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The G7 Research Group presents the

2020 G7 USA Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Report

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"We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That's why today's outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance."

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit

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5. Health: Data Sharing

"We will pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus."

G7 Leaders' Statement

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.50 (75%)	

Background

The United Nations has described COVID-19 as a global challenge requiring global solutions and international cooperation.[1071] By February 2021, there were over 100,000,000 million cases of COVID-19 and over 2,000,000 deaths.[1072] The commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus recognizes the need to take collective action, yet is not a new concept to the G7.

At the 1996 Lyon Summit, G7 members first recognized the need to promote international cooperation among researchers in order to search for remedies to infectious diseases, specifically in the context of HIV/AIDS.[1073] They called "for the extension of all forms of cooperation in the realms of research, prevention, accessible and affordable health care services and diagnostics in the treatment and control of these diseases."[1074]

At the 1997 Denver Summit, the G7 once again emphasized the importance of an international response to the outbreak of infectious diseases and collaboration on scientific research.[1075] They encouraged the creation of global surveillance networks and creating capacity to detect and to respond to infectious diseases globally through organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO).[1076]

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, G7 leaders stated it would enhance its collaborative efforts to combat infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, working together to develop vaccines and preventative programs.[1077]

At the 1999 Köln Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed to continue their national and international efforts to develop a combined strategy of prevention, vaccine development, and therapy.[1078]

[1071] Global challenges require global solutions, chief tells German parliament, UN News (New York City) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2021. https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1080372.
[1072] WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard (Geneva). Access Date: 9 February 2021. https://covid19.who.int/.
[1073] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1074] Chairman's Statement: Toward Greater Security and Stability in a More Cooperative World, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 1996. Access Date: 9 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/chair.html.
[1075] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1076] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1077] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, the G7 collaboratively introduced and implemented an ambitious plan to combat the spread of infectious diseases.[1079] They agreed to strengthen their collaboration with governments, the WHO, academics and non-governmental organizations.[1080] Additionally, they agreed to strengthen cooperation during research and development of drugs and vaccines.[1081]

At the 2001 Geneva Summit, G7 members launched the Global Fund. To fight infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, they committed USD1.3 billion to this fund for increased sharing of financing and expertise.[1082]

At the 2002 Kananaskis Summit, G7 members committed to strengthening their efforts to combat infectious diseases, particularly in Africa, and committed to supporting initiatives that improve technical capacity and disease surveillance.[1083] Moreover, they committed to supporting health research by "narrowing the research gap" by expanding health research networks.[1084]

At the 2003 Evian Summit, G7 leaders agreed to strengthen the Global Fund to fight infectious diseases and increase bilateral and multilateral efforts, and to encourage research on diseases, especially in developing countries.[1085] Furthermore, at this summit, the G7 stated they would "improve international cooperation against new epidemics such as SARS [severe acute respiratory syndrome]."[1086] Leaders stated they would help developing countries increase their own research and development on infectious diseases, as well as work closely with the WHO to combat SARS.[1087]

At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, the G7 leaders made 60 health-related commitments with special attention given to humanitarian health.[1088] Due to the avian influenza outbreak, there was also increased focus on creating epidemic preparedness and response mechanisms, such as the WHO Outbreak Alert and Response Network.[1089] They also committed to improve international cooperation on surveillance and monitoring of infectious diseases, build laboratory capacity and intensify scientific research and exchanges.[1090] Notably, the G7 stated they would build "full transparency by all nations in sharing, on a timely basis, virus

[1078] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1079] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1080] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1081] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1082] Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html.
[1083] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1084] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1085] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1086] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1087] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1088] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1089] Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf.
[1090] Fight Against Infectious Diseases, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 2006. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html.

samples in accordance to national and international regulations and conventions, and other relevant information about the outbreaks of diseases."[1091]

At the 2008 Toyako-Hokkaido Summit, G7 members reaffirmed their commitment to fighting infectious diseases, and set forth the Toyako Framework for Action.[1092] The framework includes "principles for action, and actions to be taken on health, drawing on the expertise of international institutions," and also incorporated a monitoring mechanism to ensure their commitment was being met.[1093]

At the 2009 L'Aquila Summit, the G7 members reiterated their support of fighting infectious diseases, stating a commitment of USD60 billion to help strengthen systems by 2012.[1094]

At the 2010 Muskoka Summit, the G7 reaffirmed its support for universal access to prevention, treatment, support and care for HIV/AIDS.[1095] It also supported replenishing the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and called for national and private sector donations.[1096] Additionally, this summit marked the introduction of the G8 Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.[1097] The goal of the initiative states that it is "focused on achieving significant progress on health system strengthening in developing countries facing high burdens of maternal and under-five child mortality."[1098] It also emphasized it would work to combat infectious diseases.[1099] It stated its focus on improving coherence, coordination and harmonization of efforts, and support of the World Bank, Global Fund and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.[1100]

