



2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Interim Compliance Report

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

We encourage readers to send comments to

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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.”³⁷⁸⁵ 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.³⁷⁸⁶ The G20 members also reaffirmed their commitment to follow applicable WHO recommended measures. Lastly, the G20 members agreed to

³⁷⁸⁵ 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>

³⁷⁸⁶ 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.”³⁷⁸⁷

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.³⁷⁸⁸ The Berlin Declaration also recognized the G20’s “unique position to lead by example and foster global preparedness for and responsiveness to health crises.”³⁷⁸⁹ 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.”³⁷⁹⁰

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.”³⁷⁹¹ 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.”³⁷⁹² 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.³⁷⁹³

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.”³⁷⁹⁴ While much progress has been made by G20

³⁷⁸⁷ 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>

³⁷⁸⁸ 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>

³⁷⁸⁹ 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>

³⁷⁹⁰ 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>

³⁷⁹¹ 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>

³⁷⁹² 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

³⁷⁹³ 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>

³⁷⁹⁴ 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.³⁷⁹⁵

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.”³⁷⁹⁶ 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.”³⁷⁹⁷ 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.³⁷⁹⁸ 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 policy³⁷⁹⁹ “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.³⁸⁰⁰ “Global” is understood to mean relating to the whole world, world-wide³⁸⁰¹ “Pandemic” refers to an outbreak of a disease prevalent globally or in the whole world.³⁸⁰² In the context of this commitment, it is mainly referring to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Preparedness” refers to a state of readiness.³⁸⁰³ 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

³⁷⁹⁵ 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>

³⁷⁹⁶ 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>

³⁷⁹⁷ 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

³⁷⁹⁸ 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#>

³⁷⁹⁹ 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

³⁸⁰⁰ 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

³⁸⁰¹ Global, Oxford Languages (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/global>

³⁸⁰² Pandemic, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/pandemic_1

³⁸⁰³ 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.³⁸⁰⁴ 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.³⁸⁰⁵ “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.³⁸⁰⁶ 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.³⁸⁰⁷ 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...”³⁸⁰⁸ 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.³⁸⁰⁹

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

³⁸⁰⁴ 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>

³⁸⁰⁵ Prevention, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/prevention?q=prevention>

³⁸⁰⁶ Detection, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/detection?q=detection>

³⁸⁰⁷ Response, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/response?q=response>

³⁸⁰⁸ 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

³⁸⁰⁹ 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. |

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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 2020.³⁸¹⁰ 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.³⁸¹¹ 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.³⁸¹²

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.³⁸¹³ 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.³⁸¹⁴ 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.³⁸¹⁵

³⁸¹⁰ 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>

³⁸¹¹ 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>

³⁸¹² 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>

³⁸¹³ 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>

³⁸¹⁴ 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>

³⁸¹⁵ 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.³⁸¹⁶ 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.³⁸¹⁷

On 20 December 2020, Argentina published decree 1033/2020 that established social, preventive and distancing measures.³⁸¹⁸ The measures addressed social distancing, economic activities, sports activities, quarantining procedures and prohibited social gatherings.³⁸¹⁹ Social gatherings of more than 20 people in closed places and more than 100 people in outdoor spaces were prohibited.³⁸²⁰ The decree also mandated that employers guarantee safety and hygiene conditions to maintain the health of their employees.³⁸²¹

On 24 December 2020, Argentina published decree 2252/2020 in the Boletín Oficial that announced the closure of the Argentinian border.³⁸²² 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.³⁸²³ All ports of entry would be suspended to foreign nationals, but international cargo and medical and humanitarian aid would be exempt from these measures.³⁸²⁴

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.³⁸²⁵ It was the last meeting of the year, a holiday for Argentines and also the start of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.³⁸²⁶ 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

³⁸¹⁶ 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>

³⁸¹⁷ 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>

³⁸¹⁸ 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>

³⁸¹⁹ 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>

³⁸²⁰ 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>

³⁸²¹ 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>

³⁸²² 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>

³⁸²³ 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>

³⁸²⁴ 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>

³⁸²⁵ 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>

³⁸²⁶ 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.³⁸²⁷

On 30 December 2020, Argentina authorized the Astra-Zeneca Oxford vaccine, after approving the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine earlier.³⁸²⁸ 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 2020.³⁸²⁹ 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.”³⁸³⁰

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.³⁸³¹ 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.³⁸³²

On 30 January 2021, President Fernández issued his 18th official quarantine announcement.³⁸³³ He officially announced the renewal social distancing measures for the month of February and also reaffirmed the return of school children to their classes.³⁸³⁴

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.³⁸³⁵

On 9 February 2021, Argentina’s drug regulator authorized the emergency use of the Chinese-made COVID-19 vaccine Sinopharm.³⁸³⁶ Argentina expected 1 million doses to arrive in the following days.³⁸³⁷

³⁸²⁷ 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>

³⁸²⁸ Argentina authorizes use of British AstraZeneca vaccine (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/noticias-65af4c7b83246f579dc3319424482c02>

³⁸²⁹ Argentina authorizes use of British AstraZeneca vaccine (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/noticias-65af4c7b83246f579dc3319424482c02>

³⁸³⁰ Argentina authorizes use of British AstraZeneca vaccine (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/noticias-65af4c7b83246f579dc3319424482c02>

³⁸³¹ 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>

³⁸³² 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>

³⁸³³ 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>

³⁸³⁴ 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>

³⁸³⁵ 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>

³⁸³⁶ 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>

³⁸³⁷ 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.³⁸³⁸ 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.³⁸³⁹ The platform was developed with the goal of early detection of COVID-19 cases and to control and monitor the cases in educational institutions.³⁸⁴⁰

On 25 March 2021, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team held a meeting with Argentina's Economy Minister, Martin Guzman and his team to discuss a new economic plan.³⁸⁴¹ Argentina and the IMF team agreed that there was a need for macroeconomic sustainability and planning for post-COVID recovery.³⁸⁴² 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.³⁸⁴³

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.³⁸⁴⁴ Argentinians who return from other countries would continue to be required to complete testing and mandatory isolation.³⁸⁴⁵

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.³⁸⁴⁶ Argentina received 218,000 doses of the Astra Zeneca/Oxford vaccine which would be added to the ongoing vaccination campaign.³⁸⁴⁷

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.³⁸⁴⁸ 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

³⁸³⁸ 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>

³⁸³⁹ 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>

³⁸⁴⁰ 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>

³⁸⁴¹ 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>

³⁸⁴² 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>

³⁸⁴³ 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>

³⁸⁴⁴ 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-idLTAKBN2BIO2H>

³⁸⁴⁵ 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-idLTAKBN2BIO2H>

³⁸⁴⁶ 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>

³⁸⁴⁷ 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>

³⁸⁴⁸ 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."³⁸⁴⁹

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.³⁸⁵⁰ 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.³⁸⁵¹ The Ministry of Health also agreed to work towards strengthening testing procedures and to work towards early detection.³⁸⁵²

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-19.³⁸⁵³ The officials recognized that the current use of oxygen was between two to three times higher than last year.³⁸⁵⁴ 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.³⁸⁵⁵

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.

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.³⁸⁵⁶ Another plan, the AUD11.1 million, Serious Incident Response Scheme to protect senior Australians from abuse and neglect will improve quality and

³⁸⁴⁹ 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/>

³⁸⁵⁰ 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>

³⁸⁵¹ 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>

³⁸⁵² 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>

³⁸⁵³ 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>

³⁸⁵⁴ 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>

³⁸⁵⁵ 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>

³⁸⁵⁶ 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>

safety at the individual service and broader system level.³⁸⁵⁷ 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.³⁸⁵⁸ Additionally, investment of AUD15.7 million was announced for allied health services for facilities affected by COVID-19 outbreaks.³⁸⁵⁹

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.³⁸⁶⁰ 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.³⁸⁶¹

On 25 January 2021, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of Australia provisionally approved the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for national use.³⁸⁶² 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."³⁸⁶³

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.³⁸⁶⁴ 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.³⁸⁶⁵ 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.³⁸⁶⁶

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

³⁸⁵⁷ 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>

³⁸⁵⁸ 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>

³⁸⁵⁹ 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>

³⁸⁶⁰ 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>

³⁸⁶¹ 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>

³⁸⁶² 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>

³⁸⁶³ 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>

³⁸⁶⁴ 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>

³⁸⁶⁵ 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>

³⁸⁶⁶ 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>

pharmacies to ensure that citizens living in regional, rural and remote locations have access to COVID-19 vaccination.³⁸⁶⁷ 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.³⁸⁶⁸

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.³⁸⁶⁹ Messages will target specific multicultural groups to ensure everyone in Australia has a full understanding of the vaccination program. Many people from CALD 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.³⁸⁷⁰

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.³⁸⁷¹

On 16 February 2021, the TGA of Australia provisionally approved the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for national use.³⁸⁷² 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.³⁸⁷³

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.³⁸⁷⁴ 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

³⁸⁶⁷ 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>

³⁸⁶⁸ 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>

³⁸⁶⁹ 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>

³⁸⁷⁰ 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>

³⁸⁷¹ 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>

³⁸⁷² 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>

³⁸⁷³ 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>

³⁸⁷⁴ 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>

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."³⁸⁷⁵

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.³⁸⁷⁶

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.³⁸⁷⁷

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.³⁸⁷⁸ Early vaccine assistance will be coordinated with Papua New Guinea's response, which has included their COVID-19 National Pandemic Response taskforce.³⁸⁷⁹

On 22 March 2021, Australia announced new restrictions on social gatherings, in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.³⁸⁸⁰ Beginning on 23 March 2021, gathering places such as pubs, gyms, cinemas, nightclubs, restaurants and cafes, and places of worship were closed.³⁸⁸¹ In addition, the government restricted non-essential gatherings to 500 people in outdoor spaces and 100 people in indoor spaces.³⁸⁸² Restrictions on entering aged home care facilities were also implemented.³⁸⁸³ The restrictions are expected to be in effect for six months, with reviews of the regulations taking place on a monthly basis.³⁸⁸⁴

³⁸⁷⁵ 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>

³⁸⁷⁶ 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>

³⁸⁷⁷ 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>

³⁸⁷⁸ 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>

³⁸⁷⁹ 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>

³⁸⁸⁰ 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>

³⁸⁸¹ 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>

³⁸⁸² 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>

³⁸⁸³ 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>

³⁸⁸⁴ 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>

On 22 March 2021, the Department of Health announced the rollout of Phase 1B of the Australian government's vaccination plan.³⁸⁸⁵ 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.³⁸⁸⁶

On 3 May 2021, Australian citizens and residents may face large fines and jail time if they choose to fly home from COVID-19 hit India.³⁸⁸⁷ Although Minister Hunt said that the government would reconsider the temporary "emergency determination" in two weeks' time many citizens felt that this policy was overly punitive and racist because other countries had similar waves which no serious action was taken against.³⁸⁸⁸

Australia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic prevention, detection, and response. It has created a National Partnership on COVID-19 Response Initiative, an intensive and robust Vaccination Policy and also helped support partner countries such as Papua New Guinea. Australia has also taken action to prepare vaccination clinics and ensure cold storage capacities.

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.³⁸⁸⁹ 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. This initiative will greatly improve the qualification of our service."³⁸⁹⁰ This initiative revamps the health care system to respond to the current pandemic and to future ones that may arise.³⁸⁹¹

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

³⁸⁸⁵ 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>

³⁸⁸⁶ 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>

³⁸⁸⁷ 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>

³⁸⁸⁸ 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>

³⁸⁸⁹ 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>

³⁸⁹⁰ 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>

³⁸⁹¹ 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>

the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁸⁹² 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.³⁸⁹³ This tax reduction makes importing essential goods easier and faster to respond to urgent needs.³⁸⁹⁴

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.³⁸⁹⁵ The products become part of the list of temporary tariff reductions with the aim of facilitating the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁸⁹⁶ 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.³⁸⁹⁷

On 15 January 2021, Gecex approved the temporary reduction of the Import Tax to zero for 258 products.³⁸⁹⁸ 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.³⁸⁹⁹

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 gloves, aprons and masks.³⁹⁰⁰ Building upon previous import tax reductions, the list has been expanded to continue ensuring that Brazilians have access to necessary products and equipment.³⁹⁰¹

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

³⁸⁹² 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-contra-covid-19>

³⁸⁹³ 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-contra-covid-19>

³⁸⁹⁴ 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-contra-covid-19>

³⁸⁹⁵ 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>

³⁸⁹⁶ 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>

³⁸⁹⁷ 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>

³⁸⁹⁸ 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>

³⁸⁹⁹ 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>

³⁹⁰⁰ 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>

³⁹⁰¹ 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>

during the pandemic, entitled “Preparation and response in mental health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.”³⁹⁰² The document, entitled “Mental health preparedness and response in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic,” had Brazil’s active participation in the negotiations.³⁹⁰³ 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.³⁹⁰⁴

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.³⁹⁰⁵ 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.³⁹⁰⁶

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.³⁹⁰⁷ According to Secretary Arnaldo, the initiative will accelerate the investigation of COVID-19 virus mutations.³⁹⁰⁸ He also stated that “The surveillance 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.”³⁹⁰⁹

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

³⁹⁰² 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>

³⁹⁰³ 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>

³⁹⁰⁴ 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>

³⁹⁰⁵ 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>

³⁹⁰⁶ 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>

³⁹⁰⁷ 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>

³⁹⁰⁸ 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>

³⁹⁰⁹ 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>

consortium.³⁹¹⁰ 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.³⁹¹¹

On 9 March 2021, Minister Pazuella, 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.³⁹¹² 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.³⁹¹³ The initial schedule, subject to changes, foresees 2.9 million doses in March and another 6.1 million by May.³⁹¹⁴

On 29 March 2021, Gecex temporarily zeroed the Import Tax on 65 more products used to fight the new coronavirus pandemic.³⁹¹⁵ This builds upon previous import tax reductions on goods and materials needed in response to the ongoing pandemic.³⁹¹⁶

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-19.³⁹¹⁷ 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.³⁹¹⁸

