds for opening a PCR center in Petersburg, 78 (Saint Petersburg) 7 September 2021.

Access Date: 9 September 2021. https://78.ru/news/2021-09-07/pravitelstvo_videlilo_sredstva_na_otkритie_pcrcentra_v_peterburge

⁷⁵⁰⁷ The government aligned funds for opening a PCR center in Petersburg, 78 (Saint Petersburg) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. https://78.ru/news/2021-09-07/pravitelstvo_videlilo_sredstva_na_otkритie_pcrcentra_v_peterburge

⁷⁵⁰⁸ The government aligned funds for opening a PCR center in Petersburg, 78 (Saint Petersburg) 7 September 2021.

Access Date: 9 September 2021. https://78.ru/news/2021-09-07/pravitelstvo_videlilo_sredstva_na_otkритie_pcrcentra_v_peterburge

⁷⁵⁰⁹ The Russian government allocated funds for the creation of a PCR center in Yekaterinburg, Kommersant (Moscow) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4976391>

⁷⁵¹⁰ The Russian government allocated funds for the creation of a PCR center in Yekaterinburg, Kommersant (Moscow) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4976391>

On 10 December 2020, Saudi Food and Drug Authority approved the registration of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, initiating preparations for mass immunization against the novel coronavirus pandemic.⁷⁵¹¹ The Authority will conduct routine checks and analyze samples from each incoming vaccine shipment before using it for quality assurance and adherence to standards. The Ministry of Health also announced the date of the vaccine's arrival and the start of administration after completing import requirements and other checks.⁷⁵¹²

On 2 January 2021, Saudi Arabia implemented new travel guidelines to prevent the spread of the B.1.1.7 novel coronavirus variant.⁷⁵¹³ All non-citizens entering from the United Kingdom, South Africa, and other countries specified at the discretion of the Ministry of Health, are required to produce a negative COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test prior to traveling.⁷⁵¹⁴ Upon entering the country, they are required to complete a seven day home quarantine period, along with a second PCR test on the sixth day of quarantine.⁷⁵¹⁵ Travelers entering from non-specified countries are required to undertake one PCR test and to complete a minimum of three days under home quarantine.⁷⁵¹⁶

On 25 January 2021, Saudi Arabia launched the Remote Clinics Service to provide non-emergency patients with the option of attending virtual medical appointments.⁷⁵¹⁷ The service aims to minimize non-essential hospital visits and to reduce the rate of coronavirus transmission.⁷⁵¹⁸ The Anat and Sehaty digital platforms made especially for COVID-19 ease patients anxiety and connects them remotely with doctors.

On 16 February 2021, the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of Health Dr. Mohammed Al-Abdulaali advised elderly, chronically ill, obese, and immunocompromised individuals to register for obtaining the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷⁵¹⁹ The aforementioned vulnerable populations were given priority for the first stage of inoculations.⁷⁵²⁰ In addition to vulnerable populations, 27 million medical and health-wise consultations via 937 centers were conducted and the total of accurately administered lab tests reached approximately 13 million. Dr. Abdulaali removed any hesitancy in using the vaccine by saying that many of the deaths were misinformation and the vaccines are proving to be very effective.⁷⁵²¹

⁷⁵¹¹ SFDA Approves Registration of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2166947>

⁷⁵¹² SFDA Approves Registration of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2166947>

⁷⁵¹³ Saudi Arabia Lifts Precautionary Measures Regarding Suspension of All International Flights, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2174495>

⁷⁵¹⁴ Saudi Arabia Lifts Precautionary Measures Regarding Suspension of All International Flights, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2174495>

⁷⁵¹⁵ Saudi Arabia Lifts Precautionary Measures Regarding Suspension of All International Flights, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2174495>

⁷⁵¹⁶ Saudi Arabia Lifts Precautionary Measures Regarding Suspension of All International Flights, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2174495>

⁷⁵¹⁷ Ministry of Health Launches Remote Clinics Service, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2183487>

⁷⁵¹⁸ Ministry of Health Launches Remote Clinics Service, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2183487>

⁷⁵¹⁹ Elders, Sick with Chronic Diseases, Over-Obese Recommended to Register to Obtain Coronavirus Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2192082>

⁷⁵²⁰ Elders, Sick with Chronic Diseases, Over-Obese Recommended to Register to Obtain Coronavirus Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2192082>

⁷⁵²¹ Elders, Sick with Chronic Diseases, Over-Obese Recommended to Register to Obtain Coronavirus Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2192082>

On 1 March 2021, Minister of Health Dr. Tawfig Al-Rabiah reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), the global coalition for the development and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations, tests, and treatments.⁷⁵²² This was in acknowledgement of the first COVID-19 inoculation campaigns in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, which utilized vaccinations produced by COVAX, the ACT-A's vaccine manufacturing facility.⁷⁵²³

On 2 March 2021, Saudi Arabia committed USD430 million in funding towards United Nations humanitarian relief efforts in Yemen, including programs for COVID-19 pandemic response and containment.⁷⁵²⁴ This was part of the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2021 and will be administered through United Nations agencies, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.⁷⁵²⁵

On 4 March 2021, Saudi Ministry of Health announced the expansion of its COVID-19 inoculation program to provide free vaccinations to all Saudi Arabian citizens.⁷⁵²⁶ Pharmacies across the country were authorized to administer vaccines approved by the Ministry of Health for free.⁷⁵²⁷ Saudi Arabia started its inoculation program on 17 December 2020 and 100 vaccination facilities have opened up throughout the country.⁷⁵²⁸

On 5 March 2021, Saudi Arabia announced new restrictions to control and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.⁷⁵²⁹ Under new guidelines, events and parties held in public venues are suspended until further notice, while private social gatherings are limited to 20 people.⁷⁵³⁰ Health authorities will increase inspection campaigns to ensure individuals and businesses are in full compliance with emergency regulations.⁷⁵³¹

On 16 March 2021, health authorities in the Eastern region of Saudi Arabia conducted over 724 inspections of private health facilities, hospitals, and pharmacies to ensure full adherence to COVID-19 preventative measures.⁷⁵³² The Ministry of Health reaffirmed that inspection campaigns will continue to oversee the implementation of pandemic-related regulations.⁷⁵³³

⁷⁵²² First COVID-19 COVAX Vaccine Doses Administered in Africa, UNICEF (Geneva/New York/Oslo) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/first-covid-19-covax-vaccine-doses-administered-africa>

⁷⁵²³ First COVID-19 COVAX Vaccine Doses Administered in Africa, UNICEF (Geneva/New York/Oslo) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/first-covid-19-covax-vaccine-doses-administered-africa>

⁷⁵²⁴ Saudi Arabia Pledges \$430M to UN's Yemen Response, Arab News (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1817931/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵²⁵ Saudi Arabia Pledges \$430M to UN's Yemen Response, Arab News (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1817931/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵²⁶ Saudi Health Minister: COVID-19 Vaccines Will Be Available at Pharmacies For Free, Arab News (Dubai) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1819076/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵²⁷ Saudi Health Minister: COVID-19 Vaccines Will Be Available at Pharmacies For Free, Arab News (Dubai) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1819076/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵²⁸ Saudi Health Minister: COVID-19 Vaccines Will Be Available at Pharmacies For Free, Arab News (Dubai) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1819076/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵²⁹ Saudi Arabia to Lift Ban on Coronavirus-Related Precautionary Measures from Sunday With Exceptions, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2197404>

⁷⁵³⁰ Saudi Arabia to Lift Ban on Coronavirus-Related Precautionary Measures from Sunday With Exceptions, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2197404>

⁷⁵³¹ Saudi Arabia to Lift Ban on Coronavirus-Related Precautionary Measures from Sunday With Exceptions, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2197404>

⁷⁵³² The Eastern Region: 720+ Inspections Conducted to Ensure Precautions Last Week, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-03-16-005.aspx>

⁷⁵³³ The Eastern Region: 720+ Inspections Conducted to Ensure Precautions Last Week, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-03-16-005.aspx>

On 6 April 2021, Saudi Arabia provided a training course for medical practitioners attending to COVID-19 isolation units in Aden, Yemen.⁷⁵³⁴ The course focused on aiding healthcare workers in strengthening necessary skills for treating and containing COVID-19 infections.⁷⁵³⁵

On 12 April 2021, the Ministry of Health launched an online service to provide residents and citizens aged 75 years and above with priority access to COVID-19 vaccinations.⁷⁵³⁶ Through the service, designated individuals are able to receive the vaccine at any vaccination site in the country without prior registration or appointment.⁷⁵³⁷

On 16 April 2021, Saudi Arabia attended the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) virtual summit.⁷⁵³⁸ Saudi Arabia reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to the GAVI COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access initiative to provide equitable global access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.⁷⁵³⁹ Saudi Arabia also confirmed that it has contributed over USD713 million towards global pandemic relief efforts.⁷⁵⁴⁰

On 20 April 2021, Saudi Arabia established the General Authority of Civil Aviation to advance safety and health measures for air travel to prevent the spread of future virus outbreaks and pandemics.⁷⁵⁴¹ The department will operate in cooperation with international bodies such as the International Air Transport Association and the World Health Organization.⁷⁵⁴²

On 12 May 2021, Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan made a phone call to his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar confirming Saudi Arabia's support to India.⁷⁵⁴³ They also

⁷⁵³⁴ KRelief Organizes Training Course to Health Practitioners in COVID-19 Isolation Units in Aden, Saudi Press Agency (Aden) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2211877#2211877>

⁷⁵³⁵ KRelief Organizes Training Course to Health Practitioners in COVID-19 Isolation Units in Aden, Saudi Press Agency (Aden) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2211877#2211877>

⁷⁵³⁶ MOH Launches 'Awlawia' Service for Vaccinating the Elderly without Prior Appointment, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-04-12-007.aspx>

⁷⁵³⁷ MOH Launches 'Awlawia' Service for Vaccinating the Elderly without Prior Appointment, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-04-12-007.aspx>

⁷⁵³⁸ Dr. Al Rabeeah: Saudi Arabia has provided more than \$713 million to contribute in addressing COVID-19 pandemic globally, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2216510#2216510>

⁷⁵³⁹ Dr. Al Rabeeah: Saudi Arabia has provided more than \$713 million to contribute in addressing COVID-19 pandemic globally, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2216510#2216510>

⁷⁵⁴⁰ Dr. Al Rabeeah: Saudi Arabia has provided more than \$713 million to contribute in addressing COVID-19 pandemic globally, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2216510#2216510>

⁷⁵⁴¹ GACA: Aviation Medicine Contributes to Achieving Highest Levels of Safety during Flight, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2219895#2219895>

⁷⁵⁴² GACA: Aviation Medicine Contributes to Achieving Highest Levels of Safety during Flight, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2219895#2219895>

⁷⁵⁴³ Prince Faisal: Saudi Arabia stands in solidarity with India in facing COVID-19 challenges (Jeddah) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/606587/SAUDI-ARABIA/Prince-Faisal-Saudi-Arabia-stands-in-solidarity-with-India-in-facing-COVID-19-challenges>

discussed bilateral relations, aspects of joint cooperation between the two countries, and regional and international developments.⁷⁵⁴⁴

On 19 May 2021, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman committed USD1 billion in funding towards combating COVID-19 outbreaks which spread in low-income African countries.⁷⁵⁴⁵

On 23 May 2021, the Ministry of Health's spokesman Dr. Muhammed Al-Abdulaali announced that it will monitor COVID-19 vaccination status for all individuals participating in any commercial, cultural, entertainment, and sporting activities.⁷⁵⁴⁶ Unvaccinated individuals will no longer be permitted to enter government facilities, private educational facilities, and public transportation.⁷⁵⁴⁷

On 7 June 2021, Saudi Arabia's Health Endowment Fund implemented several initiatives to improve pandemic prevention, detection, and response.⁷⁵⁴⁸ The initiatives included: establishing 23 medical research centres specializing in advancing treatments for COVID-19; establishing field hospitals in three governorates; constructing 120 intensive care units; expanding access to medical supplies for healthcare workers; and providing low-income families with personal protective supplies, such as face masks.⁷⁵⁴⁹

On 13 June 2021, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah restricted the annual Hajj pilgrimage to residents and citizens, barring international travellers from participating in the event.⁷⁵⁵⁰ Anyone permitted to participate will be required to show evidence of having received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine within 2 weeks of attendance.⁷⁵⁵¹

On 30 June 2021, the Adviser at the Royal Court and General Supervisor of the King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Action, Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Rabiah announced that Saudi Arabia will commence plans to become a central regional manufacturer and distributor of COVID-

⁷⁵⁴⁴ Prince Faisal: Saudi Arabia stands in solidarity with India in facing COVID-19 challenges (Jeddah) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/606587/SAUDI-ARABIA/Prince-Faisal-Saudi-Arabia-stands-in-solidarity-with-India-in-facing-COVID-19-challenges>

⁷⁵⁴⁵ Saudi Arabia grants \$1bn to help African countries fight COVID-19, The National News (Riyadh) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-grants-1bn-to-help-african-countries-fight-covid-19-1.1225365>

⁷⁵⁴⁶ MOH: 75% of Newly Detected COVID-19 Cases Attributed to Family Gatherings, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 23 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-05-23-005.aspx>

⁷⁵⁴⁷ MOH: 75% of Newly Detected COVID-19 Cases Attributed to Family Gatherings, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 23 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-05-23-005.aspx>

⁷⁵⁴⁸ HEF Implements 12 Qualitative Initiatives during COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 7 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-06-07-006.aspx>

⁷⁵⁴⁹ HEF Implements 12 Qualitative Initiatives during COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 7 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-06-07-006.aspx>

⁷⁵⁵⁰ Saudi Arabia restricts Hajj to residents for a second year, The National News (Riyadh) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-restricts-hajj-to-residents-for-a-second-year-1.1239709>

⁷⁵⁵¹ Saudi Arabia restricts Hajj to residents for a second year, The National News (Riyadh) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-restricts-hajj-to-residents-for-a-second-year-1.1239709>

19 vaccines and medical supplies, including ventilators and medical gases.⁷⁵⁵² The initiative is aimed towards combating vaccine shortages across the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.⁷⁵⁵³

On 14 July 2021, Saudi Arabia committed an additional USD10 million in support of the WHO's global efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁷⁵⁵⁴ In addition, the country donated medical supplies, personal protective equipment, and COVID-19 vaccinations to Tunisia.⁷⁵⁵⁵

On 17 July 2021, Saudi Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh Issa bin Youssef Al-Duhailan facilitated the donation of medical equipment to Bangladesh in order to aid COVID-19 containment efforts.⁷⁵⁵⁶ The contribution included ventilators and personal protective equipment.⁷⁵⁵⁷

On 27 July 2021, Saudi Arabia set out to impose one of the world's most wide ranging and extensive mandates on vaccination.⁷⁵⁵⁸ This was in the midst of combatting the new delta variant of COVID-19. Saudi citizens will need to show proof on a mobile app that they have received at least one vaccine dose to enter public and private institutions.⁷⁵⁵⁹ Moreover, from 9 August 2021, Saudi citizens will need two doses to travel abroad.⁷⁵⁶⁰

On 1 August 2021, the Ministry of Health enacted regulations requiring all individuals to provide proof of immunization against COVID-19 prior to entering public and private establishments across the country.⁷⁵⁶¹ Citizens have to provide evidence of having received at least one dose of the vaccine in order to participate in any activities or events.⁷⁵⁶² Establishments that fail to adequately enforce these rules will be subject to penalties and closures.⁷⁵⁶³ In addition, individuals must receive two

⁷⁵⁵² Dr. Al Rabeeah Affirms the Kingdom's Readiness to Become a Regional Hub for the Production of COVID-19 Vaccines to Support the Global Supply Chain for Countries in Need, King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (Brindisi) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.ksrelief.org/Pages/NewsDetails/329a19a5-5f9d-441f-8436-d84136e25cb5>

⁷⁵⁵³ Dr. Al Rabeeah Affirms the Kingdom's Readiness to Become a Regional Hub for the Production of COVID-19 Vaccines to Support the Global Supply Chain for Countries in Need, King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (Brindisi) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.ksrelief.org/Pages/NewsDetails/329a19a5-5f9d-441f-8436-d84136e25cb5>

⁷⁵⁵⁴ Saudi Press: Saudi Arabia Supports Tunisia with Vaccines, Medical and Preventative Equipment Urgently to Combat COVID-19, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2258501>

⁷⁵⁵⁵ Saudi Press: Saudi Arabia Supports Tunisia with Vaccines, Medical and Preventative Equipment Urgently to Combat COVID-19, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2258501>

⁷⁵⁵⁶ Saudi Arabia Hands over Medical Aid to Bangladesh to Combat COVID-19, Saudi Press Agency (Dhaka) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2260714>

⁷⁵⁵⁷ Saudi Arabia Hands over Medical Aid to Bangladesh to Combat COVID-19, Saudi Press Agency (Dhaka) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2260714>

⁷⁵⁵⁸ Saudi Arabia to Impose Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate (Riyadh) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/saudi-arabia-to-impose-covid-19-vaccine-mandate-11627402754>

⁷⁵⁵⁹ Saudi Arabia to Impose Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate (Riyadh) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/saudi-arabia-to-impose-covid-19-vaccine-mandate-11627402754>

⁷⁵⁶⁰ Saudi Arabia to Impose Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate (Riyadh) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/saudi-arabia-to-impose-covid-19-vaccine-mandate-11627402754>

⁷⁵⁶¹ MOH: Adhering to Preventive Measures and Vaccination Essential for Preventing COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 1 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-01-007.aspx>

⁷⁵⁶² MOH: Adhering to Preventive Measures and Vaccination Essential for Preventing COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 1 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-01-007.aspx>

⁷⁵⁶³ MOH: Adhering to Preventive Measures and Vaccination Essential for Preventing COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 1 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-01-007.aspx>

doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine to qualify for international travel.⁷⁵⁶⁴ On behalf of the Ministry of Interior, Mr. Talal al-Shalhoub announced that travel bans would remain in place for countries that had been identified as high-risk zones for COVID-19 transmission.⁷⁵⁶⁵

On 15 August 2021, the Ministry of Health launched an in-home vaccination service oriented towards those aged 70 years or older, to ensure that disadvantaged or otherwise incapacitated elderly citizens are able to access and receive the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷⁵⁶⁶ This is a continuation of Saudi Arabia's efforts to bolster vaccine uptake among its most vulnerable populations.⁷⁵⁶⁷