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, the G7 reaffirmed its commitment to the Muskoka Initiative, and called on the replenishment of Gavi while also reaffirming their commitment to the Global Fund.[1101] Further, they also expressed support for the Global Health Security Agenda and to work with countries to strengthen their adherence to the WHO's International Health Regulations to enhance health security internationally.[1102] They stated their commitment to prevent, detect and respond to infectious diseases while also building a global capacity to better respond to these threats in light of the Ebola outbreak.[1103]

[1091] Fight Against Infectious Diseases, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 2006. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html.
[1092] G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html.
[1093] G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html.
[1094] Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/.
[1095] Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html.
[1096] Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html.
[1097] Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html.
[1098] Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html.
[1099] Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html.
[1100] Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html.
[1101] G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html.
[1102] G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html.
[1103] G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html.

At the 2015 Elmau Summit, the G7 leaders committed to fighting neglected tropical diseases.[1104] To do this, they committed to work collaboratively with the WHO Global Observatory on Health Research and Development and to "coordinat[e] research and development (R&D) efforts and make our data more available."[1105]

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 members recognized that the "wisdom offered by a wide-range of experts across the globe, including the work of the UN High-Level Panel on Response to Health Crises … that health systems need to be resilient and have the capacity to respond to, better prepare for and prevent global threats such as pandemics and other severe events."[1106] To achieve this end, they recognized a need for WHO reforms, funding, coordinated implementation of action and better implementation of the International Health Regulations.[1107]

At the 2020 Virtual Summit, the G7 leaders stated that responding to the COVID-19 pandemic was their "foremost priority."[1108] The leaders emphasized their commitment to "coordinate on necessary health measures to protect people at risk of COVID-19; restore confidence, growth and protect jobs; support global trade and investment; and encourage science, research, and technology cooperation."[1109] A coordinated response entails the strengthening of national and international health systems, support for the WHO's leadership through the encouragement of all countries, international organizations and private sectors to come together to support global efforts including the Global Preparedness and Response Plan.[1110] G7 leaders also stressed the importance of real-time information sharing of the latest intelligence in order to improve prevention and mitigation strategies, and to coordinate research efforts through the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation.[1111] At the time of the Virtual Summit, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

Commitment Features

For this commitment, the objective is to increase understanding of the virus in order to combat it. The G7 members have set out to achieve this by collectively pooling their knowledge on the topic; both epidemiological data and other data relevant to tackling COVID-19 and its ramifications.

"Will pool" is understood as the combination of resources in a common pool or effort.[1112] It can be further described as sharing information, knowledge and tools for the common purpose of creating a greater capacity to combat COVID-19. For G7 members to achieve compliance for this commitment, there must be examples of instances where they have contributed to the pooling of information or assisted in the process of pooling information. Examples of this include direct scientific or intellectual contribution or assisting in the pooling process, such as providing funds.

[1104] Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html.
[1105] Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html.
[1106] G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html.
[1107] G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html.
[1108] G7 Leaders' Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html.
[1109] G7 Leaders' Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html.
[1110] G7 Leaders' Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html.
[1111] G7 Leaders' Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html.
[1112] Pool, Merrriam-Webster (Springfield). Access Date: 4 February 2021. https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/pool.

"Epidemiology" is defined as "the branch of medical science that deals with the incidence, distribution and control of a disease in a population."[1113] It is further explained as a scientific and systematic study of the "distribution (frequency, pattern) and determinants (causes, risk factors) … in specific populations."[1114] Epidemiological data is used to "plan and evaluate strategies to prevent illness and as a guide to the management of patients."[1115] Access to this information and detection of risk allows for increased preparedness and response. Therefore, epidemiologic data is the study and identification of patterns and trends, causes of outbreaks and assessment of risk. An example of this would be the identifying vulnerable communities or groups in order to find solutions to prevent cases or treat patients.

Examples of epidemiologic data sharing mechanisms include, but is not limited to, multilateral organizations such as the WHO. The WHO helps coordinate responses and supports countries to "prevent, mitigate and address the impacts of infectious diseases and epidemics."[1116] This is done by means of its global research databases that aim to bring "the world's scientists and global health professionals together to accelerate the research and development process, and develop new norms and standards to contain the spread of the coronavirus pandemic and help care for those affects."[1117]

"Other data" will be understood as information that is not epidemiological in nature but still relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as understanding the adverse side-effects of the pandemic, effective policy approaches and best practices on how to create a greater capacity to mitigate these effects. An example of other data might be effectiveness of policy such as mask mandates.

"Better" will be considered an improvement in accuracy or performance.[1118] To "understand" is defined as having "thorough or technical acquaintance with or expertise in the practice of."[1119] Combined, it means to create a greater expertise, and expand knowledge on COVID-19. This entails that the G7 will take actions to share information that improves the overall understanding.