On 16 April 2021, over 2.3 million orotracheal intubation drugs will be distributed by the Ministry of Health beginning on April 16.³⁹¹⁹ 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.³⁹²⁰ Minister of Health Marcelo Queiroga in a press conference mentioned that the action will

³⁹¹⁰ 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-contr-a-covid-19-por-meio-do-consorcio-global-covax-facility>

³⁹¹¹ 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-contr-a-covid-19-por-meio-do-consorcio-global-covax-facility>

³⁹¹² Minister Pazuella 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>

³⁹¹³ Minister Pazuella 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>

³⁹¹⁴ Minister Pazuella 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>

³⁹¹⁵ 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>

³⁹¹⁶ 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>

³⁹¹⁷ 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>

³⁹¹⁸ 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>

³⁹¹⁹ 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>

³⁹²⁰ 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>

reinforce assistance to the Unified Health System and patient care throughout the country.³⁹²¹ “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.³⁹²²

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.³⁹²³ The resource will be used to purchase medicines that make up the intubation kit and also for new beds in the ICU.³⁹²⁴ 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.³⁹²⁵ The financial contribution will also be used to buy intubation drugs.³⁹²⁶ BRL1.4 billion will be allocated so that the Ministry of Health can maintain the stock of inputs for a period of 90 days.³⁹²⁷ The other 100 million include expenses with vaccine distribution logistics, for example, and transporting patients who need care in other states and municipalities.³⁹²⁸

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 411 adult ICU beds for the care of critically ill patients with covid-19.³⁹²⁹ Several municipalities in the states of Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito 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.³⁹³⁰

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.³⁹³¹ The authorizations, on an exceptional and temporary basis, are destined for the Federal District and the states of Bahia, Goiás,

³⁹²¹ 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>

³⁹²² 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>

³⁹²³ 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>

³⁹²⁴ 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>

³⁹²⁵ 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>

³⁹²⁶ 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>

³⁹²⁷ 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>

³⁹²⁸ 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>

³⁹²⁹ 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>

³⁹³⁰ 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>

³⁹³¹ 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>

Minas Gerais, Paraná, São Paulo, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Amazonas and Rio Grande do Sul.³⁹³²

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.³⁹³³

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.³⁹³⁴ 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.³⁹³⁵

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-19.³⁹³⁶ In total, four states are being benefited: Minas Gerais, Pernambuco, Santa Catarina and São Paulo.³⁹³⁷

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.³⁹³⁸ The statement was given during the inauguration of the board of directors of the National Council of Health Secretaries, in Brasília.³⁹³⁹ “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.³⁹⁴⁰

³⁹³² 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>

³⁹³³ 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>

³⁹³⁴ 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>

³⁹³⁵ 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>

³⁹³⁶ 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>

³⁹³⁷ 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>

³⁹³⁸ 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>

³⁹³⁹ 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>

³⁹⁴⁰ 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>

On 29 April 2021, the Ministry of Health will distribute an additional 864,000 units of orotracheal intubation drugs.³⁹⁴¹ The inputs were acquired through auctions carried out by the portfolio and also acquired through PAHO.³⁹⁴² 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.³⁹⁴³

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-19.³⁹⁴⁴ 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.³⁹⁴⁵

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.³⁹⁴⁶ 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.³⁹⁴⁷

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

³⁹⁴¹ Health distributes over 864 thousand units of intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 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>

³⁹⁴² Health distributes over 864 thousand units of intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 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>

³⁹⁴³ Health distributes over 864 thousand units of intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 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>

³⁹⁴⁴ Health authorizes more 872 ICU beds COVID-19 for 13 states and the DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 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>

³⁹⁴⁵ Health authorizes more 872 ICU beds COVID-19 for 13 states and the DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 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>

³⁹⁴⁶ 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>

³⁹⁴⁷ 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>

the United States and other countries.³⁹⁴⁸ 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.³⁹⁴⁹

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.³⁹⁵⁰ This new measure also influenced the role out of similar measures for pilots of private aircraft that has since been repealed.³⁹⁵¹

On 14 December 2020, Canada announced additional support for equitable Access to COVID-19 tests treatments and vaccines.³⁹⁵² 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.³⁹⁵³ 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.³⁹⁵⁴

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.³⁹⁵⁵ This announcement relies on the already established Vaccine and Therapeutics task forces and biomanufacturing subcommittee in parliament.³⁹⁵⁶ The investment includes CAD5.1 million to Precision NanoSystems Incorporated, to expand the production of ribonucleic acid vaccines and

³⁹⁴⁸ 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>

³⁹⁴⁹ 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>

³⁹⁵⁰ 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>

³⁹⁵¹ 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>

³⁹⁵² Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. 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>

³⁹⁵³ Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. 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>

³⁹⁵⁴ Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. 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>

³⁹⁵⁵ 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>

³⁹⁵⁶ 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>

future genetic medicines in Canada.³⁹⁵⁷ 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.³⁹⁵⁸

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.³⁹⁵⁹ The fund will allow organizations to pursue projects and scale up operations that help women and girls participate in Canada’s economy and society throughout and post COVID-19.³⁹⁶⁰ 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.³⁹⁶¹

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.³⁹⁶²

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.³⁹⁶³ The new funding will ensure that researchers have the tools necessary to address the pandemic’s changing needs and speed up vaccine production.³⁹⁶⁴ 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.”³⁹⁶⁵ This

³⁹⁵⁷ 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>

³⁹⁵⁸ 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>

³⁹⁵⁹ 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>

³⁹⁶⁰ 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>

³⁹⁶¹ 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>

³⁹⁶² 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>

³⁹⁶³ 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>

³⁹⁶⁴ 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>

³⁹⁶⁵ 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>

demonstrates Canada’s advanced preparedness to combat the pandemic and future ones that may occur.³⁹⁶⁶

On 1 April 2021, Health Canada announced a CAD6.5 million investment to expand virtual health services in the province of Saskatchewan.³⁹⁶⁷ Canada aims to help the region respond better to the challenges of delivering healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁹⁶⁸

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.³⁹⁶⁹ The agreement helps expand the capacity of healthcare systems, secure personal protective equipment, and helps protect the most vulnerable communities across Canada.³⁹⁷⁰

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-19.³⁹⁷¹ 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.”³⁹⁷²

On 14 April 2021, Health Canada announced a CAD16 million investment to expand virtual health services in the province of Alberta.³⁹⁷³ 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.³⁹⁷⁴

³⁹⁶⁶ 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>

³⁹⁶⁷ 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>

³⁹⁶⁸ 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>

³⁹⁶⁹ 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>

³⁹⁷⁰ 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>

³⁹⁷¹ 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>

³⁹⁷² 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>

³⁹⁷³ 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>

³⁹⁷⁴ 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>

On 16 April 2021, Health Canada announced a CAD46 million investment to expand virtual health services in the province of Ontario.³⁹⁷⁵ Canada aims to use this investment to help the region respond better to the challenges of delivering healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁹⁷⁶

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.³⁹⁷⁷ The proposed investment would allow researchers to handle all the disease-causing pathogens in the world.³⁹⁷⁸

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 into 2024.³⁹⁷⁹ Canada has now secured 65 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine with access to up to 120 million doses.³⁹⁸⁰ This new procurement is in addition to the current 48 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine Canada secured in late 2020.³⁹⁸¹

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.³⁹⁸²

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.³⁹⁸³ The investment will allow for the purchase of medical supplies, as well as supporting blood and ambulance services.³⁹⁸⁴

³⁹⁷⁵ 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>

³⁹⁷⁶ 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>

³⁹⁷⁷ 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>

³⁹⁷⁸ 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>

³⁹⁷⁹ 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>

³⁹⁸⁰ 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>

³⁹⁸¹ 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>

³⁹⁸² 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>

³⁹⁸³ 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>

³⁹⁸⁴ 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>

On 29 April 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada announced an investment of CAD 64 million to launch the Immunization Partnership Fund.³⁹⁸⁵ The project aims to build the capacity of healthcare providers as vaccinator providers.³⁹⁸⁶ CAD32.25 million is allocated for community-led projects, while additional funding is earmarked to support electronic vaccination registries to help monitor vaccine uptake.³⁹⁸⁷

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.³⁹⁸⁸ 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, will address fears of needles and vaccines.³⁹⁸⁹ Both projects will aim to support Canada's research into barriers that Canadians face in getting vaccinated.³⁹⁹⁰

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.³⁹⁹¹ 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.³⁹⁹²

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: Rahul Pallan

China: +1

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

³⁹⁸⁵ 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/background-new-projects-funded-under-the-immunization-partnership-fund.html>

³⁹⁸⁶ 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/background-new-projects-funded-under-the-immunization-partnership-fund.html>

³⁹⁸⁷ 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/background-new-projects-funded-under-the-immunization-partnership-fund.html>

³⁹⁸⁸ 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>

³⁹⁸⁹ 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>

³⁹⁹⁰ 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>

³⁹⁹¹ 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>

³⁹⁹² 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>

On 22 November 2020, the National Health Commission released guidelines on the COVID-19 prevention and control work at blood donation stations.³⁹⁹³ The guideline aims to ensure the safety of health workers and donors and to secure blood supplies for the fall and winter of 2021.³⁹⁹⁴

On 23 November 2020, the Ministry of Civil Affairs announced their plans to ensure the livelihood of the most impoverished population under the pandemic.³⁹⁹⁵ The plans include conducting a census of people in need of social relief, expanding the relief's coverage and increasing financial support.³⁹⁹⁶ China provided temporary subsidies for 7.46 million people in 2020, 56 per cent more than the same period in 2019.³⁹⁹⁷

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.³⁹⁹⁸ 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.³⁹⁹⁹

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.⁴⁰⁰⁰ Hospitals should continue to offer elderly patients traditional face-to-face services including registration, payment and inquiries concerning test results.⁴⁰⁰¹

³⁹⁹³ 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

³⁹⁹⁴ 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

³⁹⁹⁵ 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

³⁹⁹⁶ 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

³⁹⁹⁷ 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_WS5fbc6aaac6d0f72576940742.html

³⁹⁹⁸ 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

³⁹⁹⁹ 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

⁴⁰⁰⁰ 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

⁴⁰⁰¹ 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.⁴⁰⁰² The guidelines include instructions on giving personnel training and protection and disinfection of vehicles.⁴⁰⁰³

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.⁴⁰⁰⁴ 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.⁴⁰⁰⁵

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.⁴⁰⁰⁶ 14 vaccines have entered clinical trials, 5 of which entered phase-III clinical trials.⁴⁰⁰⁷

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.⁴⁰⁰⁸ The notice is aimed at improving the ability of medical institutions to detect the virus early.⁴⁰⁰⁹

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.⁴⁰¹⁰ Representatives from both sides shared information on COVID-19 prevention and control, diagnosis and treatment, and global health cooperation.⁴⁰¹¹

⁴⁰⁰² 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

⁴⁰⁰³ 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

⁴⁰⁰⁴ 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

⁴⁰⁰⁵ 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

⁴⁰⁰⁶ 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

⁴⁰⁰⁷ 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

⁴⁰⁰⁸ 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

⁴⁰⁰⁹ 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

⁴⁰¹⁰ 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

⁴⁰¹¹ 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.⁴⁰¹² 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.⁴⁰¹³

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.⁴⁰¹⁴ 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.⁴⁰¹⁵

On 11 December 2020, China donated medical supplies worth RMB2 million to Myanmar to fight against COVID-19.⁴⁰¹⁶ The supplies included 30,000 personal protective equipment, 30,000 isolation gowns, 42,000 N95 masks and 150,000 surgical masks.⁴⁰¹⁷

On 15 December 2020, China held a ceremony for the China-aided future headquarters of Africa CDC project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.⁴⁰¹⁸ 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."⁴⁰¹⁹ He also stressed that China will try to make COVID-19 vaccines a global public good, and accessible and affordable for African countries.⁴⁰²⁰

On 15 December 2020, the National Health Commission donated medical equipment to Zimbabwe's largest referral hospital, the Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals.⁴⁰²¹ The donated materials included

⁴⁰¹² 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

⁴⁰¹³ 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

⁴⁰¹⁴ 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

⁴⁰¹⁵ 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

⁴⁰¹⁶ 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

⁴⁰¹⁷ 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

⁴⁰¹⁸ 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

⁴⁰¹⁹ 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

⁴⁰²⁰ 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

⁴⁰²¹ 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.⁴⁰²²

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.⁴⁰²³ The standards aimed to improve the country's emergency response mechanism for major epidemics.⁴⁰²⁴

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.⁴⁰²⁵ 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.⁴⁰²⁶

On 16 December 2020, the Civil Aviation Administration of China announced new COVID-19 control policies for inbound flights.⁴⁰²⁷ Flights will be suspended for two weeks instead of one week if the number of passengers who test positive for COVID-19 reaches five.⁴⁰²⁸

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.⁴⁰²⁹ 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.⁴⁰³⁰

On 21 December 2020, China started the construction of a plant for manufacturing an mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine.⁴⁰³¹ China expected the facility to produce 120 million doses per year in its first phase.⁴⁰³²

⁴⁰²² 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

⁴⁰²³ 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

⁴⁰²⁴ 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

⁴⁰²⁵ 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

⁴⁰²⁶ 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

⁴⁰²⁷ 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

⁴⁰²⁸ 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

⁴⁰²⁹ 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

⁴⁰³⁰ 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

⁴⁰³¹ 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.⁴⁰³³

On 31 December 2020, the National Health Commission announced that China will provide COVID-19 vaccines free of charge to all its citizens.⁴⁰³⁴ 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.⁴⁰³⁵

On 31 December 2020, China and Egypt signed a letter of intent for cooperation on anti-coronavirus vaccines in Cairo, Egypt.⁴⁰³⁶ The countries signed this letter after Egypt received a batch of COVID-19 vaccine developed by Chinese drugmaker Sinopharm from China in December 2020.⁴⁰³⁷

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.⁴⁰³⁸ The Chinese National Medical Products Administration also established a traceability information system for the management of approved vaccines.⁴⁰³⁹

On 7 January 2021, China donated medical equipment to Zambia to tackle the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁰⁴⁰ The donated equipment includes ventilators, oxygen ventilators and other medical equipment.⁴⁰⁴¹ China also organized a medical team to help in hospitals in Zambia for a period of one year.⁴⁰⁴²

