

COVID-19 vaccinations must be shared now!

The UK must share more doses urgently, at a fair price, and as part of a transparent strategy.

While all people over 18 in the UK are set to be offered a COVID-19 vaccine in the coming weeks, millions of people around the world are nowhere near being vaccinated. The UK not only used its economic and political might to buy enough COVID-19 vaccines for its entire population, but also hundreds of millions of additional doses. In fact, [G7 countries have bought three billion more doses than they need to fully vaccinate 70% of their populations](#). Last month, we called on the UK Government to urgently share these doses with countries that are facing barriers to getting vaccines, including lack of supply due to rich countries hoarding them. This should be done through COVAX, an international mechanism for purchasing and distributing doses equitably. At the G7 Summit, the UK announced that it will share 100 million doses. While this is a good start, this completely lacks the urgency and scale required, with only 5 million of these doses committed to being shared by September. There are also many questions around how the UK will price these doses. While dose sharing is just one fight in a wider battle for global vaccine equity, it is vital that the UK strengthens its commitment and shares doses as quickly and effectively as possible. Join us in calling on the Government to commit to distributing doses faster, pricing the doses fairly, and publishing a transparent strategy for distribution.

Read our [action materials from June](#) for information on COVID-19 vaccine equity.

What has been announced so far?

At the G7 summit, the [UK announced a commitment of sharing 100 million](#) surplus coronavirus vaccines by the end of 2022. The government announced that these doses will be in addition to the £10 billion aid budget for this year. 80% of these vaccines will be through COVAX, [the vaccines pillar of ACT-A](#), which was set up to create a global procurement mechanism to supply COVID-19 vaccines to all countries in the world. Collectively, the G7 leaders agreed to donate [870 million additional doses over the next year](#), bringing the total donation to 1 billion since February 2021. However, [the G7 announcement lacks clear commitments and strategy to turn words into action](#).

Why isn't this good enough?

"We need more and we need them faster"

Dr. Tedros, Director General, World Health Organisation (WHO)

Quantity

The dose sharing commitments at the G7 fell far short of what is needed, and have been criticised as being a '[wasted opportunity](#)'. [The Pandemic Action Network](#)

has called for 2 billion doses to be shared by the end of 2021. This was based on calculations estimating that the G7 nations have in excess of 3 billion doses once 70% of their populations are vaccinated. According to the WHO, [11 billion doses are needed](#) worldwide to vaccinate at least 70% of the world's population and end the pandemic. Clearly, what was promised is a drop in the ocean in terms of what is actually needed to vaccinate the world.

COVAX also has its flaws as a scheme, and [has been criticised for unfairly benefiting high income countries](#). While not perfect, COVAX nevertheless remains the best mechanism through which the majority of doses should be shared to avoid unequal bilateral dose sharing, which results in some countries missing out entirely. Acknowledging and addressing some of the fundamental issues with COVAX relies on rich countries stopping exploiting their power and influence as major donors to unfairly advantage their own populations. As part of this, it is vital that all the shared doses are distributed quickly, effectively and transparently to strengthen the commitments made.

Time and strategy

The UK's commitment to share only 30 million out of the 100 million doses by the end of 2021 does not mirror the urgency of the global COVID-19 crisis. 30 million doses should be shared by the end of

September. The Director General of the [WHO is calling for countries to vaccinate 10% of their populations](#) by September. With over 75% of all doses worldwide administered in just 10 countries, the UK must be more ambitious in its commitments to protect people against the virus. For example, Nepal has recently suffered a huge spike in cases and deaths, yet only [8.5% of the population](#) has received a single dose of a vaccine, compared to [82.5% in the UK](#), as of 24 June. [Nepal has the systems](#) in place to distribute vaccines, but doesn't have the doses. The longer the UK waits, the more the impacts of the pandemic will be felt. It is vitally important that all donated doses are shared in line with a [clearly mapped, transparent month-by-month plan](#). This will minimise the potential pitfalls of sharing doses and ensures that governments everywhere can be held accountable.

Cost

The Government will 'price' any doses it shares and log this as expenditure. The UK could attempt to price the doses in line with the cost that high-income countries are expected to pay or in line with the COVAX price for the countries where the vaccines will be used. This matters because using anything higher than the COVAX price is morally indefensible, given that COVAX can already get vaccines at that low, fair price, maximising the impact of every pound spent. [The way the doses are priced also sets a precedent for how secondhand goods](#)

[are treated as development aid](#), which could impact decisions that donors make in the future. The UK Government need to cost the shared doses at the COVAX price to make the most impact, and publish the prices that doses have been bought for.

Beyond dose sharing

Dose sharing is one step towards vaccine equity, but is by no means a long term, sustainable solution. The UK continues to oppose the main mechanisms and processes that could remove barriers to other countries producing their own vaccines. For example, [pharmaceutical companies need to be pushed to share knowledge and technology](#), via the [COVID-19 Technology Access Pool](#) to allow vaccine recipes and crucial knowhow for their production to be shared. A 'TRIPS Waiver' is needed to ensure this knowledge and tech transfer in the short term. Find out more on this month's [Background Sheet](#).

What can I do now?

This month, please ask your MP to urge the Government to build on its dose sharing commitment, speak out publicly and take action on social media. Below are some social media suggestions and additional resources and actions that go beyond dose sharing, challenging some of the structural barriers to vaccine production and global vaccine equity.

Take action!

Contact details for your MP can be found [here](#) and our 'how to write to your MP' guide [here](#).

Write to your MP

1. Ask your MP to write to Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and Nadhim Zahawi MP, Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment, urging the UK Government to bolster its dose sharing announcement by committing to distribute 30 million shared doses by September, over and above the existing aid budget, publishing a transparent and well-planned strategy for distribution, and costing vaccines at the price set out by COVAX.
2. Request that your MP speaks out publicly, either on social media, through local media or in Parliament, in support of a more rigorous and ambitious dose sharing roadmap.

Share the campaign on social media

Raise awareness on social media of the need for the UK Government to build on its dose sharing commitment. Tag your MP, Sajid Javid and RESULTS UK. Here are some [suggested messages](#) for your social media posts.

Other actions you can take

Sign and share AVAAZ's [petition for a people's vaccine](#).

Sign and share Global Justice Now's [petition for lifting COVID-19 patents](#).

Please let us know that you've taken action by emailing Ruthie Walters at ruthie.walters@results.org.uk