To "fight" is understood as the "use of a lot of effort to defeat or achieve something, or to stop something happening."[1120] In the context of this commitment, to "fight" means taking actions to halt the spread of COVID-19. Information shared therefore should pertain to prevention, preparedness, treatment of the virus and the mitigation of its effects.

The "virus" is in reference to the SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that casuses COVID-19.[1121] In addition, the term shall also apply to new variants of the virus. Existing variants include the D614G mutation, the SARS-CoV-2 VOC 202012/01 or B.1.1.7, the 501Y.V2. However, consideration will also apply to any other variants that have yet to emerge.[1122]

[1113] Epidemiology, Merriam-Webster (Springfield). Access Date: 4 February 2021. https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/epidemiologic.
[1114] Epidemiology, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 9 February 2021. https://www.cdc.gov/careerpaths/k12teacherroadmap/epidemiology.html.
[1115] Chapter 1. What is epidemiology?, The British Medical Journal (London). Access Date: 4 February 2021. https://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-readers/publications/epidemiology-uninitiated/1-what-epidemiology.
[1116] International Day of Epidemic Preparedness, the United Nations (New York City) 27 December 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2021. https://www.un.org/en/observances/epidemic-preparedness-day.
[1117] Global research on coronavirus disease (COVID-19), World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 7 February 2021. https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov.
[1118] Better, Merriam-Webster (Springfield). Access Date: 4 February 2021. https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/better.
[1119] Understand, Merriam-Webster (Springfield). Access Date: 4 February 2021. https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/understand.
[1120] Fight, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge). Access Date: 4 February 2021. https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fight.
[1121] Coronavirus, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 7 February 2021. https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1.
[1122] SARS-CoV-2 Variants, World Health Organization (Geneva) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2021. https://www.who.int/csr/don/31-december-2020-sars-cov2-variants/en/.

A score of non-compliance (−1) will be awarded to G7 members that have failed to demonstrate three or four actions of pooling epidemiologic data or other data to better understand and fight the virus.

A score of partial compliance (0) will be awarded to G7 members that have demonstrated three or four actions of pooling either epidemiologic data or other data to better understand and fight the virus.

A score of full compliance (+1) will be awarded to G7 members that have demonstrated three or four actions of pooling both epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus.

Scoring Guidelines

−1	The G7 member has failed to demonstrate three or four actions of pooling epidemiologic data and other data to better understand and fight the virus.
0	The G7 member has demonstrated three or four actions of pooling EITHER epidemiologic data OR other data to better understand and fight the virus.
+1	The G7 member has demonstrated three to four actions of pooling BOTH epidemiologic AND other data to better understand and fight the virus.

Compliance Director: Eunice Yong
Lead Analyst: Gabrielle Regimbal

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus.

On 1 October 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada released an annual report on Canada's state of public health in 2020.[1123] The report includes epidemiologic data that features the factors that may increase the likelihood of the infection risk and the severity of illness from the virus.[1124] The report also includes the factors' influence on the conditions of different groups in Canada.[1125]

On 28 October 2020, Statistics Canada released an article on the virus' mortality rates in visible minority communities.[1126] The data showed higher mortality rates for neighbourhoods with a higher proportion of visible minorities.[1127] The data also revealed regional variations in the mortality rates of specific visible minority groups. Canada seeks to use these findings to improve efforts to protect visible minorities during the pandemic.[1128]

On 16 November 2020, Statistics Canada released an article to identify the most common conditions associated with COVID-19 deaths using the Canadian Vital Statistics Database (CVSD).[1129] The article's data

[1123] From risk to resilience: An equity approach to COVID-19, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/corporate/publications/chief-public-health-officer-reports-state-public-health-canada/from-risk-resilience-equity-approach-covid-19.html.
[1124] From risk to resilience: An equity approach to COVID-19, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/corporate/publications/chief-public-health-officer-reports-state-public-health-canada/from-risk-resilience-equity-approach-covid-19.html.
[1125] From risk to resilience: An equity approach to COVID-19, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/corporate/publications/chief-public-health-officer-reports-state-public-health-canada/from-risk-resilience-equity-approach-covid-19.html.
[1126] COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada's ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm.
[1127] COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada's ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm.
[1128] COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada's ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm.
[1129] COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada's ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm.

highlights the most common "chronic and acute conditions, diseases, disorders, and complications linked to the deaths.[1130] The data shows that regardless of the condition, 92 per cent of COVID-19-associated deaths show the virus as the underlying cause of death.[1131] This is the first time Canada can accurately estimate the prevalence of comorbidities in COVID-19 deaths and age.[1132] Statistics Canada plans show the linkage between the virus and other factors by linking the CVSD to other data sources.[1133]

On 14 December 2020, Statistics Canada released data on private sector businesses' need for personal protective equipment (PPE) during the second wave of the virus[1134] The article reports the negative effects that public health restrictions have on businesses.[1135] The data shows that in October 2020, businesses experienced PPE shortages due to the lack of availability from PPE suppliers.[1136]