⁴⁰³² 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

⁴⁰³³ 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

⁴⁰³⁴ 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

⁴⁰³⁵ 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

⁴⁰³⁶ 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

⁴⁰³⁷ 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

⁴⁰³⁸ 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

⁴⁰³⁹ 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

⁴⁰⁴⁰ 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

⁴⁰⁴¹ 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

⁴⁰⁴² 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-19.⁴⁰⁴³ Chinese experts will go to Wuhan to conduct the investigation once the WHO experts completed their procedures and finalized the schedule.⁴⁰⁴⁴

On 9 January 2021, Deputy Head Yixin announced that China has inoculated a total of over 9 million doses since 15 December 2020.⁴⁰⁴⁵ A total of 25,392 vaccination sites were available in the country.⁴⁰⁴⁶

On 20 January 2021, China's National Health Commission announced that China has administered more than 15 million doses since December 2020.⁴⁰⁴⁷

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.⁴⁰⁴⁸

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.⁴⁰⁴⁹ The team will provide medical services for local residents and assist with anti-epidemic measures during their 18-month stay.⁴⁰⁵⁰

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.⁴⁰⁵¹ He also said that China had decided to provide an emergency aid of COVID-19 vaccines and carry out further vaccine cooperation with Myanmar.⁴⁰⁵²

⁴⁰⁴³ 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

⁴⁰⁴⁴ 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

⁴⁰⁴⁵ 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

⁴⁰⁴⁶ 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

⁴⁰⁴⁷ 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

⁴⁰⁴⁸ 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

⁴⁰⁴⁹ 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

⁴⁰⁵⁰ 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

⁴⁰⁵¹ 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

⁴⁰⁵² 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.⁴⁰⁵³

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.⁴⁰⁵⁴ 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.⁴⁰⁵⁵

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.⁴⁰⁵⁶

On 20 January 2021, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention deposited a new COVID-19 variant detected in South Africa.⁴⁰⁵⁷ 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.⁴⁰⁵⁸

On 21 January 2021, the Chinese Embassy in Iraq delivered a donation to Baghdad, Iraq.⁴⁰⁵⁹ The donation includes 56 ambulances with their spare parts, 266 generators, and motorcycles, computers, laptops, printers, etc.⁴⁰⁶⁰

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.⁴⁰⁶¹ 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.⁴⁰⁶²

⁴⁰⁵³ 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

⁴⁰⁵⁴ 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

⁴⁰⁵⁵ 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

⁴⁰⁵⁶ 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

⁴⁰⁵⁷ 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

⁴⁰⁵⁸ 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

⁴⁰⁵⁹ 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

⁴⁰⁶⁰ 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

⁴⁰⁶¹ 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

⁴⁰⁶² 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.⁴⁰⁶³ The train also contained production and living supplies that will be transferred to Hamburg, Germany.⁴⁰⁶⁴

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.⁴⁰⁶⁵

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.⁴⁰⁶⁶ Minister Xiaowei proposed that the two countries strengthen health cooperation in all areas including prevention and control of infectious diseases.⁴⁰⁶⁷ Experts from both countries also discussed mobilization and deployment of medical resources, strategies of epidemic prevention and control as well as COVID-19 vaccination.⁴⁰⁶⁸

On 1 February 2021, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin announced that China donated COVID-19 vaccines to Pakistan.⁴⁰⁶⁹ 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.⁴⁰⁷⁰ 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.⁴⁰⁷¹

On 4 February 2021, the Chinese Embassy announced that the Chinese government donated 50,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq.⁴⁰⁷²

On 5 February 2021, China provided the first batch of vaccine aid for Nepal.⁴⁰⁷³ Minister Yi made the remarks during a phone conversation with Nepali Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.⁴⁰⁷⁴

⁴⁰⁶³ 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.

⁴⁰⁶⁴ 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.

⁴⁰⁶⁵ 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.

⁴⁰⁶⁶ 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

⁴⁰⁶⁷ 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

⁴⁰⁶⁸ 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

⁴⁰⁶⁹ China vows more COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

⁴⁰⁷⁰ China vows more COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

⁴⁰⁷¹ China vows more COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

⁴⁰⁷² 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.

⁴⁰⁷³ 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.

⁴⁰⁷⁴ 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.

⁴⁰⁷⁵ 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.

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.⁴⁰⁷⁵ China will also facilitate Egypt's procurement of COVID-19 vaccines produced by Chinese companies.⁴⁰⁷⁶

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.⁴⁰⁷⁷

On February 10 2021, China provided a batch of COVID-19 vaccines and financial assistance to Ethiopia.⁴⁰⁷⁸ Minister Yi made the remarks during a phone conversation with Demeke Mekonnen, Ethiopia's deputy prime minister and foreign minister.⁴⁰⁷⁹

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.⁴⁰⁸⁰ 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.⁴⁰⁸¹

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.⁴⁰⁸² On 15 March 2021, China's permanent representative to the United Nations Zhang Jun notified UN Secretary-General Antonio

⁴⁰⁷³ 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

⁴⁰⁷⁴ 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

⁴⁰⁷⁵ 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

⁴⁰⁷⁶ 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

⁴⁰⁷⁷ 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

⁴⁰⁷⁸ 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

⁴⁰⁷⁹ 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

⁴⁰⁸⁰ 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

⁴⁰⁸¹ 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

⁴⁰⁸² 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.⁴⁰⁸³

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.⁴⁰⁸⁴ Namibia was also listed among the priority countries for purchasing Chinese vaccines.⁴⁰⁸⁵

On 19 February 2021, China provided COVID-19 vaccine aid to Belarus.⁴⁰⁸⁶ China has provided the vaccines in support of the important consensus reached during a recent telephone conversation between the two countries.⁴⁰⁸⁷

On 22 February 2021, Spokesperson Wenbin announced that China will provide COVID-19 vaccine aid to 19 more African countries.⁴⁰⁸⁸

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.⁴⁰⁸⁹ 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.⁴⁰⁹⁰

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.⁴⁰⁹¹

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.⁴⁰⁹²

⁴⁰⁸³ 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

⁴⁰⁸⁴ 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

⁴⁰⁸⁵ 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

⁴⁰⁸⁶ 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

⁴⁰⁸⁷ 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

⁴⁰⁸⁸ 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

⁴⁰⁸⁹ 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

⁴⁰⁹⁰ 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

⁴⁰⁹¹ 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.⁴⁰⁹³ It supported the Sierra Leone government's plan to vaccinate about 1.6 million people.⁴⁰⁹⁴

On February 28 2021, China donated a batch of COVID-19 vaccine to the Philippines.⁴⁰⁹⁵ It was the first COVID-19 vaccine to reach the Philippines.⁴⁰⁹⁶

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.⁴⁰⁹⁷ 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.⁴⁰⁹⁸

On 7 March 2021, Minister Yi revealed that China plans to set up vaccination stations in countries where conditions are allowed.⁴⁰⁹⁹ The country hoped to administer Chinese vaccines for compatriots in need from surrounding countries.⁴¹⁰⁰

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.⁴¹⁰¹

On 15 March 2021, Vice-Minister of the National Health Commission Li Bin said China was actively devising new policies concerning international travel.⁴¹⁰²

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

⁴⁰⁹² 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

⁴⁰⁹³ 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

⁴⁰⁹⁴ 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

⁴⁰⁹⁵ 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/international/exchanges/202103/01/content_WS603c3f73c6d0719374af9ba5.html

⁴⁰⁹⁶ 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/international/exchanges/202103/01/content_WS603c3f73c6d0719374af9ba5.html

⁴⁰⁹⁷ 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

⁴⁰⁹⁸ 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

⁴⁰⁹⁹ 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

⁴¹⁰⁰ 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

⁴¹⁰¹ 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

⁴¹⁰² 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.⁴¹⁰³ The ministry will spearhead reforms that can alleviate scientists from heavy paperwork, as well as create an academic environment conducive for basic research.⁴¹⁰⁴

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.⁴¹⁰⁵ 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.⁴¹⁰⁶

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.⁴¹⁰⁷ 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.⁴¹⁰⁸

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.⁴¹⁰⁹ China had maintained communication with the WHO and provided the WHO mission support during their work in China concerning the origins of the virus.⁴¹¹⁰

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.⁴¹¹¹ According to the Foreign Ministry, China has provided vaccine aid to more than 50 countries at the end of February 2021.⁴¹¹²

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

⁴¹⁰³ 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

⁴¹⁰⁴ 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

⁴¹⁰⁵ 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

⁴¹⁰⁶ 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

⁴¹⁰⁷ 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

⁴¹⁰⁸ 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

⁴¹⁰⁹ 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

⁴¹¹⁰ 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

⁴¹¹¹ 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

⁴¹¹² 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.⁴¹¹³ 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 2022.⁴¹¹⁴

On 17 March 2021, a Chinese medical aid team set off to the Union of Comoros for a three-month anti-epidemic assistance mission.⁴¹¹⁵ The team consists of 12 medical workers in critical care medicine, respiration, public health, laboratory testing, traditional Chinese medicine and other fields.⁴¹¹⁶ China also donated a batch of anti-epidemic materials worth RMB2 million to Comoros, including masks, protective suits and testing kits.⁴¹¹⁷

On 23 March 2021, China announced an extension of the tax-relief policies launched in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹¹⁸ 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.⁴¹¹⁹

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.⁴¹²⁰ 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.⁴¹²¹ 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.⁴¹²²

On 1 April 2021, China provided the fourth batch of humanitarian aid to fight COVID-19 to Kyrgyzstan.⁴¹²³ The aid included artificial lung ventilation devices, masks, and medical protective

⁴¹¹³ 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

⁴¹¹⁴ 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

⁴¹¹⁵ 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

⁴¹¹⁶ 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

⁴¹¹⁷ 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

⁴¹¹⁸ 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

⁴¹¹⁹ 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

⁴¹²⁰ 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

⁴¹²¹ 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

⁴¹²² 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

⁴¹²³ 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.⁴¹²⁴ The Chinese government has also provided Kyrgyzstan with COVID-19 vaccines and helped Kyrgyzstan carry out work on vaccination.⁴¹²⁵

On 11 April 2021, China delivered a batch of Sinopharm vaccine to Cameroon as a gift of the two countries' friendly relationship.⁴¹²⁶ It is the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines arriving from outside the central African country since the outbreak in 2020.⁴¹²⁷

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.⁴¹²⁸ 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.⁴¹²⁹ 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.⁴¹³⁰

On 13 April 2021, China donated a batch of vaccines to Mauritius to help boost the country's vaccination campaign against COVID-19.⁴¹³¹ 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.⁴¹³²

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.⁴¹³³ She advised travelers to pay attention to epidemic control measures at their

⁴¹²⁴ 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

⁴¹²⁵ 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

⁴¹²⁶ 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

⁴¹²⁷ 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

⁴¹²⁸ 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

⁴¹²⁹ 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

⁴¹³⁰ 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

⁴¹³¹ 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

⁴¹³² 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

⁴¹³³ 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.⁴¹³⁴ She also suggested passengers use contact-free services to check-in and board planes.⁴¹³⁵

On 22 April 2021, the National Health Commission and Germany's Federal Ministry of Health held the China-Germany health dialogue.⁴¹³⁶ 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.⁴¹³⁷

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.⁴¹³⁸ 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.⁴¹³⁹

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.⁴¹⁴⁰ 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.⁴¹⁴¹ 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.⁴¹⁴² He also stated that China is also willing to establish a China-South Asia emergency supplies reserve following friendly consultations with all parties.⁴¹⁴³

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

⁴¹³⁴ 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

⁴¹³⁵ 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

⁴¹³⁶ 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

⁴¹³⁷ 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

⁴¹³⁸ 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

⁴¹³⁹ 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

⁴¹⁴⁰ 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

⁴¹⁴¹ 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

⁴¹⁴² 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

⁴¹⁴³ 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 1.⁴¹⁴⁴ 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.⁴¹⁴⁵

On 28 April 2021, the Ministry of Education issued a notice requiring schools to keep anti-epidemic measures in place during the holiday.⁴¹⁴⁶ Schools need to strengthen health guidance for outgoing students and staff and keep track of their health conditions.⁴¹⁴⁷

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.⁴¹⁴⁸ The agency is called the National Administration of Disease Prevention and Control.⁴¹⁴⁹ 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.⁴¹⁵⁰

On 29 April 2021, China donated traditional medicine to Cambodia to help treat COVID-19 patients.⁴¹⁵¹ 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.⁴¹⁵² The medicine was donated by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia through the Chinese embassy.⁴¹⁵³

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.⁴¹⁵⁴ The health commission requires all inbound travelers to take nucleic acid tests during and

⁴¹⁴⁴ 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

⁴¹⁴⁵ 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

⁴¹⁴⁶ 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

⁴¹⁴⁷ 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

⁴¹⁴⁸ 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

⁴¹⁴⁹ 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

⁴¹⁵⁰ 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

⁴¹⁵¹ 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

⁴¹⁵² 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

⁴¹⁵³ 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

⁴¹⁵⁴ 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.⁴¹⁵⁵ 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.⁴¹⁵⁶

On 30 April 2021, Minister Yi announced that China is ready to provide support and assistance to help India fight the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹⁵⁷ 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.⁴¹⁵⁸

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 agent.

Thus, China has received a score of +1.

