

The  
G7 Research Group  
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College  
in the University of Toronto presents the

## 2019 G7 Biarritz Summit Final Compliance Report

27 August 2019 — 1 November 2020

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

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

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

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



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## 17. Health: Universal Health Coverage

“We recall our commitment to moving towards achieving universal health coverage according to national contexts and priorities, building resilient and sustainable health systems, in order to be able to reach the most affected communities.”

*Sabel Partnership Action Plan*

### Assessment

|                | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Canada         |               |                    | +1              |
| France         |               |                    | +1              |
| Germany        |               |                    | +1              |
| Italy          |               |                    | +1              |
| Japan          |               |                    | +1              |
| United Kingdom |               |                    | +1              |
| United States  |               |                    | +1              |
| European Union |               |                    | +1              |
| Average        | +1.00 (100%)  |                    |                 |

### Background

Universal health coverage (UHC) was first mentioned in the 2000 G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in the context of improving accessibility and affordability of drugs, vaccines, treatments and other preventative measures in developing countries.<sup>3088</sup> Similarly, G8 members committed to developing equitable and effective health systems at the 2000 G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit.<sup>3089</sup>

At the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, members expressed support for African partners’ commitment according to the United Nations Millennium Declaration to ensure all children have access to basic healthcare by 2015 to reduce deaths from preventable causes amongst those most at risk, including women and children.<sup>3090</sup> To provide support, members agreed to invest in improving health systems in partnership with African governments by helping train doctors, nurses, community health workers and other health professionals.<sup>3091</sup> In light of the aim of AIDS-free generation in Africa, members agreed to work with international organizations such as World Health Organization (WHO) to “develop and implement a package for HIV prevention, treatment and care” to strive for universal access of such packages by 2010.<sup>3092</sup> Financing needs for HIV/AIDS will be fulfilled by replenishment of Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.<sup>3093</sup> To support the Polio Eradication Initiative, members will continue or increase contributions towards the USD829 million target; the funding gap for 2005 was met.<sup>3094</sup> Members also agreed to contribute an additional

<sup>3088</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G8 (Okinawa) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>.

<sup>3089</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G8 (Okinawa) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>.

<sup>3090</sup> Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

<sup>3091</sup> Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

<sup>3092</sup> Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

<sup>3093</sup> Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

<sup>3094</sup> Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

USD1.5 billion per year to improve access to malaria prevention interventions such as anti-malaria insecticide treated nets, adequate supplies for combination therapies, household residual spraying to reduce the burden of malaria as one of the major causes of death in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>3095</sup> G7 leaders took healthcare off of the agenda until the 2008 Toyako Summit.

At the 2008 Toyako Summit, members expressed that they were on track with fighting various infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and measles. However reaching towards the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remained a challenge.<sup>3096</sup> Members expressed that they were “determined to honor in full their specific commitments to fight infectious diseases, namely malaria, tuberculosis, polio and working towards the goal of universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care by 2010.”<sup>3097</sup> Members agreed that a comprehensive approach is needed to address strengthening health systems.<sup>3098</sup> For sustainable and equitable financing of health systems, members noted they would work with government partners, and welcome the efforts of organizations such as Providing for Health Initiative, International Health Partnership and the Catalytic Initiative to achieve the goal of providing USD60 billion to fight infectious diseases and strengthen health systems.<sup>3099</sup> Members also stated that they would work with WHO to recruit and retain more health professionals to work towards a ratio of 2.3 health workers per 100 people.<sup>3100</sup> Considering that MDGs were off track for child mortality and maternal health, members agreed to focus on universal reproductive care.<sup>3101</sup> Members agreed to continue to fulfil past commitments on malaria by expanding access to insecticide treated nets, with the goal of providing 100 million nets through bilateral and multilateral assistance in partnership with other stakeholders by 2010.<sup>3102</sup> The 2008 Toyako Summit marked the last summit to address Universal Health Coverage issues until the 2014 Brussels Summit.