Canada has demonstrated some efforts to comply with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to understand and fight the virus.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Adedoja Akande

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus

On 16 April 2020, France convened a conference call with other international organizations and governments to discuss strategies to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and support international data pooling.[1137] Together, they agreed to coordinate an efficient and equitable multilateral initiative.[1138]

On 24 April 2020, France participated in the launch of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. The ACT-Accelerator is a global cooperation platform. It has been reported that its goal was to "consolidate healthcare systems against COVID-19."[1139]

On 4 May 2020, France pledged EUR500 million in support of the ACT-Accelerator.[1140] It was reported that France pledged this money with the goal to help to "consolidate healthcare systems against COVID-19."[1141]

[1130] COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada's ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm.
[1131] COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada's ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm.
[1132] COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada's ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm.
[1133] COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada's ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm.
[1134] Navigating the second wave: Trends in businesses' needs for personal protective equipment since August, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00094-eng.htm.
[1135] Navigating the second wave: Trends in businesses' needs for personal protective equipment since August, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00094-eng.htm.
[1136] Navigating the second wave: Trends in businesses' needs for personal protective equipment since August, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00094-eng.htm.
[1137] France pledges '500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access date: 18 February 2021. https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19.
[1138] France pledges '500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access date: 18 February 2021. https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19.
[1139] France pledges '500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access date: 18 February 2021. https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19.

On 11 May 2020, French data firms began to pool scientific data with scientists and disease specialists.[1142]

On 29 June 2020, the European Virus Archive (EVA) in Marseille shared data with scientists in many countries. EVA also provides testing kits to many countries.[1143]

On 5 July 2020, the Prudential Control and Resolution Authority requested data from French insurance companies to assess the risk of business insurance interruption due to the Pandemic.[1144]

On 8 February 2021, the French government and representatives from the World Health Organization met at the annual statutory meeting of partners of its Lyon Office to discuss future data sharing between scientific organizations and government agencies.[1145]

France has demonstrated its commitment to sharing COVID-19 related data with other countries and international organizations to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and produce a vaccine. The French government has given monetary donations in favour of pooling COVID-19 data and has also directly supported and participated in the pooling of COVID-19 data.

The French government has not concretely demonstrated actions to comply with the second portion of the commitment to pool other types of data.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ana Brinkerhoff

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus.

On 20 April 2020, the German Alliance for Global Health Research (GLOHRA), sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education, launched its Global Health Research Directory.[1146] GLOHRA "seeks to foster exchange and forge new mechanisms of cooperation across institutions, disciplines, sectors and countries" by establishing this database of readily accessible public health research.[1147] GLOHRA creates an environment of data and research sharing, which is key in better understanding and fighting the virus, and addresses other public health concerns.

On 23 April 2020, Germany presented the Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme, stating that "we will either beat the pandemic worldwide or not at all," reinforcing the centrality of communal action in

[1140] France pledges '500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access date: 18 February 2021. https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19.
[1141] France pledges '500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access date: 18 February 2021. https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19.
[1142] French CoData Do Tank: pooling skills to respond to the Covid-19 crisis, Ekimetrics (Paris) 11 May 2020. Access date: 15 February 2021. https://ekimetrics.com/news-and-events/french-codata-do-tank-pooling-skills-to-respond-to-the-covid-19-crisis/.
[1143] The European projects pooling data to defeat Covid-19, Euro News (Lyon) 6 July 2020. Access date: 17 February 2021. https://www.euronews.com/2020/06/29/the-european-projects-pooling-data-to-defeat-covid-19.
[1144] Responding to the Covid-19 and pandemic protection gap in insurance, OECD (Paris) 5 July 2020. Access date: 22 February 2021. https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/responding-to-the-covid-19-and-pandemic-protection-gap-in-insurance-35e74736/.
[1145] France and WHO: a strategic partnership for global health security, WHO (Lyon) 8 February 2021. Access date: 24 February 2021. https://www.who.int/news/item/08-02-2021-france-and-who-a-strategic-partnership-for-global-health-security.
[1146] GLOHRA Milestones in 2020, German Alliance for Global Health Research (Berlin) 12 September 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2020. https://globalhealth.de/news/view/glohra-2020-in-review.html.
[1147] About, German Alliance for Global Health Research (Berlin). Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://globalhealth.de/about.html.

understanding and fighting the virus.[1148] This action plan, as presented by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, pledged EUR one-billion to assist developing countries in fighting the virus by reinforcing cooperation measures and strengthening capacity for international action from the European Union.[1149]

On 18 May 2020, Germany contributed EUR70 million to the World Health Organization (WHO) to support programmatic work, the WHO COVID-19 response, and global vaccine distribution.[1150] Germany further contributed EUR160 million to WHO to advance the development of COVID-19 technologies and ensure equitable access to safe COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines to better understand and respond to the virus.[1151]

On 1 July 2020, Germany took over the presidency of the Council of the European Union. As president, Germany prioritizes cooperation and coordination within the EU as it relates to health policy.[1152] The German Council Presidency focuses specifically on the strengthening of the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, securing supply access to medical equipment within the EU, and establishing a European health data room to reinforce collaborative health efforts within the EU.[1153] Germany prioritizes a joint management approach to the COVID-19 pandemic and solidarity in strengthening collective ability to react to health crises.[1154] The sharing of data through these mechanisms allows for a better understanding of COVID-19, and is central to the German presidency.