On 22 August 2021, the Ministry of Health approved the use of COVID-19 Vaccine mRNA-1273 (Moderna) for vaccinating children aged 12 to 17 years old.⁷⁵⁶⁸ Additionally, the Ministry released guidance measures targeted towards students and educational faculty members with information to help safeguard against COVID-19 outbreaks upon resuming in-person educational activities.⁷⁵⁶⁹ Students and faculty members must wear face masks during on-campus activities, and must communicate possible symptoms or cases clearly.⁷⁵⁷⁰

On 26 August 2021, Saudi Arabia delivered over 600,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Tunisia, bolstering the country's initiative to immunize its population against COVID-19.⁷⁵⁷¹ The donation constituted the first part of Saudi's overall commitment to provide a total of 1 million doses to Tunisia.⁷⁵⁷²

On 29 August 2021, Saudi Arabia extended donations to support the National Malaria Control Program in Yemen in its efforts to detect, treat, and prevent the spread of malaria and dengue

⁷⁵⁶⁴ MOH: Adhering to Preventive Measures and Vaccination Essential for Preventing COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 1 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-01-007.aspx>

⁷⁵⁶⁵ MOH: Adhering to Preventive Measures and Vaccination Essential for Preventing COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 1 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-01-007.aspx>

⁷⁵⁶⁶ MOH Launches COVID-19 In-Home Vaccination Service for 70+ Years, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-15-008.aspx>

⁷⁵⁶⁷ MOH Launches COVID-19 In-Home Vaccination Service for 70+ Years, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-15-008.aspx>

⁷⁵⁶⁸ SFDA Approves Inoculating 12-17 Age Group with Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 22 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2276034>

⁷⁵⁶⁹ SFDA Approves Inoculating 12-17 Age Group with Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 22 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2276034>

⁷⁵⁷⁰ MOH: Delta Variant Most Widespread Worldwide, We Keep Monitoring Pandemic Curves, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 22 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-22-007.aspx>

⁷⁵⁷¹ Relief Cargo Plane Laden with 608,000 Doses of AstraZeneca Vaccine Arrives in Tunisia to Help Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts, Saudi Press Agency (Tunis) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2278325>

⁷⁵⁷² Relief Cargo Plane Laden with 608,000 Doses of AstraZeneca Vaccine Arrives in Tunisia to Help Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts, Saudi Press Agency (Tunis) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2278325>

viruses.⁷⁵⁷³ Saudi provided the program with medical supplies, testing devices, and malaria treatments.⁷⁵⁷⁴

On 1 September 2021, Saudi Arabia delivered over 2,000 oxygen cylinders and auxiliary supplies to Tunisia via the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief).⁷⁵⁷⁵ Medical assistance was deployed to support the treatment and containment of COVID-19.⁷⁵⁷⁶

On 14 September 2021, the National Guard, Ministry of National Guard and Health Affairs and other partners held the Global Medical Biotechnology Summit was in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. One of the key topics was vaccine development and manufacturing.⁷⁵⁷⁷ Delegates also discussed opportunities and challenges related to medical biotechnology in Saudi Arabia, investment strategies, and the role of biotechnology in developing medicines, vaccines, and cell and gene therapies.⁷⁵⁷⁸

Saudi Arabia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by expanding its vaccination campaign, administering social distancing rules and contributing to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator.

Thus, Saudi Arabia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Tamara Saadi

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to combat COVID-19 by advancing pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 3 December 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the government was putting into motion to fight the possible virus resurgence with the World Health Organization's surge team.⁷⁵⁷⁹ South Africa would be making more capacity available at hospitals and clinics in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape to ensure that a similar rise of infection does not develop in other parts of the country.⁷⁵⁸⁰ South Africa would also be expanding public health interventions such as testing, contact

⁷⁵⁷³ Financed by KSRelief, Equipment, Devices for Inspecting Malaria, Dengue for Health Facilities Distributed in Yemen, Saudi Press Agency (Lahij) 29 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2279080#2279080>

⁷⁵⁷⁴ Financed by KSRelief, Equipment, Devices for Inspecting Malaria, Dengue for Health Facilities Distributed in Yemen, Saudi Press Agency (Lahij) 29 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2279080#2279080>

⁷⁵⁷⁵ Saudi Plane Carrying 1st Batch of Medican Oxygen Arrives in Tunisia, Saudi Press Agency (Tunis) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2280194>

⁷⁵⁷⁶ Saudi Plane Carrying 1st Batch of Medican Oxygen Arrives in Tunisia, Saudi Press Agency (Tunis) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2280194>

⁷⁵⁷⁷ Riyadh to host global summit on medical biotechnology in September (Riyadh) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1920656/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵⁷⁸ Riyadh to host global summit on medical biotechnology in September (Riyadh) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1920656/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵⁷⁹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in Coronavirus COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-coronavirus-covid-19-response-3-dec-2020-0000>

⁷⁵⁸⁰ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in Coronavirus COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-coronavirus-covid-19-response-3-dec-2020-0000>

tracing, isolation and quarantine, and creating awareness campaigns around public health regulations.⁷⁵⁸¹

On 10 December 2020, the Department of Health announced that it would be launching the COVID South Africa travel system, a digital screening platform that allows travellers to complete the required travel health questionnaire on their personal devices ahead of their arrival at ports of entry.⁷⁵⁸² The system went live on 15 December 2020.⁷⁵⁸³

On 14 December 2020, President Ramaphosa announced that the Cabinet would be imposing further restrictions on the country starting from 14 December.⁷⁵⁸⁴ It included stricter enforcement of existing alert level 1 restrictions, measures to reduce the risk of super-spreading events and reduce the burden on health care services.⁷⁵⁸⁵

On 15 December 2020, the Department of Health announced that the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority was prepared for the vaccine registration process.⁷⁵⁸⁶ The readiness programme included the establishment of a specialised COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Working Group comprising both external and internal experts specialising in areas of vaccinology, manufacturing, clinical trials, epidemiology, vigilance and other specialisations informing quality, safety and efficacy of the products and this case vaccines.⁷⁵⁸⁷

On 17 December 2020, the Department of Health announced that it launched a festive season campaign to remind the public that COVID-19 was still an everyday reality.⁷⁵⁸⁸ It collaborated with animator Jonas Lekganyane and developed COVID-19 messaging with a more realistic and humorous tone.

On 18 December 2020, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimand, announced that the Department of Science and Innovation will fund the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform with ZAR25 million over the next 12 months to complete the sequencing of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 10,000 genomes in South Africa

⁷⁵⁸¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in Coronavirus COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-coronavirus-covid-19-response-3-dec-2020-0000>

⁷⁵⁸² Health digitises COVID-19 screening at ports, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/health-digitises-covid-19-screening-ports>

⁷⁵⁸³ Health digitises COVID-19 screening at ports, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/health-digitises-covid-19-screening-ports>

⁷⁵⁸⁴ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-0>

⁷⁵⁸⁵ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-0>

⁷⁵⁸⁶ Health on SAHPRA commencing review of vaccine application for registration for Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-sahpra-commencing-review-vaccine-application-registration-coronavirus-covid-19-15>

⁷⁵⁸⁷ Health on SAHPRA commencing review of vaccine application for registration for Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-sahpra-commencing-review-vaccine-application-registration-coronavirus-covid-19-15>

⁷⁵⁸⁸ Health launches COVID-19 festive season campaign, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/health-launches-covid-19-festive-season-campaign>

and Africa.⁷⁵⁸⁹ The funding will be used to understand the spread of COVID-19 and other virus lineages in the continent and to support the clinical and laboratory investigations of the genomic variation in the country.⁷⁵⁹⁰

On 28 December 2020, President Ramaphosa announced that several of the level 3 regulations are being strengthened to further limit the potential for transmission.⁷⁵⁹¹ The adjusted restrictions stated that all indoor and outdoor gatherings will be prohibited, the nationwide curfew will be extended from 9pm to 6am and the non-essential establishments will close at 8pm.⁷⁵⁹²

On 29 December 2020, Health Minister Zweli Mkhize announced that the Department of Health would receive more assistance in fighting COVID-19 with the employment of new health workers.⁷⁵⁹³ It included 2367 medical interns and 1693 medical community service practitioners who will participate in the community service workforce from all categories.⁷⁵⁹⁴

On 1 January 2021, Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga issued a new set of directions and protocols on the marking of the 2020 matric examinations scripts.⁷⁵⁹⁵ The guidelines served to ensure the safety of everyone involved in the marking process without being anxious about their health.⁷⁵⁹⁶

On 3 January 2021, Minister Mkhize announced that he had signed amendments of regulations to allow for COVID-19 vaccines and other therapeutics to be part of the prescribed minimum benefits.⁷⁵⁹⁷ He also said that the government was negotiating with manufacturers to make vaccines available sooner.⁷⁵⁹⁸

⁷⁵⁸⁹ Minister Blade Nzimande on the funding of the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform and the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa to complete the sequencing of Coronavirus COVID-19 genomes, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-funding-kwazulu-natal-research-innovation-and-sequencing-platform>
⁷⁵⁹⁰ Minister Blade Nzimande on the funding of the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform and the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa to complete the sequencing of Coronavirus COVID-19 genomes, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-funding-kwazulu-natal-research-innovation-and-sequencing-platform>

⁷⁵⁹¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-28-dec-2020>

⁷⁵⁹² President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-28-dec-2020>

⁷⁵⁹³ Newly employed health workers to aid fight against COVID-19, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/newly-employed-health-workers-aid-fight-against-covid-19>

⁷⁵⁹⁴ Newly employed health workers to aid fight against COVID-19, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/newly-employed-health-workers-aid-fight-against-covid-19>

⁷⁵⁹⁵ Minister Angie Motshekga issues new directions and protocols as marking of matric scripts during Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-issues-new-directions-and-protocols-marking-matric-scripts-during>

⁷⁵⁹⁶ Minister Angie Motshekga issues new directions and protocols as marking of matric scripts during Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-issues-new-directions-and-protocols-marking-matric-scripts-during>

⁷⁵⁹⁷ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Public briefing statement on South Africa's Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-public-briefing-statement-south-africa-s-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine>

⁷⁵⁹⁸ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Public briefing statement on South Africa's Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-public-briefing-statement-south-africa-s-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine>

On 7 January 2021, Minister Mkhize announced that the government would reach out to medical firms to make a contribution.⁷⁵⁹⁹ The government would ask firms to co-subsidise some members of the public as the government made a push to raise funds to procure vaccine doses as early as February.⁷⁶⁰⁰

On 11 January 2021, President Ramaphosa announced measures to tackle the COVID-19 variant found in November 2020.⁷⁶⁰¹ The plan included slowing the rate of transmission and undertaking a massive program of vaccination to achieve population immunity.⁷⁶⁰²

On 18 January 2021, the National School of Government announced that South Africa and the People's Republic of China teamed up to improve the capacity of public servants on governance as well as the management of disasters and emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁶⁰³ South Africa's National School of Government and the China National Academy of Governance will offer courses for senior and middle managers in the public service starting from March 2021.⁷⁶⁰⁴

On 21 January 2021, the Department of Home Affairs temporarily suspended certain activities and services to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 virus.⁷⁶⁰⁵ It suspended services like applications of smart ID cards and passports.⁷⁶⁰⁶

On 26 January 2021, the Department of Health issued health directions on the management of human remains that died of COVID-19 that prescribed measures to be implemented.⁷⁶⁰⁷ The human remains should only be conveyed to the deceased's home on the day of the burial and viewing is only allowed under a controlled environment.⁷⁶⁰⁸

On 27 January 2021, Minister Nzimande announced that he instructed Higher Health, the agency of the Department of Higher Education and Training, to create a post-school education and training

⁷⁵⁹⁹ Govt turns to medical schemes to co-subsidise vaccine, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 7 January 2021.

Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/govt-turns-medical-schemes-co-subsidise-vaccine>

⁷⁶⁰⁰ Govt turns to medical schemes to co-subsidise vaccine, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 7 January 2021.

Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/govt-turns-medical-schemes-co-subsidise-vaccine>

⁷⁶⁰¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

⁷⁶⁰² President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

⁷⁶⁰³ School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁷⁶⁰⁴ School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁷⁶⁰⁵ Minister Aaron Motsoaledi on Home Affairs priority services to be offered during Coronavirus COVID-19 adjusted alert level 3 of lockdown, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-aaron-motsoaledi-home-affairs-priority-services-be-offered-during-coronavirus>

⁷⁶⁰⁶ Minister Aaron Motsoaledi on Home Affairs priority services to be offered during Coronavirus COVID-19 adjusted alert level 3 of lockdown, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-aaron-motsoaledi-home-affairs-priority-services-be-offered-during-coronavirus>

⁷⁶⁰⁷ Health issues directions on management of Coronavirus COVID-19 human remains, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/wrapping-coffins-plastic-27-jan-2021-0000>

⁷⁶⁰⁸ Health issues directions on management of Coronavirus COVID-19 human remains, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/wrapping-coffins-plastic-27-jan-2021-0000>

strategy that is aligned with and supports the Department of Health's phased national strategy and coordinate its subsequent roll out.⁷⁶⁰⁹ The strategy will help ensure access to vaccination for the country's students and staff.⁷⁶¹⁰

On 28 January 2021, Department of Health's Acting Chief Operating Officer Milani Wolmarans announced that the government would use an electronic system to keep track of everyone who gets the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷⁶¹¹ The Electronic Vaccine Data System would allow the department to capture all relevant data associated with the administration of the vaccine.⁷⁶¹²

On 1 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced that the Department of Health developed an Electronic Vaccine Data System to streamline the vaccine registration and rollout process.⁷⁶¹³ The system allowed the government to capture all relevant data associated with the administration of the vaccine.⁷⁶¹⁴

On 5 February 2021, the Department of Social Development launched the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Employment Stimulus Relief Grant.⁷⁶¹⁵ The grant was part of the Department's intervention to assist ECD services by cushioning them against the impact of the pandemic. The Social Development will use ZAR496 million to assist the sector.⁷⁶¹⁶

On 7 February 2021, Minister Mkhize assured that there is an Inter-Ministerial Committee in place to oversee the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccines rollout strategy.⁷⁶¹⁷ Minister Mkhize also said the health department will meet with the provinces to assess and discuss their state of readiness of implementing vaccines rollout strategies.⁷⁶¹⁸

⁷⁶⁰⁹ Minister Blade Nzimande addresses Higher Health webinar on managing second wave on Coronavirus COVID-19 within PSET, 27 Jan, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-addresses-higher-health-webinar-managing-second-wave-coronavirus>

⁷⁶¹⁰ Minister Blade Nzimande: Higher Health COVID-19 webinar, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-higher-education-science-and-innovation-dr-blade-nzimande-address-occasion-higher>

⁷⁶¹¹ Government to use online platform for COVID-19 vaccination, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-use-online-platform-covid-19-vaccination>

⁷⁶¹² Government to use online platform for COVID-19 vaccination, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-use-online-platform-covid-19-vaccination>

⁷⁶¹³ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in response to Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-response-coronavirus-covid-19-1-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶¹⁴ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in response to Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-response-coronavirus-covid-19-1-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶¹⁵ Minister Lindiwe Zulu: Update on Social Development interventions during COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-update-social-development-interventions-during-covid-19-26-feb-2021>

⁷⁶¹⁶ Over R400m to assist struggling ECD, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/over-r400m-assist-struggling-ecds>

⁷⁶¹⁷ Minister Zweli Mkhize briefs Parliament on readiness to implement Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccines Strategy, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/media-statement-7-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶¹⁸ Minister Zweli Mkhize briefs Parliament on readiness to implement Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccines Strategy, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/media-statement-7-feb-2021-0000>

On 12 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced that the Unemployment Insurance Fund will be extending the COVID-19 temporary employee/employer relief scheme benefits from 16 October 2020 to 15 March 2021 at the State of the Nation Address.⁷⁶¹⁹ This social assistance from the Department of Employment and Labour forms was part of the overall government response to fighting the worst effects of COVID19 pandemic.⁷⁶²⁰

On 23 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced the country's support for the launch of the "Recover Better Together" post COVID-19 Campaign.⁷⁶²¹ Global Citizen, the European Commission and the World Health Organisation organized the initiative, which sought to create momentum for global COVID-19 pandemic recovery and a return to the implementation of global goals.⁷⁶²²

On 24 February 2021, Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni announced that the government will allocate ZAR10.3 billion for the purchase and delivery of vaccines to fight the spread of COVID-19 in the next two years in his 2021 budget speech.⁷⁶²³ According to the National Treasury, the government already allocated ZAR1.3 billion in 2021 for vaccine purchases.⁷⁶²⁴ Minister Mboweni also announced that the government would avail an additional ZAR8 billion to the health system for the country's COVID-19 pandemic response. It would allocate the fund to provincial health departments for sustaining activities and respond to possible future waves of COVID-19 infection.⁷⁶²⁵

On 26 February 2021, acting Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni stated the country's scientists, researchers and medical experts had led the genomic surveillance of COVID-19 virus which resulted in the discovery of the 501Y.V2 variant in a Post Cabinet media briefing.⁷⁶²⁶ The scientists and researchers managed to recreate the virus for purposes of enhancing research on the treatment of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁶²⁷

⁷⁶¹⁹ Employment and Labour on Coronavirus COVID-19 TERS extension, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/unemployment-insurance-fund-work-out-details-extension-covid19-TERS-announced-sona-12-feb>

⁷⁶²⁰ Employment and Labour on Coronavirus COVID-19 TERS extension, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/unemployment-insurance-fund-work-out-details-extension-covid19-TERS-announced-sona-12-feb>

⁷⁶²¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Global Citizen launch of 'Recover Better Together' post COVID-19 Campaign, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-launch-recover-better-together'-post-covid-19-campaign-23-feb>

⁷⁶²² President Cyril Ramaphosa virtually addresses launch of 'Recover Better Together' post COVID-19 Campaign, 23 Feb, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtually-addresses-launch-recover-better-together'-post-covid-19>

⁷⁶²³ Parliament welcomes 2021 fiscal spending plans to fight Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/covid-19-25-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶²⁴ R9 billion allocated to COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/r9-billion-allocated-covid-19-vaccine-roll-out>

⁷⁶²⁵ Health system boosted to respond to COVID-19, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/health-system-boosted-respond-covid-19>

⁷⁶²⁶ Cabinet welcomes progress made by scientists, researchers, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/cabinet-welcomes-progress-made-scientists-researchers>