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, commitment to improving universal access to affordable and equitable health services was made in relation to improving health of women and children.<sup>3103</sup> Members stated they were committed to improving health of women and children by “ensuring universal access to affordable, quality, essential health services, strengthening health, education and child protection systems and improving nutrition and access to immunisation.”<sup>3104</sup> Members will work with GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance to provide vaccines to 30 million children between 2016 and 2020 and to replenish the GAVI fund with help from other public and private donors.<sup>3105</sup> To address the threat

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<sup>3095</sup> Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

<sup>3096</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>3097</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>3098</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>3099</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>3100</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>3101</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>3102</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>3103</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7. (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>3104</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7. (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>3105</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7. (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

of infectious diseases, members noted their support for Global Health Security Agenda and committed to “working with partner countries to strengthen compliance with the WHO’s International Health Regulations (IHR) and enhance health security around the world.”<sup>3106</sup>

At the 2015 Elmau Summit, “enjoyment of highest attainable standard of health” was recognized as a fundamental human right of every being for the first time.<sup>3107</sup> Members committed to focus on strengthening health systems, specifically through bilateral programs and multilateral structures.<sup>3108</sup>

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 members acknowledged their commitment to ensure well-being of citizens and foster inclusive economic growth by committing to promote UHC.<sup>3109</sup> Members also expressed that they will take leadership in reinforcing response to public health emergencies and antimicrobial resistance and promote research and development in these areas, amongst others.<sup>3110</sup>

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 members committed to “advancing global health security” and “pursuing policies that advance physical and mental health improvements” across the globe.<sup>3111</sup> They recognized that healthy well-being is important to various economic, social and security gains.<sup>3112</sup> They committed to “strengthening health systems” to prepare for responding to public health emergencies and other long-term challenges.<sup>3113</sup>

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 members committed to building “strong, sustainable health systems that promote access to quality and affordable healthcare.”<sup>3114</sup> Members recognized that this commitment will enable them to support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone and ensure that citizens lead healthy and productive lives.<sup>3115</sup> Members recognized the WHO’s role in health emergencies through avenues such as Contingency Fund for Emergencies and World Bank’s Pandemic Emergency Financing facility amongst others and emphasized their need for further development and continued and sustainable financing.<sup>3116</sup> Furthermore, members also recommitted to support 76 partners to strengthen implementation of IHR through development of national action

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<sup>3106</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7. (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>3107</sup> G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Elmau, G7 (Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>3108</sup> G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Elmau, G7 (Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>3109</sup> G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Ise-Shima Summit, G7 (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>3110</sup> G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Ise-Shima Summit, G7 (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>3111</sup> G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Taormina Summit, G7 (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communiqu.html>.

<sup>3112</sup> G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Taormina Summit, G7 (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communiqu.html>.

<sup>3113</sup> G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Taormina Summit, G7 (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communiqu.html>.

<sup>3114</sup> G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>.

<sup>3115</sup> G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>.

<sup>3116</sup> G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>.

plans and use of diverse sources of funding and multi-stakeholder resources.<sup>3117</sup> G7 members reaffirmed their support for replenishment of Global Fund 2019.<sup>3118</sup>

G7 members' ongoing commitment to strengthening health systems and improving universal health coverage demonstrates their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a resolution unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015.<sup>3119</sup> This commitment is in line with SDG 3, which is to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages," particularly SDG 3.8 which is to ensure UHC.<sup>3120</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

The G7 committed to "moving towards achieving universal health coverage according to national contexts and priorities, building resilient and sustainable health systems, in order to be able to reach the most affected communities. This commitment is aimed at moving towards universal health coverage based on national contexts and priorities, building resilient and sustainable health systems. UHC is a key aspect of a resilient and sustainable health system. Hence, full compliance will be defined by the strength of the members' effort to move towards achieving UHC. Within the commitment, the G7 did not specify policies or instruments through which these targets can be met. As such, examples of what actions count towards partial and full compliance are guided by relevant G7 documents and the leading institution on health, the WHO.