In September 2020, Germany announced a commitment of EUR100 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, towards its initial COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) plan.[1155] This furthered its standing commitment of EUR600 million for 2021-2025 COVAX, supporting fair and equitable vaccine access and distribution globally.[1156]

On 19 October 2020, Germany released the Global Health Strategy of the German Federal Government; a government-wide health strategy for 2020-2030 outlining Germany's commitments to the advancement of global health measures.[1157] A key principle within this agenda is to "leave no one behind" in the research and promotion of global health.[1158] Germany committed to advancing research and innovation by contributing resources for interdisciplinary research and collaborating internationally with global health researchers.

[1148] Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.bmz.de/en/zentrales_downloadarchiv/Presse/bmz_corona_paket_EN.pdf.
[1149] Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.bmz.de/en/zentrales_downloadarchiv/Presse/bmz_corona_paket_EN.pdf.
[1150] Germany: Partner in Global Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.who.int/about/funding/contributors/deu.
[1151] Germany: Partner in Global Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.who.int/about/funding/contributors/deu.
[1152] German EU Council Presidency 2020, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/eu2020/deutsche-eu-ratspraesidentschaft.html.
[1153] German EU Council Presidency 2020, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/eu2020/deutsche-eu-ratspraesidentschaft.html.
[1154] German EU Council Presidency 2020, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/eu2020/deutsche-eu-ratspraesidentschaft.html.
[1155] Germany, Gavi: the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 30 September 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2020. https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/germany.
[1156] Germany, Gavi: the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 30 September 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2020. https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/germany.
[1157] Global Health Strategy of the German Federal Government, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) October 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Broschueren/Global_Health_Strategy.pdf.
[1158] Global Health Strategy of the German Federal Government, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) October 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Broschueren/Global_Health_Strategy.pdf.

Germany proposed shared digital platforms and registries to make "comprehensive, up-to-date, and high-quality data" accessible to scientists, research and development professionals, and the general public, while protecting and maintaining personal data security.[1159] Germany supported the development of a transparent "joint research, economic, and data space" within the European Union through the Global Health Strategy.[1160]

On 19 February 2021, Germany committed EUR1.5 billion of funding to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator) The ACT-Accelerator is a partnership launched by WHO that prioritizes "diagnostics, treatment, vaccines and health system strengthening."[1161] Germany's financial contributions primarily support the acting COVAX initiative, providing global, equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine for countries who have limited access due to financial and other constraints.[1162]

Germany encourages and participates in the pooling of epidemiologic data and other data to better help understand the virus through financial support of global organizations (such as WHO, Gavi, and the Global Fund) extensive federal health and outreach programs, and focus on multilateral relationships. Germany prioritizes these initiatives in its policies.

Due to their coordinated national and international action towards public health measures and the distribution of epidemiologic data for understanding COVID-19, Germany has fully complied.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Rebecca Campbell-Martin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus.

On 30 April 2020, the Ministry of Health released weekly reports of infection rates in specific regions.[1163] The epidemiologic data tracks the date of symptom onset and diagnosis, as well as the risk percentage associated with the regions.[1164] The article also compares its current data to the previous week and states the interventions used to mitigate the risk of infection.[1165]

[1159] Global Health Strategy of the German Federal Government, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) October 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Broschueren/Global_Health_Strategy.pdf.

[1160] Global Health Strategy of the German Federal Government, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) October 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Broschueren/Global_Health_Strategy.pdf.

[1161] The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, World Health Organization (Geneva) April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator.

[1162] COVAX: Working for global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, COVAX (Geneva) April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax.

[1163] Covid-19 weekly monitoring, report February 8 – 14, 2021, Ministry of Health (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5342.

[1164] Covid-19 weekly monitoring, report February 8 – 14, 2021, Ministry of Health (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5342.

[1165] Covid-19 weekly monitoring, report February 8 – 14, 2021, Ministry of Health (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5342.