⁷⁶²⁷ Cabinet welcomes progress made by scientists, researchers, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/cabinet-welcomes-progress-made-scientists-researchers>

On 27 February 2021, the Department of Health announced that South Africa was rapidly rolling out delivery of the early access vaccine to healthcare workers through the Sisonke Program.⁷⁶²⁸ The country vaccinated 63,648 patient-facing healthcare workers in the public and private sector against COVID-19 within just over one week's time.⁷⁶²⁹ The Sisonke Programme also set up 18 vaccination sites from scratch, developed and implemented logistics, trained additional vaccinators, set up an online electronic registration system and ensured the safe and timely vaccination of tens of thousands of healthcare workers.⁷⁶³⁰

On 28 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced that the number of sites available for vaccination will be expanded from 17 sites to 49 sites.⁷⁶³¹ After the vaccination of healthcare workers has been completed, the government will begin with phase two of the vaccine roll-out in late April or early May for elderly, essential workers, persons living or working in institutional settings and those with co-morbidities.⁷⁶³² The government will be activating many more sites for vaccination in the public and private healthcare sector so that we can reach as many people in the shortest possible time.⁷⁶³³

On 3 March 2021, Minister of Tourism Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane announced plans for economic recovery after COVID-19 at the online Africa webinar.⁷⁶³⁴ The department will carry out strategic interventions like implementing standards for safe operations to enable safe travel and rebuild traveller confidence.⁷⁶³⁵

On 17 March 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza said that the government had developed an awareness campaign aimed at educating members of the public on the dangers of unregistered COVID-19 vaccine centres.⁷⁶³⁶ There would be webinars and radio programmes to engage various

⁷⁶²⁸ Health on reaching first Coronavirus COVID-19 vaccination milestone, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-reaching-first-coronavirus-covid1-19-vaccination-milestone-27-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶²⁹ Health on reaching first Coronavirus COVID-19 vaccination milestone, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-reaching-first-coronavirus-covid1-19-vaccination-milestone-27-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶³⁰ Health on reaching first Coronavirus COVID-19 vaccination milestone, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-reaching-first-coronavirus-covid1-19-vaccination-milestone-27-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶³¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-0>

⁷⁶³² President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-0>

⁷⁶³³ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-0>

⁷⁶³⁴ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: Africa webinar on COVID-19 Coronavirus, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/western-cape-government-planning-third-wave-coronavirus-covid-19-3-mar-2021-0000>

⁷⁶³⁵ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: Africa webinar on COVID-19 Coronavirus, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/western-cape-government-planning-third-wave-coronavirus-covid-19-3-mar-2021-0000>

⁷⁶³⁶ Campaign to educate citizens against unregistered vaccine centres, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-afarica/campaign-educate-citizens-against-unregistered-vaccine-centres>

stakeholders on vaccine corruption risks. All registered vaccine centres would also be published on various platforms accessible to all citizens.⁷⁶³⁷

On 9 April 2021, Department of Science and Innovation Director-General Phil Mjwara announced that the government will make a further ZAR25 million to the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa to continue with health threats research.⁷⁶³⁸ The government has also coordinated a package of responses across the National System of Innovation to address South Africa's readiness for the impact of COVID-19.⁷⁶³⁹

On 9 April 2021, Minister Nzimande announced that all students, teachers, and school staff should adhere to the COVID-19 regulations and Higher Health protocols and guidelines.⁷⁶⁴⁰ He said that Higher Health has formulated Cluster Outbreak investigation teams, developed screening stations around the affected residences, and stationed Higher Health mobile unit, institutional campus clinic, occupational health, employee wellness teams to offer psychosocial and other health and wellness assistance.⁷⁶⁴¹

On 12 April 2021, the National Treasury, the South African Reserve Bank and the Banking Association South Africa agreed to extend the deadline of the Loan Guarantee Scheme (LGS) by three months.⁷⁶⁴² The LGS was launched on 12 May 2020 as part of the Economic Stimulus Package to support small businesses that were experiencing financial distress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁶⁴³ In addition, the Financial Sector Conduct Authority has also provided further support to businesses and individuals by adjusting regulations to support insurance premium relief for policyholders, allowing them to claim while minimising disruptions to the expected income of intermediaries.⁷⁶⁴⁴

On 16 April 2021, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma invited the public to comment on the draft regulations of the COVID-19 Vaccine Injury No-Fault Compensation Scheme.⁷⁶⁴⁵ The purpose of the scheme is to provide expeditious and easy access to compensation for persons who suffer vaccine injury as a consequence of a COVID-19 vaccine being

⁷⁶³⁷ Campaign to educate citizens against unregistered vaccine centres, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/campaign-educate-citizens-against-unregistered-vaccine-centres>

⁷⁶³⁸ Government allocates more for research on health threats, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 12 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-allocates-more-research-health-threats>

⁷⁶³⁹ Government allocates more for research on health threats, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 12 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-allocates-more-research-health-threats>

⁷⁶⁴⁰ Minister Blade Nzimande on post school education and training COVID-19 cluster outbreaks, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister%2%A0blade-nzimande-post-school-education-and-training-covid-19-cluster-outbreaks%2%A0-9>

⁷⁶⁴¹ Minister Blade Nzimande on post school education and training COVID-19 cluster outbreaks, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister%2%A0blade-nzimande-post-school-education-and-training-covid-19-cluster-outbreaks%2%A0-9>

⁷⁶⁴² Treasury on three month extension of COVID-19 Coronavirus Loan Guarantee Scheme, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/treasury-three-month-extension-covid-19-coronavirus-loan-guarantee-scheme-12-apr-2021-0000>

⁷⁶⁴³ Treasury on three month extension of COVID-19 Coronavirus Loan Guarantee Scheme, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/treasury-three-month-extension-covid-19-coronavirus-loan-guarantee-scheme-12-apr-2021-0000>

⁷⁶⁴⁴ Treasury on three month extension of COVID-19 Coronavirus Loan Guarantee Scheme, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/treasury-three-month-extension-covid-19-coronavirus-loan-guarantee-scheme-12-apr-2021-0000>

⁷⁶⁴⁵ COVID-19 No-Fault Compensation Scheme draft regulations gazetted, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/covid-19-no-fault-compensation-scheme-draft-regulations-gazetted>

administered.⁷⁶⁴⁶ The draft regulations also call for the appointment of a Governance and Oversight Committee, which will be responsible for overseeing policies and advising the Health Minister.⁷⁶⁴⁷

On 16 April 2021, the Department of Health launched the Official South African COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Registration Portal.⁷⁶⁴⁸ It is an electronic vaccination data system that allows all citizens aged 60 years and above to register for vaccination.⁷⁶⁴⁹ It is the first major public health campaign that will be supported by one digital system for all South Africans.⁷⁶⁵⁰ The government will also be using the smartphones and petrol that has been donated by various companies and philanthropic organizations to send out teams to help our vulnerable citizens who do not have access to digital technology.⁷⁶⁵¹

On 5 May 2021, South Africa's Transnet Port Authority said that 14 crew members of a cargo ship that sailed from Durban to India have tested positive for COVID-19.⁷⁶⁵² News of this cargo ship caused widespread concern that the new B.1.617 variant that was causing thousands of deaths in India had reached South African shores.⁷⁶⁵³ Minister Mkhize assured the public that plans are in place to test all arrivals into the country, reminding them that there were all direct flights from India had been cancelled.⁷⁶⁵⁴

On 21 May 2021, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Buti Manamela, launched the #Covid-19 ZA Warriors Campaign in support of a programme of Higher Health and European Union, which is a student programme for the management of COVID-19 within the Post School Education and Training sector.⁷⁶⁵⁵ COVID-19 ZA warriors are student volunteers who will reinforce messaging and prevention measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to advocate for vaccination within campuses and communities.⁷⁶⁵⁶

⁷⁶⁴⁶ COVID-19 No-Fault Compensation Scheme draft regulations gazetted, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/covid-19-no-fault-compensation-scheme-draft-regulations-gazetted>

⁷⁶⁴⁷ COVID-19 No-Fault Compensation Scheme draft regulations gazetted, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/covid-19-no-fault-compensation-scheme-draft-regulations-gazetted>

⁷⁶⁴⁸ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Launch of EVDS Registration for COVID-19 Vaccination: Citizens Aged 60 and Above, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-launch-evds-registration-covid-19-vaccination-citizens-aged-60-and>

⁷⁶⁴⁹ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Launch of EVDS Registration for COVID-19 Vaccination: Citizens Aged 60 and Above, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-launch-evds-registration-covid-19-vaccination-citizens-aged-60-and>

⁷⁶⁵⁰ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Launch of EVDS Registration for COVID-19 Vaccination: Citizens Aged 60 and Above, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-launch-evds-registration-covid-19-vaccination-citizens-aged-60-and>

⁷⁶⁵¹ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Launch of EVDS Registration for COVID-19 Vaccination: Citizens Aged 60 and Above, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-launch-evds-registration-covid-19-vaccination-citizens-aged-60-and>

⁷⁶⁵² 14 On Cargo Ship From India Test Positive For COVID In South Africa (Johannesburg) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/14-on-cargo-ship-from-india-test-positive-for-covid-in-south-africa-2428111>

⁷⁶⁵³ 14 On Cargo Ship From India Test Positive For COVID In South Africa (Johannesburg) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/14-on-cargo-ship-from-india-test-positive-for-covid-in-south-africa-2428111>

⁷⁶⁵⁴ 14 On Cargo Ship From India Test Positive For COVID In South Africa (Johannesburg) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/14-on-cargo-ship-from-india-test-positive-for-covid-in-south-africa-2428111>

⁷⁶⁵⁵ Deputy Minister Buti Manamela launches #Covid-19 ZA Warriors Campaign at Tshwane College in Centurion, 21 May, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/covid-19-za-warriors-campaign-20-may-2021-0000>

⁷⁶⁵⁶ Deputy Minister Buti Manamela launches #Covid-19 ZA Warriors Campaign at Tshwane College in Centurion, 21 May, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/covid-19-za-warriors-campaign-20-may-2021-0000>

On 26 May 2021, the Compensation Fund of the Department of Labour called on its pensioners to apply for vaccination, as the Fund together with Rand Mutual Assurance Company Limited and The Federated Employers Mutual Assurance Company, have made available ZAR1.35 billion for vaccines.⁷⁶⁵⁷ The funding is anticipated to benefit an estimated three million pensioners.⁷⁶⁵⁸

On 30 May 2021, the National Coronavirus Command Council, Premiers, mayors and traditional leaders in the President's Coordinating Council decided on placing the country at the Adjusted Alert Level 2 on 31 May 2021.⁷⁶⁵⁹ The Adjusted Alert Level 2 includes curfew from 11 PM to 4 AM, restricting non-essential establishments and limiting all gatherings to a maximum of 100 people indoors and 250 people outdoors.⁷⁶⁶⁰

On 13 June 2021, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the G7 summit in Cornwall, UK and urged G7 members to support the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator to fill the USD16.8 billion funding gap.⁷⁶⁶¹ He said, "We need to address the substantial financing gap for tests, treatments, critical supplies like oxygen and the health systems that enable testing, treatment and vaccination."⁷⁶⁶² He also called on G7 leaders to support the TRIPS waiver on patents for COVID-19 vaccines and engage in negotiations that could help boost vaccine production.⁷⁶⁶³

On 19 June 2021, Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga, announced that the vaccination programme will unfold in the Basic Education Sector with immediate effect and that it will continue until 8 July 2021.⁷⁶⁶⁴ The department will vaccinate all staff at all public schools including educators, administrative and support staff.⁷⁶⁶⁵

⁷⁶⁵⁷ Employment and Labour on COVID-19 Coronavirus vaccination for pensioners and workers without medical cover, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/employment-and-labour-covid-19-coronavirus-vaccination-pensioners-and-workers-without>

⁷⁶⁵⁸ Employment and Labour on COVID-19 Coronavirus vaccination for pensioners and workers without medical cover, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/employment-and-labour-covid-19-coronavirus-vaccination-pensioners-and-workers-without>

⁷⁶⁵⁹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: National effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 30 May 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-30-may-2021>

⁷⁶⁶⁰ President Cyril Ramaphosa: National effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 30 May 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-30-may-2021>

⁷⁶⁶¹ S. Africa's President Ramaphosa urges G7 nations to plug COVID-19 funding gap (Johannesburg) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/safricas-president-ramaphosa-urges-g7-nations-plug-covid-19-funding-gap-2021-06-13/>

⁷⁶⁶² S. Africa's President Ramaphosa urges G7 nations to plug COVID-19 funding gap (Johannesburg) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/safricas-president-ramaphosa-urges-g7-nations-plug-covid-19-funding-gap-2021-06-13/>

⁷⁶⁶³ S. Africa's President Ramaphosa urges G7 nations to plug COVID-19 funding gap (Johannesburg) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/safricas-president-ramaphosa-urges-g7-nations-plug-covid-19-funding-gap-2021-06-13/>

⁷⁶⁶⁴ Minister Angie Motshekga: Basic Education sector's response to the impact of Coronavirus COVID-19 on schooling, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-basic-education-sector-s-response-impact-coronavirus-covid-19>

⁷⁶⁶⁵ Minister Angie Motshekga: Basic Education sector's response to the impact of Coronavirus COVID-19 on schooling, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-basic-education-sector-s-response-impact-coronavirus-covid-19>

On 22 June 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa established the Commission on African COVID-19 Response.⁷⁶⁶⁶ The Commission's goal is to support the President in his Championship role in order to enable his continued leadership in guiding the continental response to COVID-19.⁷⁶⁶⁷ Some of the Commission's specific areas of focus include strengthening the public health workforce, continental manufacturing of diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics, and strengthening national public health institutions, including Africa CDC.⁷⁶⁶⁸

On 25 June 2021, Minister of Health Mmamoloko Kubayi, announced that the National Department of Health had activated their surge response amid the third wave of the pandemic.⁷⁶⁶⁹ The department developed a guide for provincial health departments, outlining steps to follow on responding to COVID-19 after the second wave.⁷⁶⁷⁰ Ten intervention areas are stated in the document, including governance and leadership, medical supplies, port and Environmental Health, epidemiology and response, facility readiness, case management, risk communication and community engagement, occupational health and safety, and infection Prevention and Control.⁷⁶⁷¹

On 27 June 2021, the Cabinet decided that the country would move to Adjusted Alert Level 4 on 28 June 2021.⁷⁶⁷² It included prohibiting all indoor and outdoor gatherings, curfew from 9 PM to 4 AM, restricting all non-essential establishments to close by 8 PM.⁷⁶⁷³

On 28 June 2021, the Department of Correctional Services announced that it has continued to implement measures to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19 to protect officials, inmates and the general public.⁷⁶⁷⁴ Measures included suspending visits to all correctional and remand detention

⁷⁶⁶⁶ Presidency on appointment of President Cyril Ramaphosa as African Union Champion on Coronavirus COVID-19 and establishment of Commission on African COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/presidency-appointment-president-cyril-ramaphosa-african-union-champion-coronavirus-covid>

⁷⁶⁶⁷ Presidency on appointment of President Cyril Ramaphosa as African Union Champion on Coronavirus COVID-19 and establishment of Commission on African COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/presidency-appointment-president-cyril-ramaphosa-african-union-champion-coronavirus-covid>

⁷⁶⁶⁸ Presidency on appointment of President Cyril Ramaphosa as African Union Champion on Coronavirus COVID-19 and establishment of Commission on African COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/presidency-appointment-president-cyril-ramaphosa-african-union-champion-coronavirus-covid>

⁷⁶⁶⁹ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi: Coronavirus COVID-19 and vaccination rollout programme, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-coronavirus-covid-19-and-vaccination-rollout-plan-25-jun-2021>

⁷⁶⁷⁰ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi: Coronavirus COVID-19 and vaccination rollout programme, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-coronavirus-covid-19-and-vaccination-rollout-plan-25-jun-2021>

⁷⁶⁷¹ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi: Coronavirus COVID-19 and vaccination rollout programme, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-coronavirus-covid-19-and-vaccination-rollout-plan-25-jun-2021>

⁷⁶⁷² President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's response to Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-27-jun-2021>

⁷⁶⁷³ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's response to Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-27-jun-2021>

⁷⁶⁷⁴ Measures to mitigate spread of COVID-19 in correctional services continues, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/measures-mitigate-spread-covid-19-correctional-services-continues>

centres across the country, vaccinating inmates and staff, and screening officials, inmates, essential workers and service providers accessing facilities.⁷⁶⁷⁵

On 1 July 2021, Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande, announced that the department would establish isolation and quarantine resources within the higher learning institutional residences.⁷⁶⁷⁶ It has trained and developed over 49, 000 campus-based frontline institutional staff and student volunteers, and it will accelerate daily COVID-19 screenings at residences in order to identify possible outbreaks early.⁷⁶⁷⁷

On 8 July 2021, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr. Blade Nzimande, announced that he has “instructed HIGHER HEALTH to create and coordinate a Post-School Education and Training System vaccination strategy and rollout plan that is aligned with and supports the Department of Health’s phased national strategy.”⁷⁶⁷⁸ The strategy will help to ensure access to vaccination for all the staff, including academia, management, and frontline staff.⁷⁶⁷⁹

On 11 July 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa, announced that the government had decided to “avail the COVID-19 Temporary Employee Relief Scheme to sectors hardest hit by the Adjusted Alert Level 4 COVID-19 restrictions.”⁷⁶⁸⁰ It is a scheme implemented in 2020 which provides money to workers affected by the pandemic.⁷⁶⁸¹

On 23 July 2021, Minister of Health Mmamoloko Kubayi, announced that the government is putting additional systems in place to ensure that they vaccinate at a faster rate.⁷⁶⁸² The department is planning on establishing Mass Vaccination Sites in all metros across the country and moving vaccination sites which will move from one community to the next based on the demand.⁷⁶⁸³ It has

⁷⁶⁷⁵ Measures to mitigate spread of COVID-19 in correctional services continues, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/measures-mitigate-spread-covid-19-correctional-services-continues>

⁷⁶⁷⁶ Isolation, quarantine resources established within university residences, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/isolation-quarantine-resources-established-within-university-residences>

⁷⁶⁷⁷ Isolation, quarantine resources established within university residences, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/isolation-quarantine-resources-established-within-university-residences>

⁷⁶⁷⁸ Minister Blade Nzimande: Covid 19 vaccination roll out plan for post school education and training sector, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-covid-19-vaccination-roll-out-plan-post-school-education-and>