Analyst: YanYui Mork

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.⁴¹⁵⁹ The goal of this contribution is to ensure that all countries, namely developing nations, will be included in the global response against COVID-19.⁴¹⁶⁰ The purpose of the funding is to help developing countries in producing and advancing vaccines while guaranteeing equity in vaccine distribution.⁴¹⁶¹ In addition, the contribution

⁴¹⁵⁵ 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

⁴¹⁵⁶ 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

⁴¹⁵⁷ 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

⁴¹⁵⁸ 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

⁴¹⁵⁹ 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

⁴¹⁶⁰ 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

⁴¹⁶¹ 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

to Act-A is expected to reap economic benefits for France with an estimated gain of EUR8.3 billion in 2020-25.⁴¹⁶²

On 30 November 2020, the High Authority of Health announced a five-step plan vaccination campaign, beginning with vaccinating the elderly in care homes.⁴¹⁶³ The reasoning behind vaccinating the elderly first is to protect the most vulnerable and high-risk members in society against the virus.⁴¹⁶⁴

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.⁴¹⁶⁵ 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.⁴¹⁶⁶

On 31 January 2021, France imposed travel restrictions for non-essential travel from outside of the European Union.⁴¹⁶⁷ The goal was to prevent the new COVID-19 variants, including the English and South African COVID-19 mutations, from entering France.⁴¹⁶⁸ Other measures and restrictions that were put in place were; the closure of all non-food shopping centres with a surface area greater than 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.⁴¹⁶⁹

On 8 February 2021, France began its vaccination strategy for healthcare workers after 270,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine arrived in France.⁴¹⁷⁰ 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

⁴¹⁶² 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

⁴¹⁶³ 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>

⁴¹⁶⁴ 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>

⁴¹⁶⁵ 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

⁴¹⁶⁶ 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

⁴¹⁶⁷ 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>

⁴¹⁶⁸ 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>

⁴¹⁶⁹ 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>

⁴¹⁷⁰ 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/>

workers to protect them against the virus as a vulnerable group.⁴¹⁷¹ Minister Véran confirmed that the AstraZeneca vaccine should be administered.⁴¹⁷²

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.⁴¹⁷³ Saliva tests are seen as an easier, less invasive method of screening compared to the widespread Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test.⁴¹⁷⁴ 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.⁴¹⁷⁵ 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.⁴¹⁷⁶

On 25 February 2021, France announced a nighttime curfew between 6PM and 6AM in Metropolitan France, with limited exceptions.⁴¹⁷⁷ Those who fail to comply with the curfew may be subjected to a EUR135 fine.⁴¹⁷⁸ The initiative's goal is to contain the spread of the coronavirus without the need of entering a nationwide lockdown again.⁴¹⁷⁹

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 spreadable and undetectable with the PCR test.⁴¹⁸⁰ 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.⁴¹⁸¹

⁴¹⁷¹ 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/>

⁴¹⁷² 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/>

⁴¹⁷³ 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>

⁴¹⁷⁴ 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>

⁴¹⁷⁵ 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>

⁴¹⁷⁶ 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>

⁴¹⁷⁷ 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>

⁴¹⁷⁸ 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>

⁴¹⁷⁹ 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>

⁴¹⁸⁰ 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>

⁴¹⁸¹ 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>

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 2021.⁴¹⁸² 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.⁴¹⁸³ The purpose of the lockdown is to restrain the accelerating third wave of the coronavirus as cases are increasing throughout Europe.⁴¹⁸⁴

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.⁴¹⁸⁵ 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.”⁴¹⁸⁶

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 2021.⁴¹⁸⁷ 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.⁴¹⁸⁸ 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 60.⁴¹⁸⁹ Additionally, France stated its desire to avoid a situation where ICUs become full because adequate measures were not undergone earlier.⁴¹⁹⁰

⁴¹⁸² 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>

⁴¹⁸³ 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>

⁴¹⁸⁴ 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>

⁴¹⁸⁵ 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>

⁴¹⁸⁶ 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>

⁴¹⁸⁷ 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>

⁴¹⁸⁸ 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>

⁴¹⁸⁹ 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>

⁴¹⁹⁰ 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>

On 3 April 2021, France announced that seven of their eight military hospitals in mainland France will be turned into permanent vaccination centres.⁴¹⁹¹ It is expected that the seven hospitals will be able to administer up to 50,000 doses every week.⁴¹⁹² The goal is to fast track vaccinations and assist the other large vaccination centres set up by the government by taking strain off them.⁴¹⁹³

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.⁴¹⁹⁴ If it is a repeat offense, the fine might increase to EUR200.⁴¹⁹⁵ If you commit three offenses within a month, you might be sentenced to 6 months of jail time, EUR3,750 fine, and community service.⁴¹⁹⁶ These penalties are in place to ensure that domestic travel restrictions are being followed in order to decrease the risk of variants spreading.⁴¹⁹⁷

On 13 April 2021, France introduced the first drive-in vaccination centre in Saint-Jean-de-Védas.⁴¹⁹⁸ 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.⁴¹⁹⁹ 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.⁴²⁰⁰ The goal of this 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.⁴²⁰¹

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

⁴¹⁹¹ 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>

⁴¹⁹² 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>

⁴¹⁹³ 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>

⁴¹⁹⁴ 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>.

⁴¹⁹⁵ 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>.

⁴¹⁹⁶ 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>.

⁴¹⁹⁷ 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>.

⁴¹⁹⁸ '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/>

⁴¹⁹⁹ '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/>

⁴²⁰⁰ '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/>

⁴²⁰¹ '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/>

of the world's population with vaccines by the start of 2022.⁴²⁰² France donated 500,000 doses from its own domestic vaccine supply.⁴²⁰³ 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.⁴²⁰⁴

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.⁴²⁰⁵ 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.⁴²⁰⁶ The purpose for these strict restrictions is to prevent the spread of the new contagious variant discovered in India and other variants.⁴²⁰⁷

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.⁴²⁰⁸ 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.⁴²⁰⁹ 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.⁴²¹⁰

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.⁴²¹¹ 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-19.⁴²¹² Moreover, in Spring 2020, when French hospitals were facing acute shortages, India provided life-saving help through the export of critical medical drugs.⁴²¹³

⁴²⁰² 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>.

⁴²⁰³ 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>.

⁴²⁰⁴ 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>.

⁴²⁰⁵ 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/>

⁴²⁰⁶ 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/>

⁴²⁰⁷ 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/>

⁴²⁰⁸ 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>

⁴²⁰⁹ 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>

⁴²¹⁰ 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>

⁴²¹¹ 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>

⁴²¹² 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>

⁴²¹³ 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>

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.⁴²¹⁴ It comprises a number of measures to provide supplementary funding for statutory health insurance.⁴²¹⁵ 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.”⁴²¹⁶ 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.⁴²¹⁷

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 centres and schools.⁴²¹⁸ 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.⁴²¹⁹

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 2021-2027.⁴²²⁰ 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.⁴²²¹ It promotes measures to

⁴²¹⁴ 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>

⁴²¹⁵ 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>

⁴²¹⁶ 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>

⁴²¹⁷ 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>

⁴²¹⁸ 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>

⁴²¹⁹ 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>

⁴²²⁰ 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>

⁴²²¹ 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>

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.⁴²²²

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.⁴²²³ The funding is intended to support companies building antigen-testing production capabilities in Germany.⁴²²⁴ 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.⁴²²⁵

On 21 December 2020, Minister Spahn presented the Coronavirus Vaccination Ordinance.⁴²²⁶ The ordinance specifies the order of priority for vaccinations.⁴²²⁷ 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.⁴²²⁸

On 31 January 2020, the Federal Cabinet adopted a new Coronavirus entry regulation.⁴²²⁹ 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.⁴²³⁰ Minister Spahn emphasized the need to protect Germany from emerging coronavirus variants.⁴²³¹ Additionally, all travelers entering Germany will receive an SMS on their mobile device informing them of current COVID-19 regulations in place.⁴²³²

On 19 January 2021, the Federal Ministry of Health issued the Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance.⁴²³³ The ordinance obliges laboratories and facilities carrying out sequencing of SARS-

⁴²²² 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>

⁴²²³ 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>

⁴²²⁴ 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>

⁴²²⁵ 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>

⁴²²⁶ 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>

⁴²²⁷ 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>

⁴²²⁸ 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>

⁴²²⁹ 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>

⁴²³⁰ 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>

⁴²³¹ 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>

⁴²³² 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>

⁴²³³ 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>

CoV-2 to transmit the genome sequence data to the Robert Koch Institute.⁴²³⁴ 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.⁴²³⁵ 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.⁴²³⁶ The ACT Accelerator aims to develop, produce and ensure the fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments.⁴²³⁷ 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.⁴²³⁸ These three entities are working to ensure that vaccines are accessible and affordable for all countries, especially developing ones.⁴²³⁹

On 11 March 2021, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs extended the Corona Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance until April 30, 2021.⁴²⁴⁰ The ordinance is in place to ensure the protection of employees' health as well as prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.⁴²⁴¹ It mandates at least 1.5-meter distance from others when possible, as well as the use of medical face masks when indoors.⁴²⁴² Regular ventilation must be guaranteed and in companies with more than ten employees, these must be divided into small working groups when possible.⁴²⁴³

On 25 March 2021, Chancellor Merkel offered a statement before the beginning of the European Council.⁴²⁴⁴ 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

⁴²³⁴ 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>

⁴²³⁵ 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>

⁴²³⁶ 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>

⁴²³⁷ 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>

⁴²³⁸ 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>

⁴²³⁹ 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>

⁴²⁴⁰ 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>

⁴²⁴¹ 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>

⁴²⁴² 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>

⁴²⁴³ 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>

⁴²⁴⁴ 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>

Europe.⁴²⁴⁵ Chancellor Merkel advocated for a regionalized approach to opening, allowing municipalities to determine the severity of COVID-19 precautions.⁴²⁴⁶

On 26 March 2021, the Federal Cabinet amended the Coronavirus Entry Ordinance.⁴²⁴⁷ A general testing obligation for all air travelers was introduced, requiring a negative test result not older than 48 hours for travelers before departure.⁴²⁴⁸

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.⁴²⁴⁹ 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.⁴²⁵⁰ The law also strengthened the legal framework for vaccination priorities by including health conditions for priority vaccinations.⁴²⁵¹

On 31 March 2021, the Standing Commission on Vaccination (STIKO) presented a revised draft of its COVID-19 vaccination recommendation.⁴²⁵² In it, the STIKO recommends the use of the vaccine from AstraZeneca for people over 60 years of age.⁴²⁵³ The STIKO’s recommendations are based on findings showing very rare but very serious cases of blood clotting in people vaccinated with AstraZeneca.⁴²⁵⁴

On 8 April 2021, Development Minister Gerd Muller emphasized the need for nature conservation on the occasion of World Health Day.⁴²⁵⁵ He noted that 75 per cent of newly emerging infectious diseases arise from animals.⁴²⁵⁶ “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.⁴²⁵⁷ Minister Muller also called on the international community to support coronavirus vaccinations in developing countries.⁴²⁵⁸

⁴²⁴⁵ 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>

⁴²⁴⁶ 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>

⁴²⁴⁷ 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>

⁴²⁴⁸ 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>

⁴²⁴⁹ 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>

⁴²⁵⁰ 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>

⁴²⁵¹ 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>

⁴²⁵² 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>

⁴²⁵³ 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>

⁴²⁵⁴ 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>

⁴²⁵⁵ 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>

⁴²⁵⁶ 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>

⁴²⁵⁷ 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>

⁴²⁵⁸ 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>

On 13 April 2021, the Federal Cabinet extended the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance until 28 April 2021.⁴²⁵⁹ The Ordinance requires that persons entering the country take a coronavirus test no more than 48 hours before entry.⁴²⁶⁰ In virus variants areas, the test must be taken no more than 12 hours before departure.⁴²⁶¹

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.⁴²⁶² These measures are in place to reduce contacts and include closing leisure and sports facilities.⁴²⁶³

On 21 April 2021, the Federal Cabinet approved an amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance.⁴²⁶⁴ As of 20 April, employers are obligated to offer their employees that cannot work at home coronavirus tests at least once a week.⁴²⁶⁵ Risk groups are offered tests twice a week.⁴²⁶⁶ “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.⁴²⁶⁷ The cost of tests must be borne by employers, however employees are not obliged to accept the offer of the test.⁴²⁶⁸ The amendment extends Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance until 30 June 2021.⁴²⁶⁹

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.⁴²⁷⁰ 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.⁴²⁷¹

⁴²⁵⁹ 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>

⁴²⁶⁰ 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>

⁴²⁶¹ 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>

⁴²⁶² 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>

⁴²⁶³ 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>

⁴²⁶⁴ 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>

⁴²⁶⁵ 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>

⁴²⁶⁶ 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>

⁴²⁶⁷ 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>

⁴²⁶⁸ 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>

⁴²⁶⁹ 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>

⁴²⁷⁰ 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>

⁴²⁷¹ 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>

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.