On 15 October 2020, the Italian National Institute of Health (INIH) released mental health data related to the virus.[1166] The article reveals that the population experienced higher levels of anxiety and depression during lockdown.[1167] The INIH promoted programs that ensure the care for people with psychiatric disorders and perinatal depression.[1168] The INIH is working with the Ministry of Health to verify if mental health patients are receiving continuous care.[1169]

On 27 January 2021, the INIH released a report on the characteristics of deceased COVID-19 patients.[1170] The data comes from the National Institute of Statistics, and it is also used for epidemiologic and viral monitoring of COVID-19 cases.[1171] The data discloses the cause of death, comorbid conditions, symptoms, and treatments used during the patients' hospitalization.[1172]

Italy has demonstrated national efforts to fully comply with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus by gathering information on the overall population, the deceased patients, and its effects on mental health.

Thus, Italy receives a score of+1.

Analyst: Adedoja Akande

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand the virus.

On 15 May 2020, Japan committed USD2.7 million through the leadership of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to help less developed countries in the Americas improve their responses to COVID-19.[1173] This contribution seeks to assist the countries to detect, respond and combat the virus including through the creation and sharing of data.[1174]

[1166] The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health: the commitment to the ISS, National Institute of Health (Rome) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. https://www.epicentro.iss.it/coronavirus/sars-cov-2-salute-mentale.
[1167] The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health: the commitment to the ISS, National Institute of Health (Rome) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. https://www.epicentro.iss.it/coronavirus/sars-cov-2-salute-mentale.
[1168] The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health: the commitment to the ISS, National Institute of Health (Rome) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. https://www.epicentro.iss.it/coronavirus/sars-cov-2-salute-mentale.
[1169] The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health: the commitment to the ISS, National Institute of Health (Rome) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. https://www.epicentro.iss.it/coronavirus/sars-cov-2-salute-mentale.
[1170] Characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 patients dying in Italy Report based on available data on January 27th, 2021, National Institute of Health (Rome) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. https://www.epicentro.iss.it/en/coronavirus/bollettino/Report-COVID-2019_27_january_2021.pdf.
[1171] Characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 patients dying in Italy Report based on available data on January 27th, 2021, National Institute of Health (Rome) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. https://www.epicentro.iss.it/en/coronavirus/bollettino/Report-COVID-2019_27_january_2021.pdf
[1172] Characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 patients dying in Italy Report based on available data on January 27th, 2021, National Institute of Health (Rome) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. https://www.epicentro.iss.it/en/coronavirus/bollettino/Report-COVID-2019_27_january_2021.pdf
[1173] Government of Japan contributes $2.7 m to scale up COVID-19 response in nine countries of the Americas, Pan American Health Organization (Washington) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. https://www.paho.org/en/news/15-5-2020-government-japan-contributes-27-m-scale-covid-19-response-nine-countries-americas
[1174] Japan contributes millions to help WHO/PAHO's fight against COVID-19 in the Americas, World Health Organization (Geneva) 15 May 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/japan-contributes-millions-to-help-who-paho-s-fight-against-covid-19-in-the-americas

On 5 October 2020, Japan's Research Center for Open Science and Data Platform (RCOS) at the National Institute of Informatics released the COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN.[1175] The RCOS portal "integrates and provides data and services to support research" into COVID-19.[1176] The portal uses JAIRO Cloud infrastructure in collaboration with the European COVID-19 Portal to make the research data publicly available.[1177] The portal contains accessible "genomic and protein structural data" and pathological and statistical data about the COVID-19.[1178]

Japan has demonstrated efforts to better understand the virus through research and development primarily at the national level, with some initiatives to contribute to the global understanding of the virus. They have partially complied in the commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus by privileging national dissemination and making minimal effort at furthering international health initiatives.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Rebecca Campbell-Martin

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand the virus.

On 25 March 2020, the Health Data Research United Kingdom (HDR UK), the partnership between the Government of the United Kingdom and the National Health Service (NHS), released the UK COVID-19 Strategy. This strategy outlines strict measures and standards to regulate the types and quality of data that is being shared between scientists and organizations.[1179]

On 26 June 2020, HDR UK partnered with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to create the International Covid-19 Data Alliance.[1180] This data alliance encourages the sharing of international COVID-19 data between governments, private-sector organs, and independent researchers and scientists to further scientific developments concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 21 July 2020, the United Kingdom data firm Elixir joined the international COVID-19 Data Portal to share scientific discoveries about the COVID-19 pandemic.[1181]

[1175] Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/ 22 Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/

[1176] Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/ 22 Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/.

[1177] Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/ 22 Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/.

[1178] Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/ 22 Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/.

[1179] HDR UK Covid-19 strategy, Health Data Research UK (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 15 February 2021. https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/200323-HDR-UK-COVID-19-Strategy-v-1.1_MLB.pdf.

[1180] Health Data Research UK establishes International Covid-19 Alliance, UK Research and Innovation (London) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 15 February 2021. https://www.ukri.org/our-work/tackling-the-impact-of-covid-19/vaccines-and-treatments/health-data-research-uk-establishes-international-covid-19-data-research-alliance-and-workbench/.