⁷⁶⁷⁹ Minister Blade Nzimande: Covid 19 vaccination roll out plan for post school education and training sector, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-covid-19-vaccination-roll-out-plan-post-school-education-and>

⁷⁶⁸⁰ Government offers UIF COVID-19 TERS to affected sectors, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-offers-uif-covid-19-ters-affected-sectors>

⁷⁶⁸¹ Government offers UIF COVID-19 TERS to affected sectors, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-offers-uif-covid-19-ters-affected-sectors>

⁷⁶⁸² Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi: South Africa response to Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-south-africa-response-covid-19-pandemic%2%A0-23-july-2021-23-jul-2021>

⁷⁶⁸³ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi: South Africa response to Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-south-africa-response-covid-19-pandemic%2%A0-23-july-2021-23-jul-2021>

also reprogrammed the vaccine schedule system to allow for self-scheduling, so that citizens can choose a vaccination site themselves.⁷⁶⁸⁴

On 25 July 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa, announced a range of measures to support the recovery of the economy and to provide relief to the poor affected by the pandemic.⁷⁶⁸⁵ The President announced that the government was “reinstating the Social Relief of Distress Grant to provide a monthly payment of ZAR350 until the end of March 2022 and expanding the number of people who are eligible for this grant by allowing unemployed caregivers who currently receive a Child Support Grant to apply.”⁷⁶⁸⁶ The government is also contributing ZAR400 million to the Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund established by the Solidarity Fund to assist with the immediate needs of affected communities.⁷⁶⁸⁷ The government would also be “expanding the Employment Tax Incentive for a period of four months to include any employee earning below R6 500 and to increase the incentive amount by up to R750 per month, which will encourage employers to hire and retain employees.”⁷⁶⁸⁸

On 2 September 2021, Health Products Regulatory Authority Board Chairperson Professor Helen Rees announced that the board is working to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are effective against the new variant.⁷⁶⁸⁹ The board will be testing vaccines against that variant to ensure that they are effective.⁷⁶⁹⁰ They will also be looking at breakthrough infections, and whether people who have been vaccinated are getting hospitalised.⁷⁶⁹¹

On 7 September 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa chaired meetings of the National Coronavirus Command Council and the President’s Coordinating Council to deliberate on developments in the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁶⁹² The councils reflected on the rate of COVID-19 infections and vaccination, assessed the COVID-19 prevention measures in force under Adjusted

⁷⁶⁸⁴ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi: South Africa response to Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-south-africa-response-covid-19-pandemic%C2%AO-23-july-2021-23-jul-2021>

⁷⁶⁸⁵ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's response to Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-25-jul-0>

⁷⁶⁸⁶ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's response to Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-25-jul-0>

⁷⁶⁸⁷ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's response to Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-25-jul-0>

⁷⁶⁸⁸ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's response to Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-25-jul-0>

⁷⁶⁸⁹ SAHPRA monitoring vaccine efficacy as COVID-19 variants emerge, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sahpra-monitoring-vaccine-efficacy-covid-19-variants-emerge>

⁷⁶⁹⁰ SAHPRA monitoring vaccine efficacy as COVID-19 variants emerge, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sahpra-monitoring-vaccine-efficacy-covid-19-variants-emerge>

⁷⁶⁹¹ SAHPRA monitoring vaccine efficacy as COVID-19 variants emerge, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sahpra-monitoring-vaccine-efficacy-covid-19-variants-emerge>

⁷⁶⁹² Government consult political parties and religious sector on developments in COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-consult-political-parties-and-religious-sector-developments-covid-19-response-7>

Level 3 of the national state of disaster, and agreed that the government will hold consultations with political parties and the religious sector on the observance of safety measures.⁷⁶⁹³

On 8 September 2021, Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Covid-19 Vaccines David Mabuza led the launch of the National Campaign “Return to Play – it’s in your hands.”⁷⁶⁹⁴ The campaign aims at encouraging vaccinations towards reaching population immunity by galvanizing support and voice from the country’s sporting and creative industries.⁷⁶⁹⁵

On 10 September 2021, Health Minister Dr. Joe Phaahla announced that the country has commenced the development of a digital certificate to confirm vaccination status.⁷⁶⁹⁶ He said that the certificates may be useful for access to entertainment, sports, and other events, and the government has made sure that this certificate will be protected from fraud and will be uploaded on people’s smartphones as well as printed.⁷⁶⁹⁷

South Africa has taken strong action to advance global pandemic prevention, detection, and response by administering and expanding COVID-19 vaccination sites, participating in the “Recover Better Together” campaign and creating genomic surveillance technologies of the COVID-19 virus.

Thus, South Africa has received a score of +1.

Analyst: YanYui Mork

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 26 November 2020, at the Coronavirus Scientific Committee meeting, the Minister of Health Dr. Fahrettin Koca discussed prevention and control measures that Turkey has undertaken to combat COVID-19.⁷⁶⁹⁸ The government began contact tracing, isolating positive cases, increased testing and imposed lockdown measures throughout the state.⁷⁶⁹⁹

⁷⁶⁹³ Government consult political parties and religious sector on developments in COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-consult-political-parties-and-religious-sector-developments-covid-19-response-7>

⁷⁶⁹⁴ Deputy President David Mabuza leads COVID-19 vaccination social mobilisation campaign in Johannesburg , 8 Sept, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-mabuza-leads-vaccination-social-mobilisation-campaign-%C2%A0-johannesburg-8>

⁷⁶⁹⁵ Deputy President David Mabuza leads COVID-19 vaccination social mobilisation campaign in Johannesburg , 8 Sept, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-mabuza-leads-vaccination-social-mobilisation-campaign-%C2%A0-johannesburg-8>

⁷⁶⁹⁶ Government to introduce new digital COVID-19 certificate, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-introduce-new-digital-covid-19-certificate>

⁷⁶⁹⁷ Government to introduce new digital COVID-19 certificate, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-introduce-new-digital-covid-19-certificate>

⁷⁶⁹⁸ "We Have Difficult Days Ahead", Ministry of Health (Ankara) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,77198/quotwe-have-difficult-days-aheadquot.html>

⁷⁶⁹⁹ "We Have Difficult Days Ahead", Ministry of Health (Ankara) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,77198/quotwe-have-difficult-days-aheadquot.html>

On 13 January 2021, Turkey launched its mass COVID-19 vaccination program.⁷⁷⁰⁰ Minister Koca announced the vaccination program will be delivered in four stages.⁷⁷⁰¹ The first two stages focusing on vaccinating healthcare workers, government officials, and the elderly.⁷⁷⁰² The last two stages will vaccinate the rest of the population. Turkey has 3 million doses of China's Sinovac vaccine to administer and is waiting on a shipment of an extra 50 million doses.⁷⁷⁰³

On 31 January 2021, the Ministry of Industry and Technology had the first meeting of the COVID-19 Turkey Platform.⁷⁷⁰⁴ Under this platform, 17 projects were established to further study vaccines and immunization.⁷⁷⁰⁵ The COVID-19 Turkey Web portal was created in order to share evidence-based information and cultivate social awareness.⁷⁷⁰⁶ The portal provides open access to articles, datasets, and scientific literature on COVID-19.⁷⁷⁰⁷

On 12 March 2021, Minister Koca announced human vaccine trials of 5 vaccine candidates would begin in Turkey promptly.⁷⁷⁰⁸ This is to support efforts in increasing vaccine quantity and providing safe and effective vaccines to Turkish citizens.⁷⁷⁰⁹ They have provided 130 million doses.⁷⁷¹⁰ After consultation with three more manufacturers a quota of 10 million more doses will be made available to Turkish citizens.⁷⁷¹¹

On 22 March 2021, the Ministry of Interior announced a nightly curfew in order to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁷⁷¹² The curfew would occur on weekdays from 9pm to 5am throughout the state.⁷⁷¹³ On weekends, in low and medium risk areas the curfew would remain the same, while high risk and

⁷⁷⁰⁰ "Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁷⁷⁰¹ Turkey launches mass coronavirus vaccination, Arab News (Riyadh) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1793031/middle-east>

⁷⁷⁰² Turkey launches mass coronavirus vaccination, Arab News (Riyadh) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1793031/middle-east>

⁷⁷⁰³ Turkey launches mass coronavirus vaccination, Arab News (Riyadh) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1793031/middle-east>

⁷⁷⁰⁴ Steps taken to Combat COVID-19, Ministry of Industry and Technology (Ankara) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/covid-19/asi-ilac-ve-tani-calismalari#kovid-19-turkiye-platformu>

⁷⁷⁰⁵ Steps taken to Combat COVID-19, Ministry of Industry and Technology (Ankara) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/covid-19/asi-ilac-ve-tani-calismalari#kovid-19-turkiye-platformu>

⁷⁷⁰⁶ Steps taken to Combat COVID-19, Ministry of Industry and Technology (Ankara) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/covid-19/asi-ilac-ve-tani-calismalari#kovid-19-turkiye-platformu>

⁷⁷⁰⁷ Steps taken to Combat COVID-19, Ministry of Industry and Technology (Ankara) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/covid-19/asi-ilac-ve-tani-calismalari#kovid-19-turkiye-platformu>

⁷⁷⁰⁸ "Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁷⁷⁰⁹ "Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁷⁷¹⁰ Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁷⁷¹¹ Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁷⁷¹² Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁷⁷¹³ "Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

very high-risk areas have longer curfew hours.⁷⁷¹⁴ Those who did not comply were subjected to judicial and administrative action.⁷⁷¹⁵

On 26 April 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, announced that Turkey will be under lockdown from April 29 until May 17.⁷⁷¹⁶ The lockdown will consist of a stay-at-home order, the closure of schools, and official approval for domestic travel.⁷⁷¹⁷ These measures were invoked in order to curb the spread of COVID-19 and prevent potential deaths.⁷⁷¹⁸

On 14 May 2021, President Erdogan announced that Turkey will continue to remain cautious with its COVID-19 measures and adhere to protocols until the end of May.⁷⁷¹⁹ Turkey will then start easing restrictions from June onwards in a controlled manner. A lockdown began on 29 April and will last until 17 May when the new guidelines will be released.⁷⁷²⁰ Turkey's restrictions over the last three weeks have led to significant decreases in COVID-19 cases in 80 provinces between 1-7 May, according to the latest Health Ministry statistics.⁷⁷²¹

On 24 May 2021, Minister of Health Dr. Fahrettin Koca, revealed that Turkey will receive 120 million doses of the BioNtech vaccine by September 2021.⁷⁷²² Koca clarified that the vaccine has been tested on 30 variants, including the delta variant, where it has proven to be 25 to 30 per cent more effective.⁷⁷²³ Vaccination has begun for high-risk individuals and those over the age of 55 in Turkey and 84 per cent of individuals over the age of 65 have been vaccinated.⁷⁷²⁴

On 25 June 2021, the Minister of Health announced that “every individual over the age of 18 will be able to book an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine.”⁷⁷²⁵ Koca revealed that the phase III

⁷⁷¹⁴ “Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁷⁷¹⁵ “Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁷⁷¹⁶ “We will enforce a full lockdown from April 29 until May 17,” Presidency of the Republic of Turkey (Ankara) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.tccb.gov.tr/en/news/542/127727/-we-will-enforce-a-full-lockdown-from-april-29-until-may-17->

⁷⁷¹⁷ COVID: Turkey enters first full lockdown, BBC Turkish (Istanbul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56912668>

⁷⁷¹⁸ “We will enforce a full lockdown from April 29 until May 17,” Presidency of the Republic of Turkey (Ankara) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.tccb.gov.tr/en/news/542/127727/-we-will-enforce-a-full-lockdown-from-april-29-until-may-17->

⁷⁷¹⁹ Turkey to gradually relax COVID-19 measures, normalcy in June: Erdoğan (Istanbul) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-to-gradually-relax-covid-19-measures-normalcy-in-june-erdogan/news>

⁷⁷²⁰ Turkey to gradually relax COVID-19 measures, normalcy in June: Erdoğan (Istanbul) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-to-gradually-relax-covid-19-measures-normalcy-in-june-erdogan/news>

⁷⁷²¹ Turkey to gradually relax COVID-19 measures, normalcy in June: Erdoğan (Istanbul) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-to-gradually-relax-covid-19-measures-normalcy-in-june-erdogan/news>

⁷⁷²² We Will Receive 120 Million Doses in 4 Months, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,83926/quotwe-will-receive-120-million-doses-in-4-monthsquot.html>

⁷⁷²³ We Will Receive 120 Million Doses in 4 Months, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,83926/quotwe-will-receive-120-million-doses-in-4-monthsquot.html>

⁷⁷²⁴ We Will Receive 120 Million Doses in 4 Months, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,83926/quotwe-will-receive-120-million-doses-in-4-monthsquot.html>

⁷⁷²⁵ We Are On the Verge of Ending the Pandemic with Vaccines, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,84296/quotwe-are-on-the-verge-of-ending-the-pandemic-with-vaccinesquot.html>

clinical trials for Turkey's Turkovac vaccine will be carried out on 40,800 individuals.⁷⁷²⁶ The vaccine will be administered in 29 centres throughout Turkey, Azerbaijan, Hungary, and Kyrgyzstan.⁷⁷²⁷

On 24 July 2021, the Ministry of Family and Social Services provided "approximately TRY10.6 billion to 7 million families in the fight against COVID-19."⁷⁷²⁸ The Epidemic Social Support Program which began in April, is administered in three phases to households with elderly, disabled, or has financial need.⁷⁷²⁹ Households are eligible to receive TRY1000.⁷⁷³⁰

On 6 September 2021, the Government of Turkey introduced new COVID-19 regulations.⁷⁷³¹ Citizens are now required to have proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test if they choose to utilize public transit, airways, or attend large events.⁷⁷³² Further, mandates pertaining to masks and social distancing are to remain in place.⁷⁷³³

On 6 September 2021, Minister of Health Dr. Fahrettin Koca revealed that over 78 per cent of people in Turkey have received the first dose, and over 60 per cent have received the second dose.⁷⁷³⁴ He noted that 81 per cent of current COVID-19 cases are amongst the unvaccinated.⁷⁷³⁵ In order to reduce transmission within schools, he announced the allocation of TRY650 million to be used for masks, disinfectants, and cleaning supplies for schools across the country.⁷⁷³⁶ Furthermore, all unvaccinated school employees are required to take a COVID-19 test twice a week.⁷⁷³⁷

⁷⁷²⁶ We Are On the Verge of Ending the Pandemic with Vaccines, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,84296/quotwe-are-on-the-verge-of-ending-the-pandemic-with-vaccinesquot.html>

⁷⁷²⁷ We Are On the Verge of Ending the Pandemic with Vaccines, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,84296/quotwe-are-on-the-verge-of-ending-the-pandemic-with-vaccinesquot.html>

⁷⁷²⁸ In the process of combating Kovid-19, approximately 7 million families were provided with 10.6 billion liras of support, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/kovid-19la-mucadele-surecinde-yaklasik-7-milyon-aileye-10-6-milyar-lira-destek-saglandi/>

⁷⁷²⁹ In the process of combating Kovid-19, approximately 7 million families were provided with 10.6 billion liras of support, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/kovid-19la-mucadele-surecinde-yaklasik-7-milyon-aileye-10-6-milyar-lira-destek-saglandi/>

⁷⁷³⁰ In the process of combating Kovid-19, approximately 7 million families were provided with 10.6 billion liras of support, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/kovid-19la-mucadele-surecinde-yaklasik-7-milyon-aileye-10-6-milyar-lira-destek-saglandi/>

⁷⁷³¹ Thousands protest new Turkish vaccine and test rules, Thomson Reuters (Istanbul) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/thousands-protest-new-turkish-vaccine-test-rules-2021-09-11/>

⁷⁷³² Thousands protest new Turkish vaccine and test rules, Thomson Reuters (Istanbul) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/thousands-protest-new-turkish-vaccine-test-rules-2021-09-11/>

⁷⁷³³ Thousands protest new Turkish vaccine and test rules, Thomson Reuters (Istanbul) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/thousands-protest-new-turkish-vaccine-test-rules-2021-09-11/>

⁷⁷³⁴ "Get Vaccinated, Protect Yourself and Those Around You", Ministry of Health (Ankara) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,85411/quotget-vaccinated-protect-yourself-and-those-around-youquot.html>

⁷⁷³⁵ "Get Vaccinated, Protect Yourself and Those Around You", Ministry of Health (Ankara) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,85411/quotget-vaccinated-protect-yourself-and-those-around-youquot.html>

⁷⁷³⁶ "Get Vaccinated, Protect Yourself and Those Around You", Ministry of Health (Ankara) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,85411/quotget-vaccinated-protect-yourself-and-those-around-youquot.html>

⁷⁷³⁷ Thousands protest new Turkish vaccine and test rules, Thomson Reuters (Istanbul) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/thousands-protest-new-turkish-vaccine-test-rules-2021-09-11/>

Turkey has taken strong action in advancing global pandemic, prevention, detection, and response by following the strict protocols of the Coronavirus Scientific Committee and launching its mass COVID-19 vaccination campaign. However, Turkey has not demonstrated significant pandemic preparedness.