Analyst: Liva Zemitis

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.⁴²⁷² These teams supported national efforts towards prevention, control measures, testing, surveillance, and clinical management of positive cases.⁴²⁷³

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.⁴²⁷⁴ He reportedly said, “We will soon be completing eleven months in our fight against COVID-19, since then, our biggest weapon is mask and sanitizer.”⁴²⁷⁵

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-19.⁴²⁷⁶ The SOP sought to protect vulnerable populations, promote COVID-19 appropriate behaviours, and maintain a healthy environment at marketplaces.⁴²⁷⁷

On 2 December 2020, Minister Vardhan chaired the inaugural session for the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre.⁴²⁷⁸ This centre seeks to increase collaboration and innovation among

⁴²⁷² 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>

⁴²⁷³ 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>

⁴²⁷⁴ 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>

⁴²⁷⁵ 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>

⁴²⁷⁶ 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>

⁴²⁷⁷ 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>

⁴²⁷⁸ 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>

the states, in an effort to respond to health crises, including COVID-19.⁴²⁷⁹ Strategic plans emerged from the Joint Working Group to set-up a memorandum of understanding to further increase health cooperation between the two countries.⁴²⁸⁰

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.⁴²⁸¹ He also detailed the leveraging of existing digital interventions of India's "Mission Indradhanush," immunization programs.⁴²⁸² India is noted to have been building the advanced Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network digital platform.⁴²⁸³ 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.⁴²⁸⁴

On 25 December 2020, India began preparation for COVID vaccine rollout.⁴²⁸⁵ 2,360 participants were trained in vaccine administration across various states, with more than 7,000 to be trained in the upcoming week.⁴²⁸⁶ 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.⁴²⁸⁷

On 26 December 2020, the National Task Force convened to discuss testing, treatment, and surveillance strategies to combat the UK strain of COVID-19.⁴²⁸⁸ This included testing at all points of entry, community surveillance, and prospective surveillance.⁴²⁸⁹ Moreover, the National Centre for

⁴²⁷⁹ 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>

⁴²⁸⁰ 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>

⁴²⁸¹ 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>

⁴²⁸² 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>

⁴²⁸³ 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>

⁴²⁸⁴ 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>

⁴²⁸⁵ 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>

⁴²⁸⁶ 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>

⁴²⁸⁷ 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>

⁴²⁸⁸ 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>

⁴²⁸⁹ 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>

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.⁴²⁹⁰

On 16 January 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the national COVID-19 vaccine drive.⁴²⁹¹ Over 190,000 individuals were vaccinated on the first day of the program.⁴²⁹² 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.⁴²⁹³ The vaccines were initially supplied to 12 States. Adequate quantities of vaccines and logistics were ensured at all COVID-19 vaccination session sites.⁴²⁹⁴

On 21 January 2021, Minister Vardhan unveiled a poster campaign to address vaccine hesitancy and misinformation prevalent throughout certain regions of the State.⁴²⁹⁵ 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.⁴²⁹⁶

On 5 April 2021, Minister Vardhan launched the Integrated Health Information Platform, the revision to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program.⁴²⁹⁷ The digital platform will provide real time data and analytics on 33 infectious diseases, including COVID-19.⁴²⁹⁸ Through this program the government looks to locate and prevent disease spread within the nation, in hopes of preventing any potential outbreaks.⁴²⁹⁹

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.”⁴³⁰⁰ 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

⁴²⁹⁰ 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>

⁴²⁹¹ 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>

⁴²⁹² 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>

⁴²⁹³ 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>

⁴²⁹⁴ 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>

⁴²⁹⁵ 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>

⁴²⁹⁶ 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>

⁴²⁹⁷ 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>

⁴²⁹⁸ 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>

⁴²⁹⁹ 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>

⁴³⁰⁰ 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>

end. We appeal our emotional devotees to try and not travel to Haridwar in big numbers.”⁴³⁰¹ 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.”⁴³⁰²

On 19 April 2021, India announced the Phase 3 strategy for its vaccination program.⁴³⁰³ Beginning 1 May 2021, anyone over the age of 18 is eligible for vaccination.⁴³⁰⁴ The government looks to liberalize vaccine pricing and increase coverage by opening the program to the open market.⁴³⁰⁵ 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.⁴³⁰⁶ Thus, allowing citizens to purchase privately.⁴³⁰⁷

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.⁴³⁰⁸ He reported a peak of 295,000 new COVID-19 cases, the highest daily figure since the pandemic began.⁴³⁰⁹ 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.”⁴³¹⁰

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.⁴³¹¹ The Modi Government responded by announcing to promise to give free rations to poor families, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.⁴³¹² Ration card holders will now be able to take 5 kilograms more rice and wheat per

⁴³⁰¹ 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>

⁴³⁰² 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>

⁴³⁰³ 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>

⁴³⁰⁴ 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>

⁴³⁰⁵ 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>

⁴³⁰⁶ 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>

⁴³⁰⁷ 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>

⁴³⁰⁸ 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>

⁴³⁰⁹ 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>

⁴³¹⁰ 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>

⁴³¹¹ 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>

⁴³¹² 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>

person in the month of May and June. Union Home Minister, Amit Shah added that this will benefit 8 million people of the country.⁴³¹³

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.⁴³¹⁴ 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."⁴³¹⁵

On 27 April 2021, India imported 20 cryogenic tankers to address the shortage of medical oxygen in the country.⁴³¹⁶ The tankers will assist in the transportation of medical oxygen to the eastern portion of India.⁴³¹⁷

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.⁴³¹⁸ Over 24 million individuals have received their second vaccination dose.⁴³¹⁹

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 partially 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.⁴³²⁰ The target recipients of vaccination are Indonesians aged 18-59.⁴³²¹ Indonesia also announced that it has requested provincial and district officials to begin preparing health facilities to

⁴³¹³ 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>

⁴³¹⁴ 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>

⁴³¹⁵ 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>

⁴³¹⁶ 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>

⁴³¹⁷ 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>

⁴³¹⁸ 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>

⁴³¹⁹ 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>

⁴³²⁰ 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>

⁴³²¹ 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>

deliver the COVID-19 vaccination program when vaccines become available.⁴³²² 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.⁴³²³

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.⁴³²⁴ The workshop included instruction on how to address misinformation about the vaccine among the public.⁴³²⁵ Special Staff 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.⁴³²⁶

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.⁴³²⁷ 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).⁴³²⁸ 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.⁴³²⁹

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-19.⁴³³⁰ The restrictions have also been extended to include three new provinces (in addition

⁴³²² 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>

⁴³²³ 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>

⁴³²⁴ 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>

⁴³²⁵ 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>

⁴³²⁶ 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>

⁴³²⁷ 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>

⁴³²⁸ 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>

⁴³²⁹ 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>

⁴³³⁰ 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>

to the provinces of Java and Bali) East Kalimantan, North Sumatra, and South Sulawesi.⁴³³¹ The restriction is included in the Instruction of the Minister of State (Number 5 of 2021).⁴³³²

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.⁴³³³ 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.⁴³³⁴

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).⁴³³⁵ It was stated that 17 laboratories across the country have the capacity to conduct WGS to improve detection.⁴³³⁶ Moreover, the government had regulated access restrictions at the entrance to Indonesia in accordance with the Task Force Circular Letter Number 8 of 2021.⁴³³⁷ This circular stipulated the suppression of the transmission of the mutant COVID-19 variant throughout Indonesia.⁴³³⁸

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.⁴³³⁹ This is part of the South East Asia Health Pandemic Response and Preparedness program.⁴³⁴⁰ 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.⁴³⁴¹ Minister Sadikin welcomed the WHO-EU Partnership and expressed appreciation in

⁴³³¹ 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>

⁴³³² 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>

⁴³³³ 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>

⁴³³⁴ 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>

⁴³³⁵ 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>

⁴³³⁶ 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>

⁴³³⁷ 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>

⁴³³⁸ 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>

⁴³³⁹ 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>

⁴³⁴⁰ 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>

⁴³⁴¹ 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>

the implantation of the COVID-19 control approach in Indonesia, including the strengthening of Indonesia's health system ecosystem to be more resilient.⁴³⁴²

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.⁴³⁴³ The estimated cost of the tests is approximately USD4.9 million.⁴³⁴⁴ 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.⁴³⁴⁵

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 pandemic.⁴³⁴⁶ Both countries agreed to collaborate in sharing vaccine and drug production technology, and capacity-building for research and public health surveillance.⁴³⁴⁷ The UK also committed to supporting Indonesia's genome sequencing capabilities through training and information technology.⁴³⁴⁸

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.⁴³⁴⁹ The site also contains information about vaccine facilities and vaccination centers.⁴³⁵⁰ The data provided on the website is obtained from Indonesia's COVID-19 Handling Committee.⁴³⁵¹

⁴³⁴² 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>

⁴³⁴³ 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

⁴³⁴⁴ 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

⁴³⁴⁵ 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

⁴³⁴⁶ 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>

⁴³⁴⁷ 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>

⁴³⁴⁸ 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>

⁴³⁴⁹ 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/transparasikan-data-vaksinasi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-vaksinasi-covid-19.html>

⁴³⁵⁰ 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/transparasikan-data-vaksinasi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-vaksinasi-covid-19.html>

⁴³⁵¹ 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/transparasikan-data-vaksinasi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-vaksinasi-covid-19.html>

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.⁴³⁵² It provides transportation to and from COVID-19 vaccination centers and implements vaccination delivery in nursing homes.⁴³⁵³ The program is currently available in Jakarta.⁴³⁵⁴

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.⁴³⁵⁵ 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.⁴³⁵⁶ 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 routes to conduct random checks.⁴³⁵⁷ The governments hopes to reduce community transmission of COVID-19 with these travel regulations.⁴³⁵⁸

Indonesia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention and response by administering a Sinovac vaccination campaign, entering a partnership with the WHO and the EU and also passing governmental restrictions to suppress the transmission of COVID-19 variants. Furthermore, Indonesia has administered over 1 million rapid diagnosis COVID-19 tests to detect the virus.

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.⁴³⁵⁹ All travelers will also be subject to quarantining for two weeks.⁴³⁶⁰ Those exempt from the

⁴³⁵² 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>

⁴³⁵³ 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>

⁴³⁵⁴ 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>

⁴³⁵⁵ 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>

⁴³⁵⁶ 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>

⁴³⁵⁷ 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>

⁴³⁵⁸ 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>

⁴³⁵⁹ 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/>

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.”⁴³⁶¹

On 27 December 2020, Italy administered the first doses of the vaccine to health personnel on “vaccine day.”⁴³⁶² During phase one of the vaccination program, the vaccine will be given to health care officials and seniors residing in long term care facilities.⁴³⁶³ Since 20 September, 470,000 doses of the Pfizer-Biontech vaccine were distributed every week, throughout Italy in order to ease administration.⁴³⁶⁴

On 14 January 2021, Italy signed a new decree-law to contain the spread of COVID-19.⁴³⁶⁵ 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.⁴³⁶⁶ It also included provisions for restaurants and workplaces.⁴³⁶⁷

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.”⁴³⁶⁸

⁴³⁶⁰ 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/>

⁴³⁶¹ 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/>

⁴³⁶² 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>

⁴³⁶³ 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>

⁴³⁶⁴ 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>

⁴³⁶⁵ 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>

⁴³⁶⁶ 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>

⁴³⁶⁷ 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>

⁴³⁶⁸ 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/>

On 1 February 2021, Italy secured medical supplies from the US.⁴³⁶⁹ 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.⁴³⁷⁰

On 1 March 2021, Italy unveiled its new vaccine acceleration program to speed up the rollout of vaccines.⁴³⁷¹ Italy aims to administer 56 million doses by June 2021, which would cover just under half of Italy's population.⁴³⁷² Italy plans to increase the number of vaccination sites across Italy, which are expected to be functional by April 2021.⁴³⁷³

On 2 March 2021, Italy signed a new decree to combat and control the spread of COVID-19.⁴³⁷⁴ The decree reinforced the division of Italy into coloured zones based upon the number of COVID-19 cases in each region.⁴³⁷⁵ The decree also confirmed a ban on travel between regions and confirmed a curfew from 10pm to 5am.⁴³⁷⁶ The decree also introduced measures outlining the health guidelines for cinemas, schools, businesses, private homes and museums.⁴³⁷⁷ According to this decree, gyms, swimming pools, spas, and ski resorts remain closed.⁴³⁷⁸

On 12 March 2021, Italy introduced a lockdown in half of Italy's 20 regions to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁴³⁷⁹ 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.⁴³⁸⁰ 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.⁴³⁸¹

⁴³⁶⁹ 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

⁴³⁷⁰ 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

⁴³⁷¹ '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/>

⁴³⁷² '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/>

⁴³⁷³ '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/>

⁴³⁷⁴ 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>

⁴³⁷⁵ 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=dalministero&id=5354>

⁴³⁷⁶ 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>

⁴³⁷⁷ 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>

⁴³⁷⁸ 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>

⁴³⁷⁹ 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>

⁴³⁸⁰ 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>

⁴³⁸¹ 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>

On 12 March 2021, the Italian Medicines Agency approved the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines.⁴³⁸² The vaccines would be used for people over 18 and would be available at the expense of the National Health Emergency.⁴³⁸³

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.⁴³⁸⁴ Minister Speranza provided an update on the vaccination campaign, explaining that it was divided into quarters.⁴³⁸⁵ He also discussed the plan for the future of the Italian healthcare which is presented in five different axes.⁴³⁸⁶ 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.⁴³⁸⁷

On 26 April 2021, Italy banned entry to those who had travelled to India in the last fourteen days.⁴³⁸⁸ 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.⁴³⁸⁹

On 28 April 2021, Minister Speranza signed an ordinance banning entry to travelers from Bangladesh and India in the last fourteen days.⁴³⁹⁰ The ordinance also strengthened the quarantine measures for Italians authorized to return.⁴³⁹¹

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.⁴³⁹² 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.⁴³⁹³

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

⁴³⁸² 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>

⁴³⁸³ 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>

⁴³⁸⁴ 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

⁴³⁸⁵ 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

⁴³⁸⁶ 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

⁴³⁸⁷ 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

⁴³⁸⁸ 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>

⁴³⁸⁹ 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>

⁴³⁹⁰ 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>

⁴³⁹¹ 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>

⁴³⁹² 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&>

⁴³⁹³ 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&>

an oxygen generation plant and 20 ventilators to assist the country in its fight against a devastating second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.⁴³⁹⁴

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, prevention, detection, coordinated response, and resilience to, and recovery from, the current pandemic and future potential public health emergencies.”⁴³⁹⁵

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.⁴³⁹⁶ 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 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.⁴³⁹⁷ The COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX), aims to provide universally safe and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccinations.⁴³⁹⁸

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

⁴³⁹⁴ 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>

⁴³⁹⁵ Rome Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/210521-rome-declaration.html>

⁴³⁹⁶ 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

⁴³⁹⁷ 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

⁴³⁹⁸ 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

contain outbreaks of the COVID-19 virus.⁴³⁹⁹ Emergency measures for infection control were set to expire after one month.⁴⁴⁰⁰

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.⁴⁴⁰¹ Minister for Administrative Reform and Regulatory Reform Taro Kono was appointed to oversee vaccine distribution and administration.⁴⁴⁰²

On 26 January 2021, the House of Representatives approved a supplementary budget of USD185 billion for national COVID-19 response.⁴⁴⁰³ An additional USD763 million was allocated towards international pandemic response initiatives, including COVAX, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and Unitaid.⁴⁴⁰⁴

On 16 February 2021, Japan commenced its mass COVID-19 inoculation program.⁴⁴⁰⁵ The first stage of the program targeted highly vulnerable populations, including healthcare workers and elderly citizens.⁴⁴⁰⁶

On 19 February 2021, Japan contributed an additional USD79 million to the ACT-A partnership, directed towards COVAX vaccine development and manufacturing.⁴⁴⁰⁷ Funding also went towards Unitaid, an international initiative aimed towards tackling current and future health threats in low- and middle-income countries.⁴⁴⁰⁸

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.⁴⁴⁰⁹ Domestic surveillance measures include contact tracing via mobile phones, nationwide testing for COVID-19 variants, and monitoring of asymptomatic individuals.⁴⁴¹⁰