[1181] Sharing data, exchanging expertise and coordinating tools for an effective Covid-19 response, CORDIS European Commission (Luxembourg) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. https://cordis.europa.eu/article/id/421598-sharing-data-exchanging-expertise-and-coordinating-tools-for-an-effective-covid-19-response.

On 9 September 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom passed the National Data Strategy to optimize data sharing among intergovernmental organizations and private sector organizations.[1182] The strategy prioritizes the pooling and sharing of both COVID-19- and economic-related information.

On 14 December 2020, the United Kingdom shared with the World Health Organization that the government had identified a new COVID-19 variant, SARS-CoV-2 VUI 202012/01 (Variant Under Investigation, year 2020, month 12, variant 01).[1183] This was important as scientists found that this new variant was highly contagious.

On 22 February 2021, the United Kingdom BioBank, a non-profit research organization, committed to sharing openly its empirical findings of a COVID-19 antibody study which will end in March 2021.[1184]

The United Kingdom has demonstrated its partial commitment to sharing COVID-19 data with other organizations. The actions of creating a UK COVID-19 strategy, the Covid-19 International Data Alliance, and the National Data Strategy further imply the United Kingdom's commitment to openly sharing COVID-19 data. However, the Government of the United Kingdom did sign controversial contracts with American data firms that included sharing confidential patient information. In addition, the United Kingdom did not comply with the second part of the commitment to commit to sharing frequently other types of data.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ana Brinkerhoff

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand the virus.

In March 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and several other government agencies published the Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.[1185] It provided several considerations for ongoing trials on the topic of ensuring the safety of trial participants.[1186] This included determining if in-person visits are necessary to fully assure the safety of trial participants and the importance of following protocol during the implementation of alternative processes.[1187]

On 17 April 2020, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases announced the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines.[1188] This public-private partnership aims to develop a coordinated research strategy for prioritizing and speeding development of the most promising treatments and vaccines.[1189]

[1182] National Data Strategy, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-data-strategy/national-data-strategy
[1183] SARS-CoV-2 Variant – United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, World Health Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 16 February 2021. https://www.who.int/csr/don/21-december-2020-sars-cov2-variant-united-kingdom/en/.
[1184] Coronavirus self-test antibody study: Phase 1, UK BioBank (Stockport) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/explore-your-participation/contribute-further/coronavirus-self-test-antibody-study-phase-1.
[1185] Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency [PDF], U.S. Department of Health and Human Services et al. (Washington, D.C.) March 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.fda.gov/media/136238/download.
[1186] Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency [PDF], U.S. Department of Health and Human Services et al. (Washington, D.C.) March 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.fda.gov/media/136238/download.
[1187] Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency [PDF], U.S. Department of Health and Human Services et al.(Washington, D.C.) March 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.fda.gov/media/136238/download.
[1188] COVID-19 Clinical Research, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, (Bethesda) 2 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021 https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/covid-19-clinical-research.
[1189] COVID-19 Clinical Research, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, (Bethesda) 2 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021 https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/covid-19-clinical-research.

On 23 October 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided an Interim Guidance for Use of Pooling Procedures in SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostic, Screening, and Surveillance Testing.[1190] This document provides guidance on the appropriate use of testing as well as regulatory requirements for pooling of diagnostic or screening testing.[1191]

On 6 January 2021, HHS announced two upcoming actions by the CDC to provide more than USD22 billion in funding to states, localities, and territories in support of the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as directed by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.[1192] More than USD19 billion will be allocated to jurisdictions through the existing CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity cooperative agreement. These awards will help monitor and suppress the spread of COVID-19.[1193]

On 21 January 2021, the White House released a "National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness."[1194] President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order Ensuring a Data-Driven Response to COVID-19 and publicly shared data around key response indicators.[1195] The document also stated that the government will use data to effectively communicate the state of the pandemic and drive the policy response.[1196] These metrics and recommendations will be readily accessible for all local and state leaders, as well as the general public.[1197] This data will include a range of information such as cases, testing, contact tracing, and hospitalizations to make real-time information readily usable by policymakers at different levels of government.[1198]

In examining their national and international actions towards public health measures and the distribution of epidemiologic data for understanding COVID-19, the United States has fully complied.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1

Analyst: Eisha Khan

[1190] Interim Guidance for Use of Pooling Procedures in SARS-COV-2 Diagnostic, Screening, and Surveillance Testing, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/pooling-procedures.html.

[1191] Interim Guidance for Use of Pooling Procedures in SARS-COV-2 Diagnostic, Screening, and Surveillance Testing, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/pooling-procedures.html.

[1192] HHS Announces $22 billion in Funding to Support Expanded Testing, Vaccination Distribution, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0107-covid-19-funding.html.

[1193] HHS Announces $22 billion in Funding to Support Expanded Testing, Vaccination Distribution, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0107-covid-19-funding.html.

[1194] National Strategy For The COVID-19 Response And Pandemic Preparedness [PDF], the White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf.