Thus, Turkey has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Shafna Kallil

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 3 December 2020, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced a GBP68 million investment supporting people living independently with disabilities.⁷⁷³⁸ The grant covers over 280,000 households and aims to assist individuals and local councils in making changes and adaptations necessary for households to allow people to live independently in their own homes throughout the pandemic.⁷⁷³⁹

On 14 December 2020, the British Embassy in Cairo announced GBP1 million in funding to support Egypt against COVID-19 in partnership with the World Health Organization.⁷⁷⁴⁰ The funds aim to provide “e-training to staff in the rapid response teams at governorate and district levels.”⁷⁷⁴¹ This agreement helps maintain essential trade and procurement of personal protective equipment from the UK.⁷⁷⁴²

On 11 January 2021, the Ministry for COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment shared the national delivery plan with the UK parliament.⁷⁷⁴³ The plan rests on four major categories: supply, prioritization, places and people. The initiative and overall plan aim to ensure the protection of the greatest number of at-risk people in the shortest possible time.⁷⁷⁴⁴

On 27 January 2021, the UK announced greater restrictions at the borders to protect public health.⁷⁷⁴⁵ The new initiatives at the border will impose more significant restrictions on travelers,

⁷⁷³⁸ More funding to support people with disabilities live independently, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-funding-to-support-people-with-disabilities-live-independently>

⁷⁷³⁹ More funding to support people with disabilities live independently, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-funding-to-support-people-with-disabilities-live-independently>

⁷⁷⁴⁰ WHO and UK commit £1m to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>

⁷⁷⁴¹ WHO and UK commit £1m to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>

⁷⁷⁴² WHO and UK commit £1m to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>

⁷⁷⁴³ Oral statement to Parliament A vaccine delivery plan for everyone, Minister of COVID Vaccine Deployment (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a-vaccine-delivery-plan-for-everyone>

⁷⁷⁴⁴ Oral statement to Parliament A vaccine delivery plan for everyone, Minister of COVID Vaccine Deployment (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a-vaccine-delivery-plan-for-everyone>

⁷⁷⁴⁵ Tougher border controls to protect public health, Home Office (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tougher-border-controls-to-protect-public-health>

increase police enforcement, and centralize travelers' isolation at hotels.⁷⁷⁴⁶ With the new rules in place, the government aims to stem the flow of travelers on a daily basis.⁷⁷⁴⁷

On 18 February 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced a GBP18.5 million investment in the research of longer-term effects of COVID-19.⁷⁷⁴⁸ This new initiative establishes a new working relationship between the government and the National Institute for Health Research and UK Research and Innovation.⁷⁷⁴⁹

On 22 February 2021, the Cabinet Office released the "COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021" setting out the government's plans to end the lockdowns affecting large portions of the UK.⁷⁷⁵⁰ The report outlines the rollout of vaccines, prioritizes children's educations and getting young people back to school, outlines how businesses are meant to get back to work, and reviews all social distancing measures.⁷⁷⁵¹

On 26 February 2021, the Government Equalities Office (Race Disparity Unit) released an update on plans to address identifying and tackling COVID-19 disparities. The report emphasized the importance of vaccines and that people of all communities take them. To create and update this report, the government is working across ethnic communities and languages to ensure the adoption of the vaccine across the UK.⁷⁷⁵²

On 28 February 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that all households with children currently attending school will receive two rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week.⁷⁷⁵³ Recognizing that testing will be a vital component of the "COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021" plan, households will be able to test themselves twice a week ahead of and during the school reopening period.⁷⁷⁵⁴

On 1 March 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced that Côte d'Ivoire would receive the first COVID-19 vaccines with the UK's aid through the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) initiative.⁷⁷⁵⁵ To date, the UK is the largest contributor to

⁷⁷⁴⁶ Tougher border controls to protect public health, Home Office (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tougher-border-controls-to-protect-public-health>

⁷⁷⁴⁷ Tougher border controls to protect public health, Home Office (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tougher-border-controls-to-protect-public-health>

⁷⁷⁴⁸ £18.5 million to tackle long COVID through research, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/185-million-to-tackle-long-covid-through-research>

⁷⁷⁴⁹ £18.5 million to tackle long COVID through research, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/185-million-to-tackle-long-covid-through-research>

⁷⁷⁵⁰ Government updates on identifying and tackling COVID-19 disparities, United Kingdom Government Equalities Office (London) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-updates-on-identifying-and-tackling-covid-19-disparities>

⁷⁷⁵¹ COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021, the United Kingdom Cabinet Office (London) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021>

⁷⁷⁵² Government updates on identifying and tackling COVID-19 disparities, United Kingdom Government Equalities Office (London) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-updates-on-identifying-and-tackling-covid-19-disparities>

⁷⁷⁵³ All households with children of school age to get 2 rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>

⁷⁷⁵⁴ All households with children of school age to get 2 rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>

⁷⁷⁵⁵ With UK aid support, people in Côte d'Ivoire to be first vaccinated through COVAX: Foreign Secretary's statement, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-with-uk-aid-support-people-in-ivory-coast-to-be-first-vaccinated-through-covax>

COVAX, and Côte d'Ivoire is one of several countries set to receive shipments of the vaccine through this program.⁷⁷⁵⁶

On 5 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced a GBP79 million investment to boost mental health for children and young people in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.⁷⁷⁵⁷ This investment will allow the number of mental health support teams in schools to grow from 59 to 400 by April of 2023.⁷⁷⁵⁸ The initiative also aims to provide over 22,500 children and young people enhanced access to support by the end of 2021, including therapies and directed supports.⁷⁷⁵⁹

On 15 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care secured two new contracts with domestic manufacturers to ensure a continual supply of COVID-19 lateral flow tests.⁷⁷⁶⁰ The new supply of tests will aid in the government's plans to re-open the UK and provide capacity for creating an additional 200 million test packages.⁷⁷⁶¹

On 20 March 2021, the UK announced GBP46 million for a new vaccine innovation and manufacturing center.⁷⁷⁶² The funding aims to support work that is already underway and help the United Kingdom respond to pandemics by producing larger amounts of the vaccine faster.⁷⁷⁶³ The initiative is projected to “expand the capacity twenty-fold” allowing the facility to make up to 70 million doses in 6 months.⁷⁷⁶⁴

On 20 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care launched trials to find preventative COVID-19 treatments for the most vulnerable segments of the populations across the United Kingdom.⁷⁷⁶⁵ The initiative targets individuals in “care homes and health settings” to stop the spread

⁷⁷⁵⁶ With UK aid support, people in Côte d'Ivoire to be first vaccinated through COVAX: Foreign Secretary's statement, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-with-uk-aid-support-people-in-ivory-coast-to-be-first-vaccinated-through-covax>

⁷⁷⁵⁷ £79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/79-million-to-boost-mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people>

⁷⁷⁵⁸ £79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/79-million-to-boost-mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people>

⁷⁷⁵⁹ £79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/79-million-to-boost-mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people>

⁷⁷⁶⁰ UK government announces partnership with British rapid test manufacturers, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-announces-partnership-with-british-rapid-test-manufacturers>

⁷⁷⁶¹ UK government announces partnership with British rapid test manufacturers, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-announces-partnership-with-british-rapid-test-manufacturers>

⁷⁷⁶² Extra £47.6 million for Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre, The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-476-million-for-vaccines-manufacturing-and-innovation-centre>

⁷⁷⁶³ Extra £47.6 million for Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre, The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-476-million-for-vaccines-manufacturing-and-innovation-centre>

⁷⁷⁶⁴ Extra £47.6 million for Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre, The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-476-million-for-vaccines-manufacturing-and-innovation-centre>

⁷⁷⁶⁵ Trials to find preventative COVID-19 treatments for most vulnerable to launch in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trials-to-find-preventative-covid-19-treatments-for-most-vulnerable-to-launch-in-uk>

of COVID-19.⁷⁷⁶⁶ The Government has pledged GBP3.2 million in funding, helping launch two new clinical trials.⁷⁷⁶⁷

On 22 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced new technology developed to detect the “known variants of concern” around the world.⁷⁷⁶⁸ The new technology will help detect mutations and is being trialed by the National Health Service and National Laboratories.⁷⁷⁶⁹ Implementing this new technology aims to help notify the public more quickly and potentially break chains of transmission faster.⁷⁷⁷⁰

On 1 April 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced the launch of the UK Health Security Agency.⁷⁷⁷¹ The new agency was created to protect the UK from future health threats and ensure the appropriate government agencies can respond to future pandemics quickly and at greater scale.⁷⁷⁷² The agency will also work with international partners to create a “more robust international health architecture that will protect future generations.”⁷⁷⁷³

On 20 April 2021, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office announced the creation of a new global partnership to fight future pandemics.⁷⁷⁷⁴ The new Pandemic Preparedness Partnership aims to slash the time to develop vaccines for new diseases to 100 days.⁷⁷⁷⁵ The partnership also includes GBP16 million to fund the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).⁷⁷⁷⁶

On 20 April 2021, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office announced that the United Kingdom will host a global summit with the CEPI to speed up new vaccine development.⁷⁷⁷⁷ The

⁷⁷⁶⁶ Trials to find preventative COVID-19 treatments for most vulnerable to launch in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trials-to-find-preventative-covid-19-treatments-for-most-vulnerable-to-launch-in-uk>

⁷⁷⁶⁷ Trials to find preventative COVID-19 treatments for most vulnerable to launch in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trials-to-find-preventative-covid-19-treatments-for-most-vulnerable-to-launch-in-uk>

⁷⁷⁶⁸ Groundbreaking new technology to detect known variants of concern, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/groundbreaking-new-technology-to-detect-known-variants-of-concern>

⁷⁷⁶⁹ Groundbreaking new technology to detect known variants of concern, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/groundbreaking-new-technology-to-detect-known-variants-of-concern>

⁷⁷⁷⁰ Groundbreaking new technology to detect known variants of concern, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/groundbreaking-new-technology-to-detect-known-variants-of-concern>

⁷⁷⁷¹ Work begins for UK Health Security Agency to protect the nation (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-begins-for-uk-health-security-agency-to-protect-the-nation>

⁷⁷⁷² Work begins for UK Health Security Agency to protect the nation (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-begins-for-uk-health-security-agency-to-protect-the-nation>

⁷⁷⁷³ Work begins for UK Health Security Agency to protect the nation (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-begins-for-uk-health-security-agency-to-protect-the-nation>

⁷⁷⁷⁴ New global partnership launched to fight future pandemics (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-global-partnership-launched-to-fight-future-pandemics>

⁷⁷⁷⁵ New global partnership launched to fight future pandemics (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-global-partnership-launched-to-fight-future-pandemics>

⁷⁷⁷⁶ New global partnership launched to fight future pandemics (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-global-partnership-launched-to-fight-future-pandemics>

⁷⁷⁷⁷ UK to host global summit with CEPI to speed up new vaccine development (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-host-global-summit-with-cepi-to-speed-up-new-vaccine-development>

2022 summit will support the goal of cutting vaccine development and raise funds for global vaccine research.⁷⁷⁷⁸

On 2 May 2021, Public Health England launched a 40,000-person daily contact testing study.⁷⁷⁷⁹ The study aims to understand how effective daily contact testing could keep society open, reduce quarantine times, and catch positive cases quicker.⁷⁷⁸⁰

On 14 May 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the COVID-19 Indian variant could pose “significant disruption” to the planned relaxation of lockdown on 21 June. Due to the surge in the COVID-19 variant, the government’s aim with the fourth and final step of the reopening roadmap will be stalled.⁷⁷⁸¹

On 19 May 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care launched the world's first COVID-19 vaccine booster study with GBP19.3 million in funding.⁷⁷⁸² The results are expected in September of 2021 and will be used to design a booster programme.⁷⁷⁸³ The Department of Health and Social Care recruited thousands of volunteers to receive a booster vaccine in a study led by the University Hospital Southampton.⁷⁷⁸⁴

On 22 May 2021, the Environmental Monitoring for Health Protection (EMHP) Programme, led by the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC), a part of the newly formed UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), launched a new program to test waste and sewage to support variant detection across the United Kingdom.⁷⁷⁸⁵ The program covers over two-thirds of the population, and will help detect outbreaks of variants that are being monitored by the government.⁷⁷⁸⁶

On 24 May 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that it would invest GBP12 million to support nine pilot programs in areas with a higher prevalence of infection, including from

⁷⁷⁷⁸ UK to host global summit with CEPI to speed up new vaccine development (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-host-global-summit-with-cepi-to-speed-up-new-vaccine-development>

⁷⁷⁷⁹ Government to launch 40,000 person daily contact testing study (London) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-launch-40000-person-daily-contact-testing-study>

⁷⁷⁸⁰ Government to launch 40,000 person daily contact testing study (London) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-launch-40000-person-daily-contact-testing-study>

⁷⁷⁸¹ COVID: Indian variant could disrupt 21 June easing, PM says (London) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57122817>

⁷⁷⁸² World-first COVID-19 vaccine booster study launches in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-covid-19-vaccine-booster-study-launches-in-uk>

⁷⁷⁸³ World-first COVID-19 vaccine booster study launches in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-covid-19-vaccine-booster-study-launches-in-uk>

⁷⁷⁸⁴ World-first COVID-19 vaccine booster study launches in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-covid-19-vaccine-booster-study-launches-in-uk>

⁷⁷⁸⁵ Testing and sequencing of sewage ramped up to help tackle COVID-19 outbreaks, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/testing-and-sequencing-of-sewage-ramped-up-to-help-tackle-covid-19-outbreaks>

⁷⁷⁸⁶ Testing and sequencing of sewage ramped up to help tackle COVID-19 outbreaks, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/testing-and-sequencing-of-sewage-ramped-up-to-help-tackle-covid-19-outbreaks>

new variants, to develop new and creative ways to ensure that people stick to self-isolation rules.⁷⁷⁸⁷ The program includes language accessible information for those who do not speak English.⁷⁷⁸⁸

On 3 June 2021, the United Kingdom's Global Antimicrobial Resistance Innovation Fund (GAMRIF) announced that it would invest GBP1 million in efforts designed to tackle antimicrobial resistance.⁷⁷⁸⁹ Alongside much of the government's spending on COVID-19, the Department of Health and Social Care is also focusing on helping developing countries combat drug-resistant infections and helping improve supply chains.⁷⁷⁹⁰

On 11 June 2021, the Prime Minister announced that the United Kingdom will donate 100 million COVID-19 vaccines from the nation's surplus within the following year.⁷⁷⁹¹ 5 million of the promised vaccines will be delivered to countries in need by the end of September 2021.⁷⁷⁹² 80 per cent of the vaccines will go to COVAX, while the remainder will be shared on a bilateral basis.⁷⁷⁹³

On 16 June 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that all personnel in care homes will be fully vaccinated under a new law to protect elderly residents.⁷⁷⁹⁴ The new law stipulates that all workers must have two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine unless they have a medical exemption.⁷⁷⁹⁵ From October 2021, a 16-week grace period will go into effect, allowing staff to get vaccinated.⁷⁷⁹⁶

On 23 June 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced GBP64 million to strengthen clinical research delivery across the country.⁷⁷⁹⁷ Activities under the new fund include new

⁷⁷⁸⁷ Government launches new pilots to further support people to self-isolate, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-pilots-to-further-support-people-to-self-isolate>

⁷⁷⁸⁸ Government launches new pilots to further support people to self-isolate, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-pilots-to-further-support-people-to-self-isolate>

⁷⁷⁸⁹ Most vulnerable set to benefit from further £1 million investment to safeguard modern medicine, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/most-vulnerable-set-to-benefit-from-further-1-million-investment-to-safeguard-modern-medicine>

⁷⁷⁹⁰ Most vulnerable set to benefit from further £1 million investment to safeguard modern medicine, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/most-vulnerable-set-to-benefit-from-further-1-million-investment-to-safeguard-modern-medicine>

⁷⁷⁹¹ UK to donate 100 million coronavirus vaccine doses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-donate-100-million-coronavirus-vaccine-doses>

⁷⁷⁹² UK to donate 100 million coronavirus vaccine doses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-donate-100-million-coronavirus-vaccine-doses>

⁷⁷⁹³ UK to donate 100 million coronavirus vaccine doses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-donate-100-million-coronavirus-vaccine-doses>

⁷⁷⁹⁴ Everyone working in care homes to be fully vaccinated under new law to protect residents, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/everyone-working-in-care-homes-to-be-fully-vaccinated-under-new-law-to-protect-residents>

⁷⁷⁹⁵ Everyone working in care homes to be fully vaccinated under new law to protect residents, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/everyone-working-in-care-homes-to-be-fully-vaccinated-under-new-law-to-protect-residents>

⁷⁷⁹⁶ Everyone working in care homes to be fully vaccinated under new law to protect residents, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/everyone-working-in-care-homes-to-be-fully-vaccinated-under-new-law-to-protect-residents>

⁷⁷⁹⁷ £64 million funding to back UK-wide plan to strengthen clinical research delivery, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/64-million-funding-to-back-uk-wide-plan-to-strengthen-clinical-research-delivery>

trials for COVID-19 treatments, more efficient ways to deliver results, boosting capacity while making new endeavors cheaper and faster to start.⁷⁷⁹⁸

On 17 July 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that it will offer the seasonal flu vaccine to over 35 million people for free this year.⁷⁷⁹⁹ From September 2021, providers will offer the vaccine to vulnerable populations, including secondary school students up to grade eleven for the first time.⁷⁸⁰⁰ This program follows the expanded 2020 campaign to get people vaccinated against the seasonal flu in response to COVID-19 exacerbating symptoms.⁷⁸⁰¹

On 19 July 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that within the United Kingdom, every adult had been offered their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine ahead of schedule and that everyone over the age of 18 is now able to book their second dose immediately.⁷⁸⁰²

On 22 July 2021, the UK government launched a new campaign across England to ensure that citizens continue to follow community health measures.⁷⁸⁰³ The campaign is designed to stress the importance of staying vigilant as the country reopens.⁷⁸⁰⁴

On 23 July 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that the government will deploy additional resources to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in the Northeastern regions of the country.⁷⁸⁰⁵ The support package includes increased testing capabilities, programs to encourage vaccine uptake, and support for logistics and public health campaigns in the areas affected.⁷⁸⁰⁶

On 13 August 2021, the United Kingdom sent 119,200 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to Zambia and 51,840 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁷⁸⁰⁷ Later in August, 119,040 doses are due to arrive in Malawi, 140,160 doses in Senegal, 299,680 doses in Egypt, and 299,520 doses are scheduled to touch down in Uganda.⁷⁸⁰⁸

⁷⁷⁹⁸ £64 million funding to back UK-wide plan to strengthen clinical research delivery, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/64-million-funding-to-back-uk-wide-plan-to-strengthen-clinical-research-delivery>

⁷⁷⁹⁹ Biggest flu programme in history to roll out for winter 2021, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-flu-programme-in-history-to-roll-out-for-winter-2021>

⁷⁸⁰⁰ Biggest flu programme in history to roll out for winter 2021, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-flu-programme-in-history-to-roll-out-for-winter-2021>

⁷⁸⁰¹ Biggest flu programme in history to roll out for winter 2021, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-flu-programme-in-history-to-roll-out-for-winter-2021>

⁷⁸⁰² Every adult in UK offered COVID-19 vaccine, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/every-adult-in-uk-offered-covid-19-vaccine>

⁷⁸⁰³ Public urged to continue protecting family and friends, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-urged-to-continue-protecting-family-and-friends>

⁷⁸⁰⁴ Public urged to continue protecting family and friends, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-urged-to-continue-protecting-family-and-friends>

⁷⁸⁰⁵ Extra COVID-19 support deployed to North East, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-covid-19-support-deployed-to-north-east>

⁷⁸⁰⁶ Extra COVID-19 support deployed to North East, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-covid-19-support-deployed-to-north-east>