To "commit" is understood to mean to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or organization) to a certain course or policy.<sup>3121</sup>

To "move towards" is understood to mean taking additional steps to implement universal health systems and should include new initiatives in the area. It should not include past compliance efforts or continued fulfilment of old promises.

### **Part One: Moving Towards Universal Health Coverage**

"Universal" is understood to mean all of the intended group. It should not be interpreted to mean a partial or percentage of the whole. It should not be interpreted to mean a small amount or a minority.<sup>3122</sup>

"Coverage" is defined as the proportion of a population needing an intervention who receive it. Coverage is influenced by supply (provision of services) and by demand from people in need of services.<sup>3123</sup>

"According to national contexts and priorities" should be understood as taking actions in line with domestic goals and policies.

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<sup>3117</sup> G7 Leaders' Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

<sup>3118</sup> G7 Leaders' Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

<sup>3119</sup> Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development UN (New York) 25 September 2015. Access date: 31 October 2017. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

<sup>3120</sup> Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development UN (New York) 25 September 2015. Access date: 31 October 2017. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

<sup>3121</sup> Appendix I: Dictionary, Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding (Toronto) 2 May 2016.

<sup>3122</sup> Appendix I: Dictionary, Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding (Toronto) 2 May 2016.

<sup>3123</sup> Appendix I: Dictionary, Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding (Toronto) 2 May 2016.

The WHO definition of “universal health coverage” is that “all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.”<sup>3124</sup> Three components of this definition are: equity in access to health services, quality of health services should be good enough to improve health of service receivers, and cost of services should not pose a risk of financial harm. These three points will be referenced to assess whether an action or initiative is considered compliant.

Examples of compliance include policies or initiatives targeted towards improving universal healthcare, donation of monetary funds or human resources to organizations for universal health coverage, providing state funding for a previous privately funded system and establishing working groups or holding cooperative meetings to ensure progress towards achieving universal healthcare. De-privatizing any component of a health system is considered to demonstrate compliance.

### **Part Two: Building Resilient and Sustainable Health Systems**

WHO defines a “health system” as the activities, people, institutions and resources whose goals are to maintain and improve health and combat ill health under the umbrella of policy.<sup>3125</sup> Essential components of a strong health system, as defined by WHO, include “a robust financing mechanism; a well-trained and adequately paid workforce; reliable information on which to base decisions and policies; well-maintained facilities and logistics to deliver quality medicines and technologies.”<sup>3126</sup>

“Sustainable” is to be understood as the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level.<sup>3127</sup> Policies and initiatives that aim to build more sustainable health systems must specifically target one or more components of a strong health system as outlined by WHO.

“Resilient” is to be understood as the ability to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions.<sup>3128</sup> Policies and initiatives that aim to build a more resilient health system must demonstrate systemic preparedness to respond to any health crisis, i.e. a difficult situation affecting community health in one or more areas.

“Affected communities” is to be understood as communities whose access to healthcare is disproportionately limited by any geographical, environmental or financial factors. “In order to reach the most affected communities” is to be understood as recognizing the unique challenges faced by such communities and implementing policies or initiatives to target such challenges.

Example of actions that demonstrate compliance include implementation of emergency-preparedness measures, developing crisis-response funds, improving working conditions for healthcare personnel, providing state-funded benefits and/or higher wages to healthcare personnel, and investing in more efficient technology for prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Actions must be targeted towards building resilient and sustainable health systems for affected communities to achieve full compliance.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must: 1. take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage, and 2. take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

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<sup>3124</sup> What is health financing for universal coverage? WHO. Access date:

[https://www.who.int/health\\_financing/universal\\_coverage\\_definition/en/](https://www.who.int/health_financing/universal_coverage_definition/en/).

<sup>3125</sup> Health Systems Strengthening Glossary, WHO. Access date: 13 October 2019.

[http://www.who.int/healthsystems/hss\\_glossary/en/index5.html](http://www.who.int/healthsystems/hss_glossary/en/index5.html).

<sup>3126</sup> Health Systems, WHO. Access date: 30 October 2017. [http://www.who.int/topics/health\\_systems/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/health_systems/en/).