⁴³⁹⁹ 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

⁴⁴⁰⁰ 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

⁴⁴⁰¹ 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

⁴⁴⁰² 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

⁴⁴⁰³ 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/>

⁴⁴⁰⁴ 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/>

⁴⁴⁰⁵ 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

⁴⁴⁰⁶ 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

⁴⁴⁰⁷ 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>

⁴⁴⁰⁸ 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>

⁴⁴⁰⁹ 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

⁴⁴¹⁰ 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

On 9 March 2021, Japan implemented new travel restrictions and quarantine guidelines.⁴⁴¹¹ 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.⁴⁴¹² Upon entering Japan, travellers must complete a 14-day quarantine period in a designated facility.⁴⁴¹³

On 12 March 2021, Japan joined the Quad Vaccine Partnership with the United States, India, and Australia.⁴⁴¹⁴ 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.⁴⁴¹⁵

On 1 April 2021, Japan implemented priority measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 infections in Miyagi, Osaka, and Hyogo prefectures.⁴⁴¹⁶ Drinking and dining establishments within these regions were required to shorten operating hours.⁴⁴¹⁷ Ongoing inspections are carried out by designated authorities to enforce preventative measures and penalize non-compliance.⁴⁴¹⁸

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-19 vaccines.⁴⁴¹⁹ Japan reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the supply and distribution of effective vaccines and medical resources in low and middle-income countries.⁴⁴²⁰

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.⁴⁴²¹ Japan reaffirmed its

⁴⁴¹¹ 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

⁴⁴¹² 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

⁴⁴¹³ 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

⁴⁴¹⁴ 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>

⁴⁴¹⁵ 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>

⁴⁴¹⁶ 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

⁴⁴¹⁷ 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

⁴⁴¹⁸ 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

⁴⁴¹⁹ 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

⁴⁴²⁰ 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

⁴⁴²¹ 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

ongoing commitment to global pandemic prevention and response via its cooperation with the COVAX vaccine procurement facility.⁴⁴²²

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.⁴⁴²³ 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.⁴⁴²⁴ Emergency and priority measures are set to expire on 11 May 2021.⁴⁴²⁵

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.⁴⁴²⁶ 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.⁴⁴²⁷

On 30 April 2021, Japan provided emergency medical supplies to India in response to a recent surge in COVID-19 infections.⁴⁴²⁸ Supplies included 300 oxygen concentrators and 300 ventilators.⁴⁴²⁹

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.⁴⁴³⁰ During the previous week External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had a virtual 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.⁴⁴³¹

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.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Tamara Saadi

⁴⁴²² 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

⁴⁴²³ 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/>

⁴⁴²⁴ 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/>

⁴⁴²⁵ 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/>

⁴⁴²⁶ 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

⁴⁴²⁷ 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

⁴⁴²⁸ 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

⁴⁴²⁹ 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

⁴⁴³⁰ 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>

⁴⁴³¹ 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>

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-19.⁴⁴³² “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.”⁴⁴³³

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.”⁴⁴³⁴ 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.⁴⁴³⁵

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-19.⁴⁴³⁶ CEPI is a global health partnership launched in 2017 with the aim to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics.⁴⁴³⁷ 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.⁴⁴³⁸

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).⁴⁴³⁹ 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

⁴⁴³² 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>

⁴⁴³³ 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>

⁴⁴³⁴ 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

⁴⁴³⁵ 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

⁴⁴³⁶ 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

⁴⁴³⁷ 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

⁴⁴³⁸ 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

⁴⁴³⁹ 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.⁴⁴⁴⁰

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.⁴⁴⁴¹ 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.⁴⁴⁴²

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.⁴⁴⁴³ 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.⁴⁴⁴⁴

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the second virtual meeting on “Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security (NEACHS).”⁴⁴⁴⁵ 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.⁴⁴⁴⁶

On 28 April 2021, Korea announced it will provide India with oxygen concentrators, COVID-19 diagnostic kits and other aid items.⁴⁴⁴⁷

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.⁴⁴⁴⁸ In his statement, Vice Minister Jong-moon proposed the way forward for regional

⁴⁴⁴⁰ 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

⁴⁴⁴¹ 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

⁴⁴⁴² 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

⁴⁴⁴³ 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

⁴⁴⁴⁴ 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

⁴⁴⁴⁵ 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

⁴⁴⁴⁶ 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

⁴⁴⁴⁷ 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

⁴⁴⁴⁸ 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.⁴⁴⁴⁹

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.⁴⁴⁵⁰ 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.⁴⁴⁵¹

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.⁴⁴⁵² He mentioned the creation of a newly built and fully equipped 120 bed hospital in Mexico City.⁴⁴⁵³ 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.⁴⁴⁵⁴

On 22 December 2020, President López Obrador announced the arrival of the first shipment of the Pfizer vaccine.⁴⁴⁵⁵ He stated that vaccines will be universally available and free for the population.⁴⁴⁵⁶

⁴⁴⁴⁹ 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

⁴⁴⁵⁰ 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>

⁴⁴⁵¹ 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>

⁴⁴⁵² 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/>

⁴⁴⁵³ 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/>

⁴⁴⁵⁴ 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/>

⁴⁴⁵⁵ 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/>

⁴⁴⁵⁶ 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/>

Vaccines will be distributed through a priority system, where health personnel and elderly/vulnerable populations are prioritized.⁴⁴⁵⁷

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.⁴⁴⁵⁸ Mexico is to receive over 21 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine during the first quarter of 2021.⁴⁴⁵⁹ This will aim to vaccinate approximately 14 million people.⁴⁴⁶⁰

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-19.⁴⁴⁶¹ 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.⁴⁴⁶²

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-19.⁴⁴⁶³ 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-19.⁴⁴⁶⁴

On 13 April 2021, President López Obrador announced the development of the Mexican COVID Vaccine Patria.⁴⁴⁶⁵ The National Council of Science and Technology, the Mexican Agency of International Development and the Ministry of Exterior Relations invested a total of MXN150

⁴⁴⁵⁷ 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/>

⁴⁴⁵⁸ 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>

⁴⁴⁵⁹ 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>

⁴⁴⁶⁰ 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>

⁴⁴⁶¹ 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>

⁴⁴⁶² 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>

⁴⁴⁶³ 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>

⁴⁴⁶⁴ 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>

⁴⁴⁶⁵ 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/>

million for vaccine development.⁴⁴⁶⁶ The Patria vaccine would assist in ensuring the welfare of the population and reduce national cost of vaccine imports.⁴⁴⁶⁷

On 10 May 2021, the Monitoring Committee of Mexico City downgraded the traffic light status from orange to yellow.⁴⁴⁶⁸ This allowed for face-to-face interaction to resume in the office space as long 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 20 per cent of their staff.⁴⁴⁶⁹ 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.⁴⁴⁷⁰

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.⁴⁴⁷¹ 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.⁴⁴⁷²

On 22 December 2020, Russia temporarily suspended air travel from the United Kingdom.⁴⁴⁷³ The aim of the flight restrictions is to avoid the new strain of the novel coronavirus from entering the country.⁴⁴⁷⁴

On 12 February 2021, Russia allocated RUB25.4 billion to fund hospitals.⁴⁴⁷⁵ 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.⁴⁴⁷⁶

⁴⁴⁶⁶ 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/>

⁴⁴⁶⁷ 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/>

⁴⁴⁶⁸ 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>

⁴⁴⁶⁹ 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>

⁴⁴⁷⁰ 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>

⁴⁴⁷¹ 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>

⁴⁴⁷² 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>

⁴⁴⁷³ 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/>

⁴⁴⁷⁴ 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 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.⁴⁴⁷⁷ There are no reported cases of transmission and chances “of human-to-human transmission remains low.”⁴⁴⁷⁸ 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.⁴⁴⁷⁹ 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.⁴⁴⁸⁰

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.⁴⁴⁸¹ The announcement aimed to alert Russians that the foreign strains have made their way into the country and stay alert of them.⁴⁴⁸²

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.⁴⁴⁸³ The aim of this order is to prevent the accelerating spread of COVID-19.⁴⁴⁸⁴

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 2021.⁴⁴⁸⁵ 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.⁴⁴⁸⁶

⁴⁴⁷⁵ 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/>

⁴⁴⁷⁶ 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/>

⁴⁴⁷⁷ 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/>

⁴⁴⁷⁸ 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/>

⁴⁴⁷⁹ 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/>

⁴⁴⁸⁰ 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/>

⁴⁴⁸¹ Russia detects 78 cases of British coronavirus strain, TASS (Moscow) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.com/society/1273029>

⁴⁴⁸² Russia detects 78 cases of British coronavirus strain, TASS (Moscow) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.com/society/1273029>

⁴⁴⁸³ 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>

⁴⁴⁸⁴ 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>

⁴⁴⁸⁵ 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>

⁴⁴⁸⁶ 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.⁴⁴⁸⁷ This measure will ensure all frontline and vulnerable workers are eventually vaccinated to protect themselves.⁴⁴⁸⁸

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.⁴⁴⁸⁹ Those arriving from Turkey and Tanzania will have to fulfil this requirement starting 21 April 2021.⁴⁴⁹⁰ Rospotrebnadzor employees can conduct selective testing for foreign travelers into Russia.⁴⁴⁹¹ This measure is intended to ensure most incoming travelers do not carry the virus and carry the risk of spreading it.⁴⁴⁹²

On 26 April 2021, President Vladimir Putin announced that the dates 4 May 2021 until 7 May 2021 would be non-working days.⁴⁴⁹³ 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.⁴⁴⁹⁴ 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.⁴⁴⁹⁵

On 13 May 2021, Russia announced its detection its first case of the Indian variant of COVID-19.⁴⁴⁹⁶

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.

⁴⁴⁸⁷ 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/>

⁴⁴⁸⁸ 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/>

⁴⁴⁸⁹ 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>

⁴⁴⁹⁰ 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>

⁴⁴⁹¹ 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>

⁴⁴⁹² 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>

⁴⁴⁹³ 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>

⁴⁴⁹⁴ 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>

⁴⁴⁹⁵ 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>

⁴⁴⁹⁶ 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>

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.⁴⁴⁹⁷ 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.⁴⁴⁹⁸

On 2 January 2021, Saudi Arabia implemented new travel guidelines to prevent the spread of the B.1.1.7 novel coronavirus variant.⁴⁴⁹⁹ 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.⁴⁵⁰⁰ 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.⁴⁵⁰¹ Travelers entering from non-specified countries are required to undertake one PCR test and to complete a minimum of three days under home quarantine.⁴⁵⁰²

On 25 January 2021, Saudi Arabia launched the Remote Clinics Service to provide non-emergency patients with the option of attending virtual medical appointments.⁴⁵⁰³ The service aims to minimize non-essential hospital visits and to reduce the rate of coronavirus transmission.⁴⁵⁰⁴ 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.⁴⁵⁰⁵ The aforementioned vulnerable populations were given priority for the first stage of inoculations.⁴⁵⁰⁶ 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.⁴⁵⁰⁷

⁴⁴⁹⁷ 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>

⁴⁴⁹⁸ 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>

⁴⁴⁹⁹ 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>

⁴⁵⁰⁰ 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>

⁴⁵⁰¹ 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>

⁴⁵⁰² 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>

⁴⁵⁰³ 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>

⁴⁵⁰⁴ 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>

⁴⁵⁰⁵ 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>

⁴⁵⁰⁶ 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>

⁴⁵⁰⁷ 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.⁴⁵⁰⁸ 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.⁴⁵⁰⁹

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.⁴⁵¹⁰ This was part of the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2021 and will be administered through United Nations agencies, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.⁴⁵¹¹

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.⁴⁵¹² Pharmacies across the country were authorized to administer vaccines approved by the Ministry of Health for free.⁴⁵¹³ Saudi Arabia started its inoculation program on 17 December 2020 and 100 vaccination facilities have opened up throughout the country.⁴⁵¹⁴

On 5 March 2021, Saudi Arabia announced new restrictions to control and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.⁴⁵¹⁵ Under new guidelines, events and parties held in public venues are suspended until further notice, while private social gatherings are limited to 20 people.⁴⁵¹⁶ Health authorities will increase inspection campaigns to ensure individuals and businesses are in full compliance with emergency regulations.⁴⁵¹⁷

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.⁴⁵¹⁸ The Ministry of Health reaffirmed that inspection campaigns will continue to oversee the implementation of pandemic-related regulations.⁴⁵¹⁹

⁴⁵⁰⁸ 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>

⁴⁵⁰⁹ 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>

⁴⁵¹⁰ 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>

⁴⁵¹¹ 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>

⁴⁵¹² 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>

⁴⁵¹³ 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>

⁴⁵¹⁴ 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>

⁴⁵¹⁵ 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>

⁴⁵¹⁶ 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>

⁴⁵¹⁷ 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>

⁴⁵¹⁸ 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>

⁴⁵¹⁹ 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.⁴⁵²⁰ The course focused on aiding healthcare workers in strengthening necessary skills for treating and containing COVID-19 infections.⁴⁵²¹

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.⁴⁵²² Through the service, designated individuals are able to receive the vaccine at any vaccination site in the country without prior registration or appointment.⁴⁵²³

On 16 April 2021, Saudi Arabia attended the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) virtual summit.⁴⁵²⁴ 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.⁴⁵²⁵ Saudi Arabia also confirmed that it has contributed over USD713 million towards global pandemic relief efforts.⁴⁵²⁶

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.⁴⁵²⁷ The department will operate in cooperation with international bodies such as the International Air Transport Association and the World Health Organization.⁴⁵²⁸

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.⁴⁵²⁹ They also

⁴⁵²⁰ KSrelief 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>

⁴⁵²¹ KSrelief 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>

⁴⁵²² 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>

⁴⁵²³ 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>

⁴⁵²⁴ 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>

⁴⁵²⁵ 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>

⁴⁵²⁶ 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>

⁴⁵²⁷ 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>

⁴⁵²⁸ 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>

⁴⁵²⁹ 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.⁴⁵³⁰

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.⁴⁵³¹ 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.⁴⁵³² South Africa would also be expanding public health interventions such as testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, and creating awareness campaigns around public health regulations.⁴⁵³³