⁷⁸⁰⁷ UK-donated COVID-19 vaccine doses reach African countries, Gavi (Geneva) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/uk-donated-covid-19-vaccine-doses-reach-african-countries>

⁷⁸⁰⁸ UK-donated COVID-19 vaccine doses reach African countries, Gavi (Geneva) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/uk-donated-covid-19-vaccine-doses-reach-african-countries>

On 20 August 2021, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency approved the first monoclonal antibody treatment for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 in the UK.⁷⁸⁰⁹ The new treatment may be used to prevent infection and can reduce the likelihood of being admitted to the hospital due to COVID-19.⁷⁸¹⁰

On 22 August 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced a country-wide antibody surveillance programme.⁷⁸¹¹ The programme will offer antibody testing to adults in the UK who test positive from COVID-19.⁷⁸¹² Up to 8000 individuals will have access to free antibody testing twice daily.⁷⁸¹³

On 26 August 2021, Public Health England announced that the Health Security Agency will lead a consortium of organizations to understand why some people become infected after vaccination.⁷⁸¹⁴ The research will be funded by UK Research and Innovation and the study will cost GBP 1.5 million.⁷⁸¹⁵

On 3 September 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care, Foreign and the Commonwealth & Development Office announced that the United Kingdom and Australia will share vaccines to help fight COVID-19.⁷⁸¹⁶ The UK will send 4 million vaccines that are not immediately needed to Australia.⁷⁸¹⁷ Australia will return the same overall volume of doses before the end of the year.⁷⁸¹⁸

On 6 September 2021, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the National Health Service will receive an additional GBP5.4 billion in additional funding to help tackle COVID-19.⁷⁸¹⁹

⁷⁸⁰⁹ First monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19 approved for use in the UK, the UK Government (London) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-monoclonal-antibody-treatment-for-covid-19-approved-for-use-in-the-uk>

⁷⁸¹⁰ First monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19 approved for use in the UK, the UK Government (London) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-monoclonal-antibody-treatment-for-covid-19-approved-for-use-in-the-uk>

⁷⁸¹¹ Antibody Surveillance Programme Launches UK-wide, Coronavirus Today (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.coronavirustoday.com/antibody-surveillance-program-launches-uk-wide#:~:text=The%20UK%20Department%20of%20Health,a%20day%20across%20the%20UK>

⁷⁸¹² Antibody Surveillance Programme Launches UK-wide, Coronavirus Today (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.coronavirustoday.com/antibody-surveillance-program-launches-uk-wide#:~:text=The%20UK%20Department%20of%20Health,a%20day%20across%20the%20UK>

⁷⁸¹³ Antibody Surveillance Programme Launches UK-wide, Coronavirus Today (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.coronavirustoday.com/antibody-surveillance-program-launches-uk-wide#:~:text=The%20UK%20Department%20of%20Health,a%20day%20across%20the%20UK>

⁷⁸¹⁴ UKHSA launches study to better understand COVID-19 vaccine response, the UK Government (London) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 1 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-launches-study-to-better-understand-covid-19-vaccine-response>

⁷⁸¹⁵ UKHSA launches study to better understand COVID-19 vaccine response, the UK Government (London) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 1 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-launches-study-to-better-understand-covid-19-vaccine-response>

⁷⁸¹⁶ UK and Australia agree to share vaccines to tackle global pandemic, the UK Government (London) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-australia-agree-to-share-vaccines-to-tackle-global-pandemic>

⁷⁸¹⁷ UK and Australia agree to share vaccines to tackle global pandemic, the UK Government (London) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-australia-agree-to-share-vaccines-to-tackle-global-pandemic>

⁷⁸¹⁸ UK and Australia agree to share vaccines to tackle global pandemic, the UK Government (London) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-australia-agree-to-share-vaccines-to-tackle-global-pandemic>

⁷⁸¹⁹ Additional £5.4 billion for NHS COVID-19 response over next 6 months, the UK Government (London) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/additional-54-billion-for-nhs-covid-19-response-over-next-six-months>

Funding includes GBP2.6 billion for enhanced infection control measures, GBP1 billion to address backlog in the system, and GBP478 million to continue to free beds in hospitals across the United Kingdom.⁷⁸²⁰

The United Kingdom has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by administering a national vaccine delivery plan, collaborating internationally through vaccine distribution with Egypt and creating a mental health initiative.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Rahul Pallan

United States: +1

United States has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 7 January 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) extended the Community Based Testing Site program, which aimed to establish COVID-19 testing locations across the country, with particular focus on vulnerable and underserved communities.⁷⁸²¹ The HHS allocated an additional USD550 million to continue program operations until April 2021.⁷⁸²²

On 12 January 2021, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention implemented new travel restrictions that would require all air passengers entering the United States to produce a negative COVID-19 test prior to departure.⁷⁸²³

On 21 January 2021, President Joseph Biden enacted two Executive Orders aimed towards advancing pandemic detection and response. Executive Order 13994, “On Ensuring a Data-Driven Response to COVID-19 and Future High-Consequence Public Health Threats,” called upon relevant executive departments and agencies to gather and publish all COVID-19 data under the oversight of a federally appointed COVID-19 Response Coordinator.⁷⁸²⁴ Executive Order 13996, “On Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats,” called for the formation of a national COVID-19 testing board and public health workforce strategy.⁷⁸²⁵

⁷⁸²⁰ Additional £5.4 billion for NHS COVID-19 response over next 6 months, the UK Government (London) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/additional-54-billion-for-nhs-covid-19-response-over-next-six-months>

⁷⁸²¹ HHS Continues Community Based Testing Sites for COVID-19, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/01/07/hhs-continues-community-based-testing-sites-covid-19.html>

⁷⁸²² HHS Continues Community Based Testing Sites for COVID-19, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/01/07/hhs-continues-community-based-testing-sites-covid-19.html>

⁷⁸²³ CDC Expands Negative COVID-19 Test Requirement to All Passengers Entering the United States, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/01/07/hhs-continues-community-based-testing-sites-covid-19.html>

⁷⁸²⁴ Executive Order on Ensuring Data-Driven Response to COVID-19, The White House (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-ensuring-a-data-driven-response-to-covid-19-and-future-high-consequence-public-health-threats/>

⁷⁸²⁵ Executive Order on Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats, The White House (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-establishing-the-covid-19-pandemic-testing-board-and-ensuring-a-sustainable-public-health-workforce-for-covid-19-and-other-biological-threats/>

On 25 January 2021, the Federal Emergency Management Agency established the Interagency Vaccination Task Force to deploy staff to vaccination sites, where they were required to develop data dashboards to track personnel movement and vaccine distribution.⁷⁸²⁶

On 26 January 2021, President Biden enacted the Defence Production Act to expedite COVID-19 vaccine production and to address supply shortages of medical equipment.⁷⁸²⁷

On 9 February 2021, President Biden launched the Federally Qualified Health Centre program to increase vaccine availability and accessibility in underserved and vulnerable communities within the United States.⁷⁸²⁸

On 18 February 2021, the US pledged USD2 billion in funding to GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance which aims to secure equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for low- and middle-income countries.⁷⁸²⁹

On 11 March 2021, the US enacted the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which provides USD1.9 trillion in funding towards COVID-19 relief efforts.⁷⁸³⁰ International funding commitments include: USD245 million to COVID-19 relief efforts conducted by the US Department of State and the US Agency for International Development; USD905 million to US AID for global health programs and vaccine procurement; and USD580 million to UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19.⁷⁸³¹

On 12 March 2021, the US entered the Quad Vaccine Partnership with Japan, India, and Australia.⁷⁸³² The partnership is aimed towards strengthening vaccination efforts in the Indo-Pacific region, expanding global COVID-19 vaccine development and distribution, coordinating with international pandemic response initiatives, and assisting in health workforce preparedness and training.⁷⁸³³

⁷⁸²⁶ FEMA Supports Vaccine Distribution: COVID-19 Response Update, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Washington D.C.) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210125/fema-supports-vaccine-distribution-covid-19-response-update>

⁷⁸²⁷ Remarks by President Biden on the Fight to Contain the COVID-19 Pandemic, The White House (Washington D.C.) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/01/26/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-fight-to-contain-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

⁷⁸²⁸ President Biden Announces Community Health Centers Vaccination Program, The White House (Washington D.C.) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/09/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-community-health-centers-vaccination-program-to-launch-next-week-and-another-increase-in-states-tribes-territories-vaccine-supply/>

⁷⁸²⁹ President Biden to Take Action on Global Health through Support of COVAX and Calling for Health Security Financing, The White House (Washington D.C.) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/fact-sheet-president-biden-to-take-action-on-global-health-through-support-of-covax-and-calling-for-health-security-financing/>

⁷⁸³⁰ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>

⁷⁸³¹ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>

⁷⁸³² Fact Sheet: Quad Summit, The White House (Washington D.C.) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/12/fact-sheet-quad-summit/>

⁷⁸³³ Fact Sheet: Quad Summit, The White House (Washington D.C.) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/12/fact-sheet-quad-summit/>

On 25 March 2021, the US announced an investment of USD10 billion into the expansion of the national COVID-19 vaccination program.⁷⁸³⁴ Funding was allocated towards expanding equitable access to vaccines and medical services in underserved and high-risk communities, strengthening vaccine confidence and uptake, targeting vulnerable populations, and aiding community healthcare workers.⁷⁸³⁵

On 15 April 2021, the US cooperated with GAVI to launch a campaign dedicated towards raising USD2 billion in international funding for the fight against COVID-19.⁷⁸³⁶ Funding was dedicated towards support the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) mechanism in accruing and distributing 1.8 billion vaccine doses to low and middle-income countries.⁷⁸³⁷ The United States also committed USD2 billion in funding for GAVI and COVAX.⁷⁸³⁸

On 16 April 2021, the US announced an investment of USD1.7 billion towards researching, detecting, and preventing the spread of COVID-19 variants.⁷⁸³⁹ Funding was allocated to support increased genomic sequencing and epidemiology research, increased variant detection and tracing, and the development of a national bioinformatics infrastructure for the prevention of future outbreaks and pandemics.⁷⁸⁴⁰

On 28 April 2021, the US delivered emergency COVID-19 assistance to India in response to a recent surge in infections and critical cases.⁷⁸⁴¹ Medical support and equipment worth over USD100 million were provided, including: oxygen generation units, personal protective equipment, rapid diagnostic test kits, and therapeutics.⁷⁸⁴²

⁷⁸³⁴ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Announces Historic \$10 Billion Investment to Expand Access to COVID-19 Vaccines and Build Vaccine Confidence in Hardest-Hit and Highest-Risk Communities, The White House (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/25/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-historic-10-billion-investment-to-expand-access-to-covid-19-vaccines-and-build-vaccine-confidence-in-hardest-hit-and-highest-risk-communities/>

⁷⁸³⁵ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Announces Historic \$10 Billion Investment to Expand Access to COVID-19 Vaccines and Build Vaccine Confidence in Hardest-Hit and Highest-Risk Communities, The White House (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/25/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-historic-10-billion-investment-to-expand-access-to-covid-19-vaccines-and-build-vaccine-confidence-in-hardest-hit-and-highest-risk-communities/>

⁷⁸³⁶ Global leaders rally to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Washington D.C./Geneva) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/global-leaders-rally-accelerate-access-covid-19-vaccines-lower-income-countries>

⁷⁸³⁷ Global leaders rally to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Washington D.C./Geneva) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/global-leaders-rally-accelerate-access-covid-19-vaccines-lower-income-countries>

⁷⁸³⁸ Global leaders rally to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Washington D.C./Geneva) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/global-leaders-rally-accelerate-access-covid-19-vaccines-lower-income-countries>

⁷⁸³⁹ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Announces \$1.7 Billion Investment to Fight COVID-19 Variants, The White House (Washington D.C.) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/16/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-1-7-billion-investment-to-fight-covid-19-variants/>

⁷⁸⁴⁰ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Announces \$1.7 Billion Investment to Fight COVID-19 Variants, The White House (Washington D.C.) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/16/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-1-7-billion-investment-to-fight-covid-19-variants/>

⁷⁸⁴¹ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Delivers Emergency COVID-19 Assistance for India, The White House (Washington D.C.) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/28/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-delivers-emergency-covid-19-assistance-for-india/>

⁷⁸⁴² Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Delivers Emergency COVID-19 Assistance for India, The White House (Washington D.C.) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/28/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-delivers-emergency-covid-19-assistance-for-india/>

On 30 April 2021, the US issued travel restrictions preventing the entry of non-citizens who stayed in India within a 14-day period prior to departure to the US.⁷⁸⁴³ Such individuals are not permitted to board an aircraft traveling to the US or are subject to refusal upon landing.⁷⁸⁴⁴ The US issued these restrictions in response to the detection of community transmission of the COVID-19 variant strain B.1.617 in India.⁷⁸⁴⁵

On 13 May 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration committed to investing USD7.4 billion into pandemic preparation, response, and prevention.⁷⁸⁴⁶ The funding targeted programs designed for recruiting and training healthcare workers in pandemic response skills, as well as initiatives aimed at preparing for future outbreaks and public health crises.⁷⁸⁴⁷ USD4.4 billion were allocated towards expanding and improving existing healthcare facilities and infrastructure, while USD3 billion were targeted at developing future preparatory and preventative measures.⁷⁸⁴⁸ USD250 million was allocated towards mobilizing community outreach programs for encouraging vaccine uptake in high-risk and under-resourced communities.⁷⁸⁴⁹

On 14 May 2021, the Centre for Disease Control announced that fully vaccinated people are no longer required to wear masks.⁷⁸⁵⁰ In his address in the Rose Garden, without wearing a mask President Biden said that 250 million vaccine shots have been given in 114 days and the US is said to return to normalcy when the virus raging other countries. Moreover, those travelling within the United States need not get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.⁷⁸⁵¹

⁷⁸⁴³ A Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease 2019, The White House (Washington D.C.) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/30/a-proclamation-on-the-suspension-of-entry-as-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-coronavirus-disease-2019/>

⁷⁸⁴⁴ A Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease 2019, The White House (Washington D.C.) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/30/a-proclamation-on-the-suspension-of-entry-as-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-coronavirus-disease-2019/>

⁷⁸⁴⁵ A Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease 2019, The White House (Washington D.C.) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/30/a-proclamation-on-the-suspension-of-entry-as-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-coronavirus-disease-2019/>

⁷⁸⁴⁶ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration to Invest \$7 Billion from American Rescue Plan to Hire and Train Public Health Workers in Response to COVID-19, The White House (Washington D.C.) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/13/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-to-invest-7-billion-from-american-rescue-plan-to-hire-and-train-public-health-workers-in-response-to-covid-19/>

⁷⁸⁴⁷ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration to Invest \$7 Billion from American Rescue Plan to Hire and Train Public Health Workers in Response to COVID-19, The White House (Washington D.C.) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/13/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-to-invest-7-billion-from-american-rescue-plan-to-hire-and-train-public-health-workers-in-response-to-covid-19/>

⁷⁸⁴⁸ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration to Invest \$7 Billion from American Rescue Plan to Hire and Train Public Health Workers in Response to COVID-19, The White House (Washington D.C.) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/13/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-to-invest-7-billion-from-american-rescue-plan-to-hire-and-train-public-health-workers-in-response-to-covid-19/>

⁷⁸⁴⁹ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration to Invest \$7 Billion from American Rescue Plan to Hire and Train Public Health Workers in Response to COVID-19, The White House (Washington D.C.) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/13/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-to-invest-7-billion-from-american-rescue-plan-to-hire-and-train-public-health-workers-in-response-to-covid-19/>

⁷⁸⁵⁰ COVID-19: U.S. allows fully vaccinated people to forgo masks indoors (Washington DC) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/covid-19-us-allows-fully-vaccinated-people-to-forgo-masks-indoors/article34553190.ece>

⁷⁸⁵¹ COVID-19: U.S. allows fully vaccinated people to forgo masks indoors (Washington DC) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/covid-19-us-allows-fully-vaccinated-people-to-forgo-masks-indoors/article34553190.ece>

On 17 May 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration pledged to donate at least 80 million COVID-19 vaccine doses from its surplus supplies, in coordination with global inoculation efforts led by COVAX and G7 partners.⁷⁸⁵²

On 26 May 2021, the President instructed US spy agencies to investigate the origins of COVID-19.⁷⁸⁵³ This investigation gave rise to two scenarios that either it was due to contact with humans and animals or a “lab leak” from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.⁷⁸⁵⁴ Although China had condemned the possibility of the latter scenario a group of 14 countries that include US, UK and Japan said that a World Health Organization (WHO) report that had cited the origins of COVID-19 lacked full access to data and further investigations need to be done.⁷⁸⁵⁵

On 11 June 2021, President Biden committed to enacting a pandemic prevention program, in cooperation with G7 partners.⁷⁸⁵⁶ The goals of this program include: vaccinating vulnerable populations globally; ensuring equitable access to emergency medical supplies; and preparing for future health crises.⁷⁸⁵⁷ It further committed to accelerating the production and administration of COVAX vaccines, delivering emergency medical supplies to low-income countries, and strengthening global disease surveillance and detection infrastructure.⁷⁸⁵⁸

On 1 July 2021, the United States committed to re-engaging with the World Health Organization (WHO) with the objective of bolstering global health security and diplomacy.⁷⁸⁵⁹ It committed to advancing international cooperation on scientific research to prevent future infectious disease outbreaks and other global health crises.⁷⁸⁶⁰

⁷⁸⁵² Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration is Providing at least 80 million COVID-19 Vaccines for Global Use, The White House (Washington D.C.) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/17/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-is-providing-at-least-80-million-covid-19-vaccines-for-global-use-commits-to-leading-a-multilateral-effort-toward-ending-the-pandemic/>

⁷⁸⁵³ Biden orders review of US intelligence on origins of coronavirus (Doha) 26 May 2021, Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/26/biden-orders-review-of-us-intel-on-origins-of-coronavirus>

⁷⁸⁵⁴ Biden orders review of US intelligence on origins of coronavirus (Doha) 26 May 2021, Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/26/biden-orders-review-of-us-intel-on-origins-of-coronavirus>

⁷⁸⁵⁵ Biden orders review of US intelligence on origins of coronavirus (Doha) 26 May 2021, Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/26/biden-orders-review-of-us-intel-on-origins-of-coronavirus>