[1195] National Strategy For The COVID-19 Response And Pandemic Preparedness [PDF], the White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf.

[1196] National Strategy For The COVID-19 Response And Pandemic Preparedness [PDF], the White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf.

[1197] National Strategy For The COVID-19 Response And Pandemic Preparedness [PDF], the White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf.

[1198] National Strategy For The COVID-19 Response And Pandemic Preparedness [PDF], the White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf.

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus.

On 16 March 2020, the European Medicines Agency called to pool EU research resources into large-scale, multi-centre, multi-arm clinical trials against COVID-19.[1199] The Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use stated that it is critical to generate robust and interpretable evidence that would allow prompt definition of which investigational or repurposed medicinal products are effective and safe for the treatment of COVID-19.[1200]

On 16 March 2020, the EU-funded a Multidisciplinary European network for research, prevention and control of the COVID-19 Pandemic called I-MOVE-COVID-19.[1201] The project aims to obtain epidemiological, clinical, and virological information on coronavirus and infected patients through the I-MOVE surveillance network. The project is an expansion on the existing Europe-wide influenza monitoring vaccine effectiveness network to include studies on COVID-19.[1202] It hopes to contribute to the clinical management of patients, improve public health preparedness and response to COVID-19, and evaluate COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness once the vaccine is available.[1203] This ongoing project is set to be completed by 15 June 2022.[1204]

On 7 April 2020, European Union leaders unveiled the first "ERAvsCORONA" Action Plan. This plan consisted of 10 priority actions which covers first short-term coordinated actions only.[1205] It sets out key measures the Commission services and the member states are activating to coordinate, share and jointly increase support for research and innovation, in line with the objectives and tools of the European Research Area.[1206] This first Action Plan will be updated regularly by the Commission services and national administrations that can be taken in the short, medium and longer term.[1207] The results of the plan were posted three months later on 26 June 2020. This includes closer coordination of actions taken by the member states and the Commission, joining forces in providing financial support, creating new funding opportunities, refocusing existing projects, sharing data, and setting mechanisms to match great ideas with market opportunities.[1208]

[1199] A Call to Pool EU Research Resources into Large-Scale, Multi-Centre, Multi-Arm Clinical Trials against COVID-19, Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (Amsterdam) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 14 March, 2021. https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/other/call-pool-eu-research-resources-large-scale-multi-centre-multi-arm-clinical-trials-against-covid-19_en.pdf.
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[1203] Multidisciplinary European network for research, prevention and control of the COVID-19 Pandemic, European Commission (Paris) 6 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101003673.
[1204] Multidisciplinary European network for research, prevention and control of the COVID-19 Pandemic, European Commission (Paris) 6 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101003673.
[1205] FIRST "ERAvsCORONA' ACTION PLAN," European Union (Brussels) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/covid-firsteravscorona_actions.pdf.
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[1207] FIRST "ERAvsCORONA' ACTION PLAN," European Union (Brussels) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/covid-firsteravscorona_actions.pdf.
[1208] FIRST "ERAvsCORONA' ACTION PLAN," European Union (Brussels) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/covid-firsteravscorona_actions.pdf.

On 20 April 2020, the European Commission launched a European COVID-19 Data Platform to begin rapid collection and sharing of available research data.[1209] This platform was a part of the "ERAvsCORONA" Action Plan released earlier in the month. The new platform will provide an open, trusted, and scalable European and global environment where researchers can store and share datasets as well as epidemiological data.[1210] It marks another effort made by the European Union to support researchers in Europe and around the world in the fight against the coronavirus outbreak.[1211]

On 12 August 2020, the European Commission provided EUR128 million of funding to 23 new COVID-19 health and research projects.[1212] This was made available under the EU's research and innovation programme, which is also part of the Commission's EUR1.4 billion pledge to the Coronavirus Global Response initiative that was launched in May.[1213] The Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, stated that the "emergency funding from Horizon 2020 will enable researchers to rapidly develop solutions with and for patients, care workers, hospitals, local communities and companies."[1214]

On 16 November 2020, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) provided detailed epidemiological information by country and for the EU and the European Economic Area as well as the UK overall, including age- and age-sex specific risk of hospitalization, severe hospitalization and death and the proportion of cases with reported underlying health conditions.[1215] This was reported through the European Surveillance System and published in ECDC's weekly COVID-19 surveillance report.[1216] This report also provides more research regarding the pandemic.

On 24 February 2021, the European Commission signed a grant to provide funding for European Clinical Research Alliance on Infectious Diseases (ECRAID).[1217] As a European clinical research network, ECRAID-Base will generate rigorous evidence to improve diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of infections and to better respond to these threats.[1218] The network will focus on six perpetual studies that will begin on 1 March 2021.[1219]

In examining their national and international actions towards public health measures and the distribution of epidemiologic data for understanding COVID-19, the European Union has fully complied.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1

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