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.⁴⁵³⁴ The system went live on 15 December 2020.⁴⁵³⁵

On 14 December 2020, President Ramaphosa announced that the Cabinet would be imposing further restrictions on the country starting from 14 December.⁴⁵³⁶ 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.⁴⁵³⁷

⁴⁵³⁰ 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>

⁴⁵³¹ 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>

⁴⁵³² 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>

⁴⁵³³ 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>

⁴⁵³⁴ 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>

⁴⁵³⁵ 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>

⁴⁵³⁶ 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>

⁴⁵³⁷ 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>

On 15 December 2020, the Department of Health announced that the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority was prepared for the vaccine registration process.⁴⁵³⁸ 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.⁴⁵³⁹

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.⁴⁵⁴⁰ 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 and Africa.⁴⁵⁴¹ 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.⁴⁵⁴²

On 28 December 2020, President Ramaphosa announced that several of the level 3 regulations are being strengthened to further limit the potential for transmission.⁴⁵⁴³ 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.⁴⁵⁴⁴

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

⁴⁵³⁸ 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>

⁴⁵³⁹ 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>

⁴⁵⁴⁰ 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>

⁴⁵⁴¹ 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>

⁴⁵⁴² 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>

⁴⁵⁴³ 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>

⁴⁵⁴⁴ 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>

workers.⁴⁵⁴⁵ It included 2367 medical interns and 1693 medical community service practitioners who will participate in the community service workforce from all categories.⁴⁵⁴⁶

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.⁴⁵⁴⁷ The guidelines served to ensure the safety of everyone involved in the marking process without being anxious about their health.⁴⁵⁴⁸

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.⁴⁵⁴⁹ He also said that the government was negotiating with manufacturers to make vaccines available sooner.⁴⁵⁵⁰

On 7 January 2021, Minister Mkhize announced that the government would reach out to medical firms to make a contribution.⁴⁵⁵¹ 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.⁴⁵⁵²

On 11 January 2021, President Ramaphosa announced measures to tackle the COVID-19 variant found in November 2020.⁴⁵⁵³ The plan included slowing the rate of transmission and undertaking a massive program of vaccination to achieve population immunity.⁴⁵⁵⁴

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.⁴⁵⁵⁵ South

⁴⁵⁴⁵ 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>

⁴⁵⁴⁶ 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>

⁴⁵⁴⁷ 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.

⁴⁵⁴⁸ 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.

⁴⁵⁴⁹ 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>

⁴⁵⁵⁰ 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>

⁴⁵⁵¹ 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>

⁴⁵⁵² 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>

⁴⁵⁵³ 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>

⁴⁵⁵⁴ 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.

⁴⁵⁵⁵ 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.

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 2021.⁴⁵⁵⁶

On 21 January 2021, the Department of Home Affairs temporarily suspended certain activities and services to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 virus.⁴⁵⁵⁷ It suspended services like applications of smart ID cards and passports.⁴⁵⁵⁸

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.⁴⁵⁵⁹ 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.⁴⁵⁶⁰

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 strategy that is aligned with and supports the Department of Health's phased national strategy and coordinate its subsequent roll out.⁴⁵⁶¹ The strategy will help ensure access to vaccination for the country's students and staff.⁴⁵⁶²

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.⁴⁵⁶³ The Electronic Vaccine Data System would allow the department to capture all relevant data associated with the administration of the vaccine.⁴⁵⁶⁴

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁴⁵⁵⁶ 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>

⁴⁵⁵⁷ 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>

⁴⁵⁵⁸ 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>

⁴⁵⁵⁹ 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>

⁴⁵⁶⁰ 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>

⁴⁵⁶¹ 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>

⁴⁵⁶² 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>

⁴⁵⁶³ 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>

⁴⁵⁶⁴ 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>

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.⁴⁵⁶⁵ The system allowed the government to capture all relevant data associated with the administration of the vaccine.⁴⁵⁶⁶

On 5 February 2021, the Department of Social Development launched the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Employment Stimulus Relief Grant.⁴⁵⁶⁷ 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.⁴⁵⁶⁸

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.⁴⁵⁶⁹ 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.⁴⁵⁷⁰

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.⁴⁵⁷¹ 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.⁴⁵⁷²

On 23 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced the country's support for the launch of the "Recover Better Together" post COVID-19 Campaign.⁴⁵⁷³ Global Citizen, the European Commission and the World Health Organisation organized the initiative, which sought to create

⁴⁵⁶⁵ 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>

⁴⁵⁶⁶ 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>

⁴⁵⁶⁷ 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>

⁴⁵⁶⁸ 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>

⁴⁵⁶⁹ 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>

⁴⁵⁷⁰ 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>

⁴⁵⁷¹ 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>

⁴⁵⁷² 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>

⁴⁵⁷³ 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>

momentum for global COVID-19 pandemic recovery and a return to the implementation of global goals.⁴⁵⁷⁴

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.⁴⁵⁷⁵ According to the National Treasury, the government already allocated ZAR1.3 billion in 2021 for vaccine purchases.⁴⁵⁷⁶ 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.⁴⁵⁷⁷

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.⁴⁵⁷⁸ The scientists and researchers managed to recreate the virus for purposes of enhancing research on the treatment of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁵⁷⁹

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.⁴⁵⁸⁰ The country vaccinated 63,648 patient-facing healthcare workers in the public and private sector against COVID19 within just over one week's time.⁴⁵⁸¹ 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.⁴⁵⁸²

On 28 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced that the number of sites available for vaccination will be expanded from 17 sites to 49 sites.⁴⁵⁸³ After the vaccination of healthcare workers

⁴⁵⁷⁴ 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>

⁴⁵⁷⁵ 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>

⁴⁵⁷⁶ 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>

⁴⁵⁷⁷ 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>

⁴⁵⁷⁸ 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>

⁴⁵⁷⁹ 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>

⁴⁵⁸⁰ 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>

⁴⁵⁸¹ 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>

⁴⁵⁸² 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>

⁴⁵⁸³ 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>

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.⁴⁵⁸⁴ 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.⁴⁵⁸⁵

On 3 March 2021, Minister of Tourism Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane announced plans for economic recovery after COVID-19 at the online Africa webinar.⁴⁵⁸⁶ The department will carry out strategic interventions like implementing standards for safe operations to enable safe travel and rebuild traveller confidence.⁴⁵⁸⁷

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.⁴⁵⁸⁸ There would be webinars and radio programmes to engage various stakeholders on vaccine corruption risks. All registered vaccine centres would also be published on various platforms accessible to all citizens.⁴⁵⁸⁹

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.⁴⁵⁹⁰ 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-19.⁴⁵⁹¹

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.⁴⁵⁹² 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,

⁴⁵⁸⁴ 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>

⁴⁵⁸⁵ 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>

⁴⁵⁸⁶ 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>

⁴⁵⁸⁷ 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>

⁴⁵⁸⁸ 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>

⁴⁵⁸⁹ 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>

⁴⁵⁹⁰ 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>

⁴⁵⁹¹ 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>

⁴⁵⁹² 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>

occupational health, employee wellness teams to offer psychosocial and other health and wellness assistance.⁴⁵⁹³

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.⁴⁵⁹⁴ 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.⁴⁵⁹⁵ 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.⁴⁵⁹⁶

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.⁴⁵⁹⁷ 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 administered.⁴⁵⁹⁸ 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.⁴⁵⁹⁹

On 16 April 2021, the Department of Health launched the Official South African COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Registration Portal.⁴⁶⁰⁰ It is an electronic vaccination data system that allows all citizens aged 60 years and above to register for vaccination.⁴⁶⁰¹ It is the first major public health campaign that will be supported by one digital system for all South Africans.⁴⁶⁰² The government will also be using the

⁴⁵⁹³ 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>

⁴⁵⁹⁴ 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>

⁴⁵⁹⁵ 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>

⁴⁵⁹⁶ 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>

⁴⁵⁹⁷ 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>

⁴⁵⁹⁸ 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>

⁴⁵⁹⁹ 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>

⁴⁶⁰⁰ 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>

⁴⁶⁰¹ 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>

⁴⁶⁰² 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>

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.⁴⁶⁰³

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-19.⁴⁶⁰⁴ 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.⁴⁶⁰⁵ 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.⁴⁶⁰⁶

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-19.⁴⁶⁰⁷ The government began contact tracing, isolating positive cases, increased testing and imposed lockdown measures throughout the state.⁴⁶⁰⁸

On 13 January 2021, Turkey launched its mass COVID-19 vaccination program.⁴⁶⁰⁹ Minister Koca announced the vaccination program will be delivered in four stages.⁴⁶¹⁰ The first two stages focusing on vaccinating healthcare workers, government officials, and the elderly.⁴⁶¹¹ 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.⁴⁶¹²

⁴⁶⁰³ 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>

⁴⁶⁰⁴ 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>

⁴⁶⁰⁵ 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>

⁴⁶⁰⁶ 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>

⁴⁶⁰⁷ "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>

⁴⁶⁰⁸ "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>

⁴⁶⁰⁹ "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>

⁴⁶¹⁰ Turkey launches mass coronavirus vaccination, Arab News (Riyadh) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1793031/middle-east>

⁴⁶¹¹ Turkey launches mass coronavirus vaccination, Arab News (Riyadh) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1793031/middle-east>

⁴⁶¹² Turkey launches mass coronavirus vaccination, Arab News (Riyadh) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1793031/middle-east>

On 31 January 2021, the Ministry of Industry and Technology had the first meeting of the COVID-19 Turkey Platform.⁴⁶¹³ Under this platform, 17 projects were established to further study vaccines and immunization.⁴⁶¹⁴ The COVID-19 Turkey Web portal was created in order to share evidence-based information and cultivate social awareness.⁴⁶¹⁵ The portal provides open access to articles, datasets, and scientific literature on COVID-19.⁴⁶¹⁶

On 12 March 2021, Minister Koca announced human vaccine trials of 5 vaccine candidates would begin in Turkey promptly.⁴⁶¹⁷ This is to support efforts in increasing vaccine quantity and providing safe and effective vaccines to Turkish citizens.⁴⁶¹⁸ They have provided 130 million doses.⁴⁶¹⁹ After consultation with three more manufacturers a quota of 10 million more doses will be made available to Turkish citizens.⁴⁶²⁰

On 22 March 2021, the Ministry of Interior announced a nightly curfew in order to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁴⁶²¹ The curfew would occur on weekdays from 9pm to 5am throughout the state.⁴⁶²² On weekends, in low and medium risk areas the curfew would remain the same, while high risk and very high-risk areas have longer curfew hours.⁴⁶²³ Those who did not comply were subjected to judicial and administrative action.⁴⁶²⁴

On 26 April 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, announced that Turkey will be under lockdown from April 29 until May 17.⁴⁶²⁵ The lockdown will consist of a stay-at-home order, the closure of

⁴⁶¹³ 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>

⁴⁶¹⁴ 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>

⁴⁶¹⁵ 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>

⁴⁶¹⁶ 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>

⁴⁶¹⁷ "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>

⁴⁶¹⁸ "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>

⁴⁶¹⁹ 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>

⁴⁶²⁰ 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>

⁴⁶²¹ Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁴⁶²² "Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁴⁶²³ "Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁴⁶²⁴ "Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁴⁶²⁵ "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->

schools, and official approval for domestic travel.⁴⁶²⁶ These measures were invoked in order to curb the spread of COVID-19 and prevent potential deaths.⁴⁶²⁷

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.⁴⁶²⁸ 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.⁴⁶²⁹ 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.⁴⁶³⁰

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.⁴⁶³¹ 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.⁴⁶³²

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.⁴⁶³³ The funds aim to provide “e-training to staff in the rapid response teams at governorate and district levels.”⁴⁶³⁴ This

⁴⁶²⁶ 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>

⁴⁶²⁷ “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->

⁴⁶²⁸ 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>

⁴⁶²⁹ 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>

⁴⁶³⁰ 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>

⁴⁶³¹ 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>

⁴⁶³² 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>

⁴⁶³³ 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>

⁴⁶³⁴ 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>

agreement helps maintain essential trade and procurement of personal protective equipment from the UK.⁴⁶³⁵

On 11 January 2021, the Ministry for COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment shared the national delivery plan with the UK parliament.⁴⁶³⁶ 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.⁴⁶³⁷

On 27 January 2021, the UK announced greater restrictions at the borders to protect public health.⁴⁶³⁸ The new initiatives at the border will impose more significant restrictions on travelers, increase police enforcement, and centralize travelers' isolation at hotels.⁴⁶³⁹ With the new rules in place, the government aims to stem the flow of travelers on a daily basis.⁴⁶⁴⁰

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-19.⁴⁶⁴¹ This new initiative establishes a new working relationship between the government and the National Institute for Health Research and UK Research and Innovation.⁴⁶⁴²

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.⁴⁶⁴³ 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.⁴⁶⁴⁴

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

⁴⁶³⁵ 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>

⁴⁶³⁶ 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>

⁴⁶³⁷ 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>

⁴⁶³⁸ 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>

⁴⁶³⁹ 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>

⁴⁶⁴⁰ 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>

⁴⁶⁴¹ £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>

⁴⁶⁴² £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>

⁴⁶⁴³ 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>

⁴⁶⁴⁴ 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>

report, the government is working across ethnic communities and languages to ensure the adoption of the vaccine across the UK.⁴⁶⁴⁵

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.⁴⁶⁴⁶ 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.⁴⁶⁴⁷

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.⁴⁶⁴⁸ To date, the UK is the largest contributor to COVAX, and Côte d’Ivoire is one of several countries set to receive shipments of the vaccine through this program.⁴⁶⁴⁹

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.⁴⁶⁵⁰ This investment will allow the number of mental health support teams in schools to grow from 59 to 400 by April of 2023.⁴⁶⁵¹ 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.⁴⁶⁵²