⁷⁸⁵⁶ Fact Sheet: United States and G7+ Plan to Defeat the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2022 and Prevent the Next Pandemic, The White House (Washington D.C.) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/11/fact-sheet-united-states-and-g7-plan-to-defeat-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-2022-and-prevent-the-next-pandemic/>

⁷⁸⁵⁷ Fact Sheet: United States and G7+ Plan to Defeat the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2022 and Prevent the Next Pandemic, The White House (Washington D.C.) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/11/fact-sheet-united-states-and-g7-plan-to-defeat-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-2022-and-prevent-the-next-pandemic/>

⁷⁸⁵⁸ Fact Sheet: United States and G7+ Plan to Defeat the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2022 and Prevent the Next Pandemic, The White House (Washington D.C.) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/11/fact-sheet-united-states-and-g7-plan-to-defeat-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-2022-and-prevent-the-next-pandemic/>

⁷⁸⁵⁹ U.S. COVID-19 Global Response and Recovery Framework, The White House (Washington D.C.) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/01/u-s-covid-19-global-response-and-recovery-framework/>

⁷⁸⁶⁰ U.S. COVID-19 Global Response and Recovery Framework, The White House (Washington D.C.) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/01/u-s-covid-19-global-response-and-recovery-framework/>

On 16 July 2021, the Government of the United States contributed shipments of 25 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to low-income countries in Africa.⁷⁸⁶¹ The vaccines were delivered and distributed via COVAX.⁷⁸⁶²

On 3 August 2021, the United States committed to begin distributing half a billion doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to 100 low-income countries via COVAX facility, as part of its goal to bolster global immunization coverage and curb the pandemic.⁷⁸⁶³

On 9 August 2021, President Biden announced that the COVID-19 vaccine would be added to the list of required immunizations for U.S. service members, to be made effective by mid-September.⁷⁸⁶⁴

On 11 August 2021, the United States announced that rural hospitals and medical providers would receive enhanced access to COVID-19 testing equipment, vaccines, and treatments via the Emergency Rural Health Care Grant Program.⁷⁸⁶⁵ The grant also designates funds towards improving telehealth services and medical infrastructure in disadvantaged and under-resources areas.⁷⁸⁶⁶

On 18 August 2021, President Biden announced new vaccination regulations requiring all employees in nursing or elderly care homes and Medicare or Medicaid services to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.⁷⁸⁶⁷ President Biden further announced the implementation of a federal initiative providing COVID-19 vaccine booster doses to eligible individuals by mid-September.⁷⁸⁶⁸

On 3 September 2021, the United States announced a plan for improving pandemic preparedness and capacities to contain future viral outbreaks, which covers the following primary areas: improving

⁷⁸⁶¹ US-donated vaccine deliveries to Africa set to begin, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/us-donated-vaccine-deliveries-africa-set-begin-first-deliveries-planned>

⁷⁸⁶² US-donated vaccine deliveries to Africa set to begin, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/us-donated-vaccine-deliveries-africa-set-begin-first-deliveries-planned>

⁷⁸⁶³ Fact Sheet: President Biden announces major milestone in administration's global vaccination efforts, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/03/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-major-milestone-in-administrations-global-vaccination-efforts-more-than-100-million-u-s-covid-19-vaccine-doses-donated-and-shipped-abroad/>

⁷⁸⁶⁴ Statement by President Joe Biden on COVID-19 Vaccines for Service Members, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/09/statement-by-president-joe-biden-on-covid-19-vaccines-for-service-members/>

⁷⁸⁶⁵ Fact sheet: Biden administration takes steps to address COVID-19 in rural America and Build Rural Health Back Better, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/13/fact-sheet-biden-administration-takes-steps-to-address-covid-19-in-rural-america-and-build-rural-health-back-better/>

⁷⁸⁶⁶ Fact sheet: Biden administration takes steps to address COVID-19 in rural America and Build Rural Health Back Better, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/13/fact-sheet-biden-administration-takes-steps-to-address-covid-19-in-rural-america-and-build-rural-health-back-better/>

⁷⁸⁶⁷ Remarks by President Biden on Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/08/18/remarks-by-president-biden-on-fighting-the-covid-19-pandemic-2/>

⁷⁸⁶⁸ Remarks by President Biden on Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/08/18/remarks-by-president-biden-on-fighting-the-covid-19-pandemic-2/>

medical defences, enhancing early detection and monitoring programs, reducing disparities in public health systems, and building stockpiles and medical supply chains.⁷⁸⁶⁹

On 24 September 2021, the leaders of the United States, Japan, India and Australia met at their first in-person person summit of the Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.⁷⁸⁷⁰ Following the summit in March, the leaders released a joint statement promoting “a free, open rules-based order.” This statement encouraged and pledged to combine “medical, scientific, financing, manufacturing and delivery” capacity for COVID-19 vaccines, and combating climate change.⁷⁸⁷¹

The United States has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by implementing initiatives such as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and actions such as summoning the Inter Agency Vaccination Task Force and administering public health regulations. Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Tamara Saadi

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 3 December 2020, President of the European Council Charles Michel proposed an international Treaty on Pandemics within the framework of the World Health Organization.⁷⁸⁷² An international treaty would enable the international community to better prepare for and respond to pandemics.⁷⁸⁷³ The treaty would address risk monitoring, financing and coordination of research, a system of alerts and information sharing, access to healthcare and strengthening and securing healthcare systems and supply chains.⁷⁸⁷⁴

On 10 December 2020, the European Parliament and the European Council reached a political agreement on Horizon Europe, a transnational programme supporting research and innovation.⁷⁸⁷⁵ The programme will have a budget of EUR95.5 billion for 2021-2027.⁷⁸⁷⁶ The health cluster of the

⁷⁸⁶⁹ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Transform Capabilities for Pandemic Preparedness, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/03/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-transform-capabilities-for-pandemic-preparedness/>

⁷⁸⁷⁰ Here to stay': Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁷⁸⁷¹ Here to stay': Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁷⁸⁷² Press release by President Charles Michel on an international Treaty on Pandemics, European Council (Brussels) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/03/press-release-by-president-charles-michel-on-an-international-treaty-on-pandemics/>

⁷⁸⁷³ Press release by President Charles Michel on an international Treaty on Pandemics, European Council (Brussels) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/03/press-release-by-president-charles-michel-on-an-international-treaty-on-pandemics/>

⁷⁸⁷⁴ Press release by President Charles Michel on an international Treaty on Pandemics, European Council (Brussels) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/03/press-release-by-president-charles-michel-on-an-international-treaty-on-pandemics/>

⁷⁸⁷⁵ Commission welcomes political agreement on Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

⁷⁸⁷⁶ Commission welcomes political agreement on Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

programme will fund the extension of clinical trials, innovative protective measures, virology, vaccines, treatments and diagnostics and the translation of research into public policy measures.⁷⁸⁷⁷

On 15 December 2020, the European Parliament and Council reached an agreement on the EU4Health programme.⁷⁸⁷⁸ The programme will receive EUR5.1 billion in funding and aims to strengthen crisis preparedness in EU health systems, as well as make health systems more resilient to cross-border health threats such as COVID-19.⁷⁸⁷⁹ The programme will specifically emphasize pandemic preparedness and response.⁷⁸⁸⁰

On 21 December 2020, the European Commission granted a conditional marketing authorisation for the COVID-19 vaccine developed by BioNTech and Pfizer.⁷⁸⁸¹ The vaccine was authorized following an assessment by the European Medicines Agency. This was the first vaccine approved for use in the EU.⁷⁸⁸²

On 11 January 2021, the European Commission announced that the rescEU medical reserve (part of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism) was expanded to include new host countries for rescEU medical supplies.⁷⁸⁸³ There are nine countries hosting the common European stockpiles of medical equipment such as medical masks, gloves, gowns, aprons, oxygen concentrators and ventilators.⁷⁸⁸⁴

On 19 January 2021, the European Commission published a Communication addressing the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council of Europe.⁷⁸⁸⁵ The Communication details the decisions and coordinated approach needed to deliver on four priorities: speeding up vaccination and vaccine supplies, ramping up testing and sequencing to control infections and new variants, ensuring the functioning of the Single Market and showing international leadership and solidarity with partners.⁷⁸⁸⁶ The Commission set the goal of vaccinating 80 per cent of healthcare workers and people over 80 years by March 2021, and 70 per cent of the adult population by summer 2021.⁷⁸⁸⁷

On 17 February 2021, the European Commission proposed the launch of “the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) Incubator,” a European bio-defence preparedness programme funded by EUR30 million from the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme

⁷⁸⁷⁷ Commission welcomes political agreement on Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

⁷⁸⁷⁸ Commission welcomes political agreement on EU4Health, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2420

⁷⁸⁷⁹ Commission welcomes political agreement on EU4Health, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2420

⁷⁸⁸⁰ Commission welcomes political agreement on EU4Health, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2420

⁷⁸⁸¹ European Commission authorises first safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2466

⁷⁸⁸² European Commission authorises first safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2466

⁷⁸⁸³ Coronavirus: rescEU medical stockpile expands in four Member States, European Commission (Brussels) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_45

⁷⁸⁸⁴ Coronavirus: rescEU medical stockpile expands in four Member States, European Commission (Brussels) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_45

⁷⁸⁸⁵ A united front to beat COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-united-front-beat-covid-19_en.pdf

⁷⁸⁸⁶ A united front to beat COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-united-front-beat-covid-19_en.pdf

⁷⁸⁸⁷ A united front to beat COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-united-front-beat-covid-19_en.pdf

and EUR120 million from the Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Framework.⁷⁸⁸⁸ The HERA Incubator will address the emerging threat of COVID-19 variants through rapid detection and swift adaptation of vaccines, as well as by setting up a European Clinical Trials Network.⁷⁸⁸⁹ The HERA Incubator will also fund the VACCELERATE vaccine research network, comprised of 26 partner institutions from 21 countries.⁷⁸⁹⁰

On 19 February 2021, the European Commission committed an additional EUR500 million for the COVAX Facility, bringing its total contribution to EUR1 billion.⁷⁸⁹¹ President of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced the commitment at the G7 virtual leaders' meeting and emphasized the need for effective COVID-19 vaccine deliveries to low-income countries.⁷⁸⁹²

On 10 March 2021, the European Commission published a Communication detailing plans for a new European Humanitarian Response Capacity.⁷⁸⁹³ The capacity would intervene directly in humanitarian crises when traditional approaches were insufficient.⁷⁸⁹⁴ It would offer logistical assessments, support for initial deployment and procurement, stockpiling and transporting of relief items such as COVID-19 vaccines.⁷⁸⁹⁵

On 23 March 2021, the European Commission announced it would allocate EUR11 million to Nepal, the Philippines and South East Asia for disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid.⁷⁸⁹⁶ EUR2 million of this funding will support the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and EUR9 million will target disaster preparedness actions.⁷⁸⁹⁷ Nepal, the Philippines and South East Asia are in some of the most disaster-prone regions in the world due to their location and climatic conditions, further compounding the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.⁷⁸⁹⁸

⁷⁸⁸⁸ EU to invest €150 million for research to counter coronavirus variants, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-invest-eu150-million-research-counter-coronavirus-variants-2021-feb-17_en

⁷⁸⁸⁹ EU to invest €150 million for research to counter coronavirus variants, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-invest-eu150-million-research-counter-coronavirus-variants-2021-feb-17_en

⁷⁸⁹⁰ EU to invest €150 million for research to counter coronavirus variants, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-invest-eu150-million-research-counter-coronavirus-variants-2021-feb-17_en

⁷⁸⁹¹ EU doubles contribution to COVAX to €1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low and middle-income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_690

⁷⁸⁹² EU doubles contribution to COVAX to €1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low and middle-income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_690

⁷⁸⁹³ Humanitarian action: New outlook for EU's global aid delivery challenged by COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1067

⁷⁸⁹⁴ Humanitarian action: New outlook for EU's global aid delivery challenged by COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1067

⁷⁸⁹⁵ Humanitarian action: New outlook for EU's global aid delivery challenged by COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1067

⁷⁸⁹⁶ Nepal, Philippines and South East Asia: EU allocates €11 million for disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid, European Commission (Brussels) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1282

⁷⁸⁹⁷ Nepal, Philippines and South East Asia: EU allocates €11 million for disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid, European Commission (Brussels) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1282

⁷⁸⁹⁸ Nepal, Philippines and South East Asia: EU allocates €11 million for disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid, European Commission (Brussels) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1282

On 24 March 2021, the European Commission launched Open Research Europe, an open access publishing platform for scientific papers.⁷⁸⁹⁹ The platform will publish results funded by Horizon Europe, the EU research and innovation programme.⁷⁹⁰⁰ It will offer researchers the opportunity to share their results and insights rapidly and in a public venue to facilitate open, constructive research debates.⁷⁹⁰¹ The EU's response to the coronavirus has highlighted the value of open science and increased collaboration to find new treatments, diagnostics and vaccines.⁷⁹⁰²

On 24 March 2021, the European Commission introduced a new regulation impacting COVID-19 vaccine exports.⁷⁹⁰³ The principles of reciprocity and proportionality are new criteria to be considered for authorizing COVID-19 vaccine exports, with the objective of ensuring timely access to COVID-19 vaccines for all EU citizens.⁷⁹⁰⁴ Reciprocity considers if the destination country of vaccines is restricting its own export of vaccines or their raw materials, and proportionality considers if conditions prevailing in the destination country are better or worse than the EU's.⁷⁹⁰⁵ The new regulation is temporary and excludes vaccines destined to the 92 low and middle income countries under the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access scheme.⁷⁹⁰⁶

On 24 March 2021, the European Commission amended the Variation Regulation to enable the HERA Incubator to fast-track regulatory approval of updated vaccines to tackle new variants.⁷⁹⁰⁷ A smaller set of additional data would need to be submitted to the European Medicines Agency for the authorization of adapted COVID-19 vaccines.⁷⁹⁰⁸ Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides said: “We need to be prepared to adapt vaccines as quickly as possible to respond to new

⁷⁸⁹⁹ Commission launches open access publishing platform for scientific papers, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1262

⁷⁹⁰⁰ Commission launches open access publishing platform for scientific papers, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1262

⁷⁹⁰¹ Commission launches open access publishing platform for scientific papers, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1262

⁷⁹⁰² Commission launches open access publishing platform for scientific papers, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1262

⁷⁹⁰³ Commission strengthens transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1352

⁷⁹⁰⁴ Commission strengthens transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1352

⁷⁹⁰⁵ Commission strengthens transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1352

⁷⁹⁰⁶ Commission strengthens transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1352

⁷⁹⁰⁷ Coronavirus: new procedure to facilitate and speed up approval of adapted vaccines against COVID-19 variants, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1088

⁷⁹⁰⁸ Coronavirus: new procedure to facilitate and speed up approval of adapted vaccines against COVID-19 variants, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1088

and potentially vaccine-resistant variants.⁷⁹⁰⁹ The measure is awaiting approval from the European Parliament and Council before entering into force.⁷⁹¹⁰

On 26 March 2021, the European Commission launched the EU4Health programme.⁷⁹¹¹ The programme makes EUR5.1 billion available to strengthen the resilience of health systems and promote innovation in the health sector.⁷⁹¹² The purpose of EU4Health is to support the fight against cross-border health threats and improve the EU's preparedness and capability to respond to future health crises.⁷⁹¹³ Commissioner Kyriakides said: "This unprecedented budget of EUR5.1 billion will enable us to make targeted investments to enhance our crisis preparedness and build stronger, more resilient and more accessible health systems."⁷⁹¹⁴

On 31 March 2021, the European Commission launched a six week online public consultation to collect stakeholders' input on HERA.⁷⁹¹⁵ HERA was announced in September 2020 in order to support the development, manufacturing and deployment of medical countermeasures during a health crisis.⁷⁹¹⁶ Following the public consultation, the scope of HERA will be outlined in a legislative proposal later this year.⁷⁹¹⁷ Commissioner Kyriakides said "The Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority, EU's HERA, is a fundamental part of the solution that we need for the next health crisis to prepare better and respond more swiftly, together. HERA will strengthen our foresight, preparation, anticipation and response."⁷⁹¹⁸

On 5 April 2021, the European Union contributed EUR170 million to the International Monetary Fund's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT).⁷⁹¹⁹ The CCRT provides debt relief to countries hit by catastrophic events, including public health disasters such as COVID-19.⁷⁹²⁰

⁷⁹⁰⁹ Coronavirus: new procedure to facilitate and speed up approval of adapted vaccines against COVID-19 variants, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1088

⁷⁹¹⁰ Coronavirus: new procedure to facilitate and speed up approval of adapted vaccines against COVID-19 variants, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1088

⁷⁹¹¹ Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1344

⁷⁹¹² Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1344

⁷⁹¹³ Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1344

⁷⁹¹⁴ Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1344

⁷⁹¹⁵ Health emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA): European Commission launches public consultation, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1522

⁷⁹¹⁶ Health emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA): European Commission launches public consultation, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1522

⁷⁹¹⁷ Health emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA): European Commission launches public consultation, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1522

⁷⁹¹⁸ Health emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA): European Commission launches public consultation, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1522

⁷⁹¹⁹ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1555

⁷⁹²⁰ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1555

European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen said “Through this contribution to the CCRT, Team Europe continues to stand in solidarity with its most vulnerable partners. In this difficult period, the resources freed up can provide social services for the most vulnerable people, such as access to essential healthcare and education for young people, including girls.”⁷⁹²¹

On 7 April 2021, the European Commission mobilized EUR123 million from Horizon Europe for the purpose of combating the threat of coronavirus variants.⁷⁹²² Horizon Europe, the new EU research and innovation programme, funds a range of research and innovation actions to fight against the coronavirus.⁷⁹²³ Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel said: “We continue to mobilize all means at our disposal to fight this pandemic and the challenges presented by coronavirus variants.”⁷⁹²⁴ The EUR123 million will fund projects to establish new or build on existing multinational cohorts to advance the knowledge on SARS-CoV-2 and its emerging variants, develop further treatment and vaccine candidates, and support research infrastructure to improve data sharing with the goal of confronting the virus variants and preparing for future epidemics.⁷⁹²⁵

On 12 April 2021, the European Commission proposed exempting goods and services distributed by the EU from the Value Added Tax (VAT) during times of crisis.⁷⁹²⁶ The proposal is in response to the experience gained throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, with the purpose of maximizing the efficiency of use of EU funds used in response to crises such as natural disasters and public health emergencies.⁷⁹²⁷ Waiving the VAT will strengthen disaster crisis management bodies such as the EU’s Health Union and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.⁷⁹²⁸ Goods and services covered by the exemption include diagnostic tests and testing materials, personal protective equipment, antimicrobials and antibiotics and blood products or antibodies.⁷⁹²⁹

⁷⁹²¹ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF’s Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1555

⁷⁹²² Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1548

⁷⁹²³ Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1548

⁷⁹²⁴ Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1548

⁷⁹²⁵ Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1548

⁷⁹²⁶ Coronavirus Response: Commission proposes to exempt vital goods and services distributed by the EU from VAT in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1642

⁷⁹²⁷ Coronavirus Response: Commission proposes to exempt vital goods and services distributed by the EU from VAT in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1642

⁷⁹²⁸ Coronavirus Response: Commission proposes to exempt vital goods and services distributed by the EU from VAT in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1642

⁷⁹²⁹ Coronavirus Response: Commission proposes to exempt vital goods and services distributed by the EU from VAT in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1642

On 14 April 2021, President von der Leyen announced that the EU reached an agreement with BioNTech-Pfizer to deliver 50 million additional vaccine doses in quarter 2 of 2021.⁷⁹³⁰ The doses were originally due to only arrive in the fourth quarter of 2021.⁷⁹³¹ Additionally, the EU is entering a third contract negotiation with BioNTech-Pfizer for the delivery of 1.8 billion doses of vaccine from 2021 to 2023.⁷⁹³² The contract will also entail that the production of the vaccines and all essential components will be based in the EU.⁷⁹³³ President von der Leyen said: “The negotiations we are launching today – and hope to conclude very rapidly – are a further important step in Europe’s response to the pandemic.”⁷⁹³⁴

On 20 April 2021, the EU launched a EUR100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa.⁷⁹³⁵ The initiative is part of the European Commission’s efforts to provide safe and effective vaccines for all and support a fast and safe vaccine rollout in Africa.⁷⁹³⁶ EUR25 million of the funding will support the rollout of vaccinations in all African countries, while EUR65 million is dedicated to support vaccinations in conflict and hard-to reach areas.⁷⁹³⁷ The remaining EUR10 million is in reserve and will be allocated to either of the two tracks as needed.⁷⁹³⁸ Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič emphasized: “This additional EU funding in support of the rollout of vaccination campaigns against the coronavirus pandemic in Africa will help to ensure that no one is left behind, including people in hard-to-access humanitarian crisis settings.”⁷⁹³⁹

On 11 May 2021, the EU met to discuss progress on a COVID-19 certificate. This is proposed to help citizens travel more freely across the 27-nation bloc and open up summer tourism.⁷⁹⁴⁰ It was announced that no one is obliged to use an EU certificate, but it will be handed out for free by health authorities. It will be given to EU citizens who have received a vaccine, had a negative test or are immune, having recovered from COVID-19.⁷⁹⁴¹

⁷⁹³⁰ Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁷⁹³¹ Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁷⁹³² Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁷⁹³³ Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁷⁹³⁴ Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁷⁹³⁵ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁷⁹³⁶ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁷⁹³⁷ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁷⁹³⁸ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁷⁹³⁹ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁷⁹⁴⁰ Factbox: The EU’s proposed COVID-19 travel certificate (Brussels) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eus-proposed-covid-19-travel-certificate-2021-05-11/>

⁷⁹⁴¹ Factbox: The EU’s proposed COVID-19 travel certificate (Brussels) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eus-proposed-covid-19-travel-certificate-2021-05-11/>

On 20 May 2021, the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism sent support to Nepal.⁷⁹⁴² The repatriation of European citizens in Nepal also occurred at the same time.⁷⁹⁴³

On 20 May 2021, the European Commission signed a contract with BioNTech and Pfizer to “reserve an additional 1.8 billion doses on behalf of all European Union member states.”⁷⁹⁴⁴ It allows for the purchase of 900 million doses of the current vaccine and of a vaccine adapted to variants, with the option to purchase an additional 900 million doses.⁷⁹⁴⁵

On 20 May 2021, the European Union supported the start of the World Health Organization’s process for the establishment of the Pandemic Treaty in the context of international efforts to reinforce global health security.⁷⁹⁴⁶

On 21 May 2021, the EU hosted the Global Health Summit alongside Italy. At this summit, the participants adopted the Rome Declaration. The Rome Declaration is a set of 16 principles and guiding commitments that “serve as voluntary orientation for current and future action for global health to support the financing, building, and sustaining of effective health system capabilities and capacities and Universal Health Coverage to improve preparedness, early warning of, prevention, detection, coordinated response, and resilience to, and recovery from, the current pandemic and future potential public health emergencies.”⁷⁹⁴⁷

On 4 June 2021, the European Union submitted its proposal “seeking the commitment of the World Trade Organization members for a multilateral trade action plan to expand the production of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments to ensure universal and fair access.”⁷⁹⁴⁸ The European Union’s proposal includes ensuring that COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and their components can cross borders freely, encourage producers to expand their production and facilitate the use of compulsory licensing within the World Trade Organization’s existing Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.⁷⁹⁴⁹

On 9 June 2021, the European Parliament passed the EU Digital COVID Certificate Regulations.⁷⁹⁵⁰ The certificates will take the form of a digital or paper format containing a QR code and all

⁷⁹⁴² Coronavirus: EU channels further support to Nepal and repatriates EU citizens, The European Commission (Brussels). 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2568

⁷⁹⁴³ Coronavirus: EU channels further support to Nepal and repatriates EU citizens, The European Commission (Brussels). 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2568

⁷⁹⁴⁴ Coronavirus: Commission signs a third contract with BioNTech-Pfizer for an additional 1.8 billion doses, The European Commission (Brussels). 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2548

⁷⁹⁴⁵ Coronavirus: Commission signs a third contract with BioNTech-Pfizer for an additional 1.8 billion doses, The European Commission (Brussels). 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2548

⁷⁹⁴⁶ EU supports start of WHO process for establishment of Pandemic Treaty: Council decision, The European Council (Brussels). 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/05/20/eu-supports-start-of-who-process-for-establishment-of-pandemic-treaty-council-decision/>

⁷⁹⁴⁷ Rome Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/210521-rome-declaration.html>

⁷⁹⁴⁸ EU proposes a strong multilateral trade response to the COVID-19 pandemic, The European Commission (Brussels). 4 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2801

⁷⁹⁴⁹ EU proposes a strong multilateral trade response to the COVID-19 pandemic, The European Commission (Brussels). 4 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2801

⁷⁹⁵⁰ Parliament gives its final green light to the EU Digital COVID Certificate, The European Parliament (Brussels). 9 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210604IPR05512/parliament-gives-its-final-green-light-to-the-eu-digital-covid-certificate>

European Union member states will accept the certificates proving vaccination, negative test result or recovery from a COVID infection.⁷⁹⁵¹ It will be available from 1 July 2021 and be in place for 12 months.⁷⁹⁵² Personal data will be processed in alignment with the General Data Protection Regulation.⁷⁹⁵³ The European Commission pledges to use EUR100 million under the Emergency Support Instrument for member states to use to purchase tests to issue EU Digital COVID test certificates.⁷⁹⁵⁴

On 18 June 2021, the Court of First Instance of Brussels ordered AstraZeneca to urgently deliver 50 million doses of vaccine by 27 September 2021.⁷⁹⁵⁵ It further stated that “if non-compliance occurs, AstraZeneca will have to pay a penalty of EUR10 per dose not delivered.”⁷⁹⁵⁶

On 18 June 2021, the European Central Bank Governing Council stated that it concurred with European Central Bank Banking Supervision in that there continued to be “exceptional circumstances” allowing for the extension of the temporary exclusion of certain central bank exposures from the leverage ratio.⁷⁹⁵⁷

On 22 June 2021, the European Investment Bank stated that it will “support the Palestinian economy with a USD32 million line of credit to Quds Bank to be on-lent primarily” to local small and medium-sized enterprises that have been severely affected by the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁹⁵⁸

On 29 June 2021, the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism assisted Norway in delivering “over 180,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Kosovo.”⁷⁹⁵⁹ The European Commission coordinated and financed up to 75 per cent of the costs for transporting the assistance.⁷⁹⁶⁰

On 9 July 2021, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank announced it will provide EUR4.75 million in grant support to enable feasibility studies and project preparation for the new facility at the Institut Pasteur in Dakar.⁷⁹⁶¹

⁷⁹⁵¹ Parliament gives its final green light to the EU Digital COVID Certificate, The European Parliament (Brussels). 9 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210604IPRO5512/parliament-gives-its-final-green-light-to-the-eu-digital-covid-certificate>

⁷⁹⁵² Parliament gives its final green light to the EU Digital COVID Certificate, The European Parliament (Brussels). 9 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210604IPRO5512/parliament-gives-its-final-green-light-to-the-eu-digital-covid-certificate>

⁷⁹⁵³ Parliament gives its final green light to the EU Digital COVID Certificate, The European Parliament (Brussels). 9 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210604IPRO5512/parliament-gives-its-final-green-light-to-the-eu-digital-covid-certificate>

⁷⁹⁵⁴ Parliament gives its final green light to the EU Digital COVID Certificate, The European Parliament (Brussels). 9 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210604IPRO5512/parliament-gives-its-final-green-light-to-the-eu-digital-covid-certificate>

⁷⁹⁵⁵ Belgian Court orders AstraZeneca to deliver vaccine doses to the EU, The European Commission (Brussels). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3090

⁷⁹⁵⁶ Belgian Court orders AstraZeneca to deliver vaccine doses to the EU, The European Commission (Brussels). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3090

⁷⁹⁵⁷ ECB’s Governing Council confirms that exceptional circumstances continue to justify leverage ratio relief, The European Central Bank (Frankfurt). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2021/html/ecb.pr210618~08d3c92b21.en.html>

⁷⁹⁵⁸ Palestine: #TeamEurope - EIB and Quds Bank enhance access to finance for Palestinian SMEs amidst the pandemic fallout, The European Investment Bank (Luxembourg). 22 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-216-palestine-teameurope-eib-and-quds-bank-enhance-access-to-finance-for-palestinian-smes-amidst-the-pandemic-fallout>

⁷⁹⁵⁹ COVID-19: EU helps deliver vaccines to Kosovo, The European Commission (Brussels). 29 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3300

⁷⁹⁶⁰ COVID-19: EU helps deliver vaccines to Kosovo, The European Commission (Brussels). 29 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3300

On 13 July 2021, the Economic and Finance Ministers of European Union members adopted the first batch of decisions on the approval of national recovery and resilience plans for Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain.⁷⁹⁶² The approval permits the member states to sign grant and loan agreements that will allow for up to 13 per cent pre-financing.⁷⁹⁶³

On 13 July 2021, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted “a draft negotiating position for a new regulation on tackling serious cross-border health threats.”⁷⁹⁶⁴ The draft includes enhanced cooperation and transparency of joint procurement, a transversal vision of health and better representation of stakeholders and involvement of Parliament.⁷⁹⁶⁵

On 22 July 2021, the European Commission short-listed 11 new projects worth EUR120 million from Horizon Europe, the biggest European research and innovation programme (2021-2027).⁷⁹⁶⁶ The program supports and enables urgent research into the coronavirus and its variants.⁷⁹⁶⁷ This funding is part of a wide range of research and innovation actions taken to fight the coronavirus and contributes to the Commission's overall action to prevent, mitigate and respond to the impact of the virus and its variants which is in line with the new European bio-defence preparedness plan HERA Incubator.⁷⁹⁶⁸

On 26 July 2021, the Economic and Finance Ministers of European Union members adopted the second batch of the European Council implementing decisions on the approval of national recovery and resilience plans for Croatia, Cyprus, Lithuania and Slovenia.⁷⁹⁶⁹

On 26 July 2021, the European Investment Bank and BNP Paribas Leasing Services signed a loan agreement of EUR200 million to bank lending to small and mid-sized businesses in Poland for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁹⁷⁰

⁷⁹⁶¹ Senegal: Republic of Senegal and Team Europe support agree to build a manufacturing plant to produce vaccines against COVID-19 and other endemic diseases, The European Investment Bank (Luxembourg). 9 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-254-president-of-senegal-macky-sall-welcomes-team-europe-support-to-help-build-a-manufacturing-plant-in-senegal-to-produce-vaccines-against-covid-19-and-other-endemic-diseases>

⁷⁹⁶² Council gives green light to first recovery disbursements, The European Council (Brussels). 13 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/13/council-gives-green-light-to-first-recovery-disbursements/>

⁷⁹⁶³ Council gives green light to first recovery disbursements, The European Council (Brussels). 13 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/13/council-gives-green-light-to-first-recovery-disbursements/>

⁷⁹⁶⁴ Boosting the EU's capacity to anticipate and respond to health crises, The European Parliament (Brussels). 13 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210707IPR07902/boosting-the-eu-s-capacity-to-anticipate-and-respond-to-health-crises>

⁷⁹⁶⁵ Boosting the EU's capacity to anticipate and respond to health crises, The European Parliament (Brussels). 13 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210707IPR07902/boosting-the-eu-s-capacity-to-anticipate-and-respond-to-health-crises>

⁷⁹⁶⁶ Coronavirus: Commission steps up research funding with €120 million for 11 new projects to tackle the virus and its variants (Brussels) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3803

⁷⁹⁶⁷ Coronavirus: Commission steps up research funding with €120 million for 11 new projects to tackle the virus and its variants (Brussels) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3803

⁷⁹⁶⁸ Coronavirus: Commission steps up research funding with €120 million for 11 new projects to tackle the virus and its variants (Brussels) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3803

⁷⁹⁶⁹ Recovery fund: ministers welcome assessment of four more national plans, The European Council (Brussels) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/26/recovery-fund-ministers-welcome-assessment-of-four-more-national-plans/>

On 8 September 2021, the Economic and Finance Ministers of European Union members adopted the third batch of the European Council implementing decisions on the approval of national recovery and resilience plans for Czech Republic and Ireland.⁷⁹⁷¹

On 16 September 2021, the EU, EU Member States and European financial institutions, as Team Europe disbursed EUR34 billion in support to 130 partner countries in addressing the pandemic and its consequences.⁷⁹⁷² This disbursement already exceeds by far the initial EUR20 billion Team Europe support package pledged in spring 2020, which has now increased to EUR46 billion.⁷⁹⁷³ These funds will be used for emergency response to humanitarian needs, strengthening health, water and sanitation systems, and mitigating the social and economic consequences of the pandemic, including job losses and education.⁷⁹⁷⁴

On 21 September 2021, the European Commission signed a joint procurement framework contract with the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly for the supply of a monoclonal antibody treatment for coronavirus patients.⁷⁹⁷⁵ This marked the latest development in this first portfolio of five promising therapeutics announced by the Commission under the EU COVID-19 Therapeutics Strategy announced in June 2021.⁷⁹⁷⁶

On 22 September 2021, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the President announced a new EU-US partnership to help vaccinate the world. This partnership aims to reach a 70 per cent global vaccination rate by the time of the UN General Assembly 2022.⁷⁹⁷⁷ The EU-US Global Vaccination Partnership will help expand supply, improve coordination in delivery and remove bottlenecks to supply chains.⁷⁹⁷⁸ The U.S.-EU Agenda for Beating the Global Pandemic: Vaccinating the World, Saving Lives Now, and Building Back Better Health Security, clearly stated, “the US and EU are technological leaders in advanced vaccine platforms,” and that this “coordinated leadership will showcase the force of a Transatlantic partnership in facilitating global vaccination while enabling more progress by multilateral and regional initiatives.”⁷⁹⁷⁹

⁷⁹⁷⁰ Poland: EIB and BNP Paribas Leasing Services join forces to support small and mid-sized companies and invest in climate action, The European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021.

⁷⁹⁷¹ EU recovery funds to reach 18 EU countries, The European Council (Brussels) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-recovery-plan/>

⁷⁹⁷² Team Europe: €34 billion disbursed so far to tackle COVID-19 in partner countries (Brussels) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4729

⁷⁹⁷³ Team Europe: €34 billion disbursed so far to tackle COVID-19 in partner countries (Brussels) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4729

⁷⁹⁷⁴ Team Europe: €34 billion disbursed so far to tackle COVID-19 in partner countries (Brussels) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4729

⁷⁹⁷⁵ Coronavirus: Commission signs contract for the supply of a monoclonal antibody treatment (Brussels) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4827

⁷⁹⁷⁶ Coronavirus: Commission signs contract for the supply of a monoclonal antibody treatment (Brussels) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4827

⁷⁹⁷⁷ An U.S.-EU Agenda for Beating the Global Pandemic: Vaccinating the World, Saving Lives Now, and Building Back Better Health Security (New York) 22 September 2021, Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_4846

⁷⁹⁷⁸ An U.S.-EU Agenda for Beating the Global Pandemic: Vaccinating the World, Saving Lives Now, and Building Back Better Health Security (New York) 22 September 2021, Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_4846

⁷⁹⁷⁹ An U.S.-EU Agenda for Beating the Global Pandemic: Vaccinating the World, Saving Lives Now, and Building Back Better Health Security (New York) 22 September 2021, Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_4846

On 22 September 2021, the European Commission published its second report on the impact of SURE, the EUR100 billion instrument designed to protect jobs and incomes affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁹⁸⁰ The report highlights that this initiative has been successful in cushioning the severe socio-economic impact resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁹⁸¹ Moreover, the national labour market measures supported by SURE are estimated to have reduced unemployment for nearly 1.5 million people in 2020.⁷⁹⁸² Some of its positive impacts have been effectively containing the increase in unemployment in the beneficiary Member States during the crisis and preventing obstacles to unemployment and slow GDP growth.⁷⁹⁸³ SURE is thus a crucial element of the EU's comprehensive strategy to protect citizens and mitigate the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁹⁸⁴

The European Union has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by implementing initiatives such as using the rescEU medical reserve, agreeing on Horizon Europe, launching HERA incubator, authorizing the production of vaccines BioNTech and Pfizer, and pledging humanitarian aid to support vaccination campaigns in crisis settings.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Liva Zemitis and Janishan Jeyarajah

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⁷⁹⁸¹ SURE: Report confirms instrument's success in protecting jobs and incomes (Brussels) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4822

⁷⁹⁸² SURE: Report confirms instrument's success in protecting jobs and incomes (Brussels) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4822

⁷⁹⁸³ SURE: Report confirms instrument's success in protecting jobs and incomes (Brussels) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4822

⁷⁹⁸⁴ SURE: Report confirms instrument's success in protecting jobs and incomes (Brussels) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4822