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.⁴⁶⁵³ The new

⁴⁶⁴⁵ 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>

⁴⁶⁴⁶ 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>

⁴⁶⁴⁷ 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>

⁴⁶⁴⁸ 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>

⁴⁶⁴⁹ 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>

⁴⁶⁵⁰ £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>

⁴⁶⁵¹ £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>

⁴⁶⁵² £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>

⁴⁶⁵³ 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>

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.⁴⁶⁵⁴

On 20 March 2021, the UK announced GBP46 million for a new vaccine innovation and manufacturing center.⁴⁶⁵⁵ 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.⁴⁶⁵⁶ The initiative is projected to “expand the capacity twenty-fold” allowing the facility to make up to 70 million doses in 6 months.⁴⁶⁵⁷

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.⁴⁶⁵⁸ The initiative targets individuals in “care homes and health settings” to stop the spread of COVID-19.⁴⁶⁵⁹ The Government has pledged GBP3.2 million in funding, helping launch two new clinical trials.⁴⁶⁶⁰

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.⁴⁶⁶¹ The new technology will help detect mutations and is being trialed by the National Health Service and National Laboratories.⁴⁶⁶² Implementing this new technology aims to help notify the public more quickly and potentially break chains of transmission faster.⁴⁶⁶³

On 1 April 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced the launch of the UK Health Security Agency.⁴⁶⁶⁴ The new agency was created to protect the UK from future health threats and

⁴⁶⁵⁴ 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>

⁴⁶⁵⁵ 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>

⁴⁶⁵⁶ 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>

⁴⁶⁵⁷ 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>

⁴⁶⁵⁸ 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>

⁴⁶⁵⁹ 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>

⁴⁶⁶⁰ 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>

⁴⁶⁶¹ 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>

⁴⁶⁶² 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>

⁴⁶⁶³ 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>

⁴⁶⁶⁴ 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>

ensure the appropriate government agencies can respond to future pandemics quickly and at greater scale.⁴⁶⁶⁵ The agency will also work with international partners to create a “more robust international health architecture that will protect future generations.”⁴⁶⁶⁶

On 20 April 2021, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office announced the creation of a new global partnership to fight future pandemics.⁴⁶⁶⁷ The new Pandemic Preparedness Partnership aims to slash the time to develop vaccines for new diseases to 100 days.⁴⁶⁶⁸ The partnership also includes GBP16 million to fund the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).⁴⁶⁶⁹

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.⁴⁶⁷⁰ The 2022 summit will support the goal of cutting vaccine development and raise funds for global vaccine research.⁴⁶⁷¹

On 2 May 2021, Public Health England launched a 40,000-person daily contact testing study.⁴⁶⁷² The study aims to understand how effective daily contact testing could keep society open, reduce quarantine times, and catch positive cases quicker.⁴⁶⁷³

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.⁴⁶⁷⁴

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

⁴⁶⁶⁵ 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>

⁴⁶⁶⁶ 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>

⁴⁶⁶⁷ 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>

⁴⁶⁶⁸ 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>

⁴⁶⁶⁹ 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>

⁴⁶⁷⁰ 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>

⁴⁶⁷¹ 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>

⁴⁶⁷² 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>

⁴⁶⁷³ 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>

⁴⁶⁷⁴ 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>

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.⁴⁶⁷⁵ The HHS allocated an additional USD550 million to continue program operations until April 2021.⁴⁶⁷⁶

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.⁴⁶⁷⁷

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.⁴⁶⁷⁸ 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.⁴⁶⁷⁹

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.⁴⁶⁸⁰

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.⁴⁶⁸¹

⁴⁶⁷⁵ 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>

⁴⁶⁷⁶ 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>

⁴⁶⁷⁷ 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>

⁴⁶⁷⁸ 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/>

⁴⁶⁷⁹ 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/>

⁴⁶⁸⁰ 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>

⁴⁶⁸¹ 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/>

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.⁴⁶⁸²

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.⁴⁶⁸³

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.⁴⁶⁸⁴ 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-19.⁴⁶⁸⁵

On 12 March 2021, the US entered the Quad Vaccine Partnership with Japan, India, and Australia.⁴⁶⁸⁶ 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.⁴⁶⁸⁷

On 25 March 2021, the US announced an investment of USD10 billion into the expansion of the national COVID-19 vaccination program.⁴⁶⁸⁸ 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.⁴⁶⁸⁹

⁴⁶⁸² 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/>

⁴⁶⁸³ 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/>

⁴⁶⁸⁴ 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>

⁴⁶⁸⁵ 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>

⁴⁶⁸⁶ 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/>

⁴⁶⁸⁷ 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/>

⁴⁶⁸⁸ 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/>

⁴⁶⁸⁹ 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/>

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-19.⁴⁶⁹⁰ 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.⁴⁶⁹¹ The United States also committed USD2 billion in funding for GAVI and COVAX.⁴⁶⁹²

On 16 April 2021, the US announced an investment of USD1.7 billion towards researching, detecting, and preventing the spread of COVID-19 variants.⁴⁶⁹³ 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.⁴⁶⁹⁴

On 28 April 2021, the US delivered emergency COVID-19 assistance to India in response to a recent surge in infections and critical cases.⁴⁶⁹⁵ Medical support and equipment worth over USD100 million were provided, including: oxygen generation units, personal protective equipment, rapid diagnostic test kits, and therapeutics.⁴⁶⁹⁶

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.⁴⁶⁹⁷ Such individuals are not permitted to board an aircraft traveling to the US or are subject to refusal upon landing.⁴⁶⁹⁸ The US issued these

⁴⁶⁹⁰ 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>

⁴⁶⁹¹ 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>

⁴⁶⁹² 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>

⁴⁶⁹³ 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/>

⁴⁶⁹⁴ 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/>

⁴⁶⁹⁵ 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/>

⁴⁶⁹⁶ 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/>

⁴⁶⁹⁷ 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/>

⁴⁶⁹⁸ 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/>

restrictions in response to the detection of community transmission of the COVID-19 variant strain B.1.617 in India.⁴⁶⁹⁹

On 14 May 2021, the Centre for Disease Control announced that fully vaccinated people are no longer required to wear masks.⁴⁷⁰⁰ 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.⁴⁷⁰¹

The US 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.⁴⁷⁰² An international treaty would enable the international community to better prepare for and respond to pandemics.⁴⁷⁰³ 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.⁴⁷⁰⁴

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.⁴⁷⁰⁵ The programme will have a budget of EUR95.5 billion for 2021-2027.⁴⁷⁰⁶ The health cluster of the

⁴⁶⁹⁹ 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/>

⁴⁷⁰⁰ 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>

⁴⁷⁰¹ 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>

⁴⁷⁰² 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/>

⁴⁷⁰³ 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/>

⁴⁷⁰⁴ 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/>

⁴⁷⁰⁵ 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.

⁴⁷⁰⁶ 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.⁴⁷⁰⁷

On 15 December 2020, the European Parliament and Council reached an agreement on the EU4Health programme.⁴⁷⁰⁸ 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-19.⁴⁷⁰⁹ The programme will specifically emphasize pandemic preparedness and response.⁴⁷¹⁰

On 21 December 2020, the European Commission granted a conditional marketing authorisation for the COVID-19 vaccine developed by BioNTech and Pfizer.⁴⁷¹¹ The vaccine was authorized following an assessment by the European Medicines Agency. This was the first vaccine approved for use in the EU.⁴⁷¹²

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.⁴⁷¹³ There are nine countries hosting the common European stockpiles of medical equipment such as medical masks, gloves, gowns, aprons, oxygen concentrators and ventilators.⁴⁷¹⁴

On 19 January 2021, the European Commission published a Communication addressing the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council of Europe.⁴⁷¹⁵ 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.⁴⁷¹⁶ 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 2021.⁴⁷¹⁷

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

⁴⁷⁰⁷ 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.

⁴⁷⁰⁸ 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

⁴⁷⁰⁹ 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

⁴⁷¹⁰ 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

⁴⁷¹¹ 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

⁴⁷¹² 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

⁴⁷¹³ 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

⁴⁷¹⁴ 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

⁴⁷¹⁵ 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

⁴⁷¹⁶ 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

⁴⁷¹⁷ 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.⁴⁷¹⁸ 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.⁴⁷¹⁹ The HERA Incubator will also fund the VACCELERATE vaccine research network, comprised of 26 partner institutions from 21 countries.⁴⁷²⁰

On 19 February 2021, the European Commission committed an additional EUR500 million for the COVAX Facility, bringing its total contribution to EUR1 billion.⁴⁷²¹ 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.⁴⁷²²

On 10 March 2021, the European Commission published a Communication detailing plans for a new European Humanitarian Response Capacity.⁴⁷²³ The capacity would intervene directly in humanitarian crises when traditional approaches were insufficient.⁴⁷²⁴ It would offer logistical assessments, support for initial deployment and procurement, stockpiling and transporting of relief items such as COVID-19 vaccines.⁴⁷²⁵

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.⁴⁷²⁶ EUR2 million of this funding will support the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and EUR9 million will target disaster preparedness actions.⁴⁷²⁷ 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.⁴⁷²⁸

⁴⁷¹⁸ 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

⁴⁷¹⁹ 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

⁴⁷²⁰ 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

⁴⁷²¹ 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

⁴⁷²² 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

⁴⁷²³ 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

⁴⁷²⁴ 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

⁴⁷²⁵ 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

⁴⁷²⁶ 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

⁴⁷²⁷ 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

⁴⁷²⁸ 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.⁴⁷²⁹ The platform will publish results funded by Horizon Europe, the EU research and innovation programme.⁴⁷³⁰ It will offer researchers the opportunity to share their results and insights rapidly and in a public venue to facilitate open, constructive research debates.⁴⁷³¹ The EU's response to the coronavirus has highlighted the value of open science and increased collaboration to find new treatments, diagnostics and vaccines.⁴⁷³²

On 24 March 2021, the European Commission introduced a new regulation impacting COVID-19 vaccine exports.⁴⁷³³ 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.⁴⁷³⁴ 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.⁴⁷³⁵ 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.⁴⁷³⁶

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.⁴⁷³⁷ A smaller set of additional data would need to be submitted to the European Medicines Agency for the authorization of adapted COVID-19 vaccines.⁴⁷³⁸ 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

⁴⁷²⁹ 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

⁴⁷³⁰ 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

⁴⁷³¹ 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

⁴⁷³² 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

⁴⁷³³ 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

⁴⁷³⁴ 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

⁴⁷³⁵ 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

⁴⁷³⁶ 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

⁴⁷³⁷ 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

⁴⁷³⁸ 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.”⁴⁷³⁹ The measure is awaiting approval from the European Parliament and Council before entering into force.⁴⁷⁴⁰

On 26 March 2021, the European Commission launched the EU4Health programme.⁴⁷⁴¹ The programme makes EUR5.1 billion available to strengthen the resilience of health systems and promote innovation in the health sector.⁴⁷⁴² 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.⁴⁷⁴³ 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.”⁴⁷⁴⁴

On 31 March 2021, the European Commission launched a six week online public consultation to collect stakeholders’ input on HERA.⁴⁷⁴⁵ HERA was announced in September 2020 in order to support the development, manufacturing and deployment of medical countermeasures during a health crisis.⁴⁷⁴⁶ Following the public consultation, the scope of HERA will be outlined in a legislative proposal later this year.⁴⁷⁴⁷ 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.”⁴⁷⁴⁸

On 5 April 2021, the European Union contributed EUR170 million to the International Monetary Fund’s Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT).⁴⁷⁴⁹ The CCRT provides debt relief to countries hit by catastrophic events, including public health disasters such as COVID-19.⁴⁷⁵⁰

⁴⁷³⁹ 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

⁴⁷⁴⁰ 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

⁴⁷⁴¹ 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

⁴⁷⁴² 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

⁴⁷⁴³ 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

⁴⁷⁴⁴ 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

⁴⁷⁴⁵ 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

⁴⁷⁴⁶ 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

⁴⁷⁴⁷ 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

⁴⁷⁴⁸ 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

⁴⁷⁴⁹ 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

⁴⁷⁵⁰ 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.”⁴⁷⁵¹

On 7 April 2021, the European Commission mobilized EUR123 million from Horizon Europe for the purpose of combating the threat of coronavirus variants.⁴⁷⁵² Horizon Europe, the new EU research and innovation programme, funds a range of research and innovation actions to fight against the coronavirus.⁴⁷⁵³ 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.”⁴⁷⁵⁴ 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.⁴⁷⁵⁵

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.⁴⁷⁵⁶ 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.⁴⁷⁵⁷ Waiving the VAT will strengthen disaster crisis management bodies such as the EU’s Health Union and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.⁴⁷⁵⁸ Goods and services covered by the exemption include diagnostic tests and testing materials, personal protective equipment, antimicrobials and antibiotics and blood products or antibodies.⁴⁷⁵⁹

⁴⁷⁵¹ 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

⁴⁷⁵² 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

⁴⁷⁵³ 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

⁴⁷⁵⁴ 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

⁴⁷⁵⁵ 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

⁴⁷⁵⁶ 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

⁴⁷⁵⁷ 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

⁴⁷⁵⁸ 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

⁴⁷⁵⁹ 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 2021.⁴⁷⁶⁰ The doses were originally due to only arrive in the fourth quarter of 2021.⁴⁷⁶¹ 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 2023.⁴⁷⁶² The contract will also entail that the production of the vaccines and all essential components will be based in the EU.⁴⁷⁶³ 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.”⁴⁷⁶⁴

On 20 April 2021, the EU launched a EUR100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa.⁴⁷⁶⁵ 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.⁴⁷⁶⁶ 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.⁴⁷⁶⁷ The remaining EUR10 million is in reserve and will be allocated to either of the two tracks as needed.⁴⁷⁶⁸ 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.”⁴⁷⁶⁹

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.⁴⁷⁷⁰ 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-19.⁴⁷⁷¹

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

⁴⁷⁶⁰ 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

⁴⁷⁶¹ 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

⁴⁷⁶² 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

⁴⁷⁶³ 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

⁴⁷⁶⁴ 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

⁴⁷⁶⁵ 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

⁴⁷⁶⁶ 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

⁴⁷⁶⁷ 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

⁴⁷⁶⁸ 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

⁴⁷⁶⁹ 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

⁴⁷⁷⁰ 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/>

⁴⁷⁷¹ 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/>

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.”⁴⁷⁷²

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.

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⁴⁷⁷² Rome Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.
<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/210521-rome-declaration.html>