<sup>3127</sup> Lexico Oxford Dictionary. Access date: 10 November 2019. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/sustainable>.

<sup>3128</sup> Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access date: 10 November 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/resilience>.

If only one of two thresholds or parts of this commitment is fulfilled, G7 members will receive a score of 0, or partial compliance. For instance, if a G7 member ensures that action is taken aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage, but does not address actions taken aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, it will earn a score of partial compliance.

A score of -1, or no compliance, will be assigned if a G7 member exemplifies no demonstrable compliance with either component of this commitment.

### Scoring Guidelines

|    |   |
|----|---|
| -1 | G7 member does NOT take any actions aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage NOR has taken action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities. |
| 0  | G7 member has taken action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage OR has taken action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.           |
| +1 | G7 member has taken action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage AND has taken action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.          |

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### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 20 September 2019, Health Canada authorized the use of Lenvima (lenvatinib) and Keytruda (pembrolizumab) for women who have advanced endometrial cancer under Project Orbis.<sup>3129</sup> Project Orbis is a collaborative project where the regulators from U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Health Canada and the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration, review cancer drugs at the same time to expedite access for patients in Canada, United States of America and Australia.<sup>3130</sup>

On 21 November 2019, Health Canada authorized the use Calquence (acalabrutinib), a new therapy for adults with chronic lymphocytic leukemia under Project Orbis.<sup>3131</sup>

On 21 November 2019, the federal Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) announced that it would launch a 60-day consultation period with stakeholders and members of the public.<sup>3132</sup>

<sup>3129</sup> International collaboration among Canadian, U.S. and Australian regulators leads to new options for the treatment of cancer, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/12/international-collaboration-among-canadian-us-and-australian-regulators-leads-to-new-options-for-the-treatment-of-cancer.html>.

<sup>3130</sup> International collaboration among Canadian, U.S. and Australian regulators leads to new options for the treatment of cancer, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/12/international-collaboration-among-canadian-us-and-australian-regulators-leads-to-new-options-for-the-treatment-of-cancer.html>.

<sup>3131</sup> International collaboration among Canadian, U.S. and Australian regulators leads to new options for the treatment of cancer, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/12/international-collaboration-among-canadian-us-and-australian-regulators-leads-to-new-options-for-the-treatment-of-cancer.html>.

<sup>3132</sup> Federal watchdog seeks public's opinion on how to protect Canadians from excessively priced, Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (Ottawa) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/patented-medicine-prices-review/news/2019/11/federal-watchdog-seeks-publics-opinion-on-how-to-protect-canadians-from-excessively-priced-patented-medicines.html>.

This consultation is to evaluate the earlier proposed changes to the Patented Medicines Regulations on 9 August 2019.<sup>3133</sup> PMPRB also announced new draft guidelines outlining steps taken by PMPRB staff to assess whether a patented drug is excessively priced and information that pharmaceutical companies must provide for PMPRB staff to make that decision. The Patented Medicines Regulations regulates Canada's pricing framework for patented drugs and is meant to protect Canadians from excessively high drug costs.<sup>3134</sup>

On 19 December 2019, Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller and Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations announced funding of CAD2.5 million over the next two years to support a community-driven Youth Empowerment and Healing Wellness Investment.<sup>3135</sup> This investment aids the delivery of holistic short-term and long-term solutions focused on the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of First Nations people.<sup>3136</sup> Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller and Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations outlined their support to build the Youth Empowerment and Healing Wellness Investment in Saskatoon, Treaty Six Territory, Saskatchewan.<sup>3137</sup> Indigenous Services Canada also announced an investment of Approximately CAD425 million towards various initiatives towards life promotion and suicide prevention, including a Hope for Wellness Helpline.<sup>3138</sup>

On 19 December 2019, Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller and Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations announced funding of CAD2.5 million over the next two years to support a community-driven Youth Empowerment and Healing Wellness Investment.<sup>3139</sup> This investment aims to aid the delivery of holistic short-term and long-term solutions focused on the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of First Nations

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<sup>3133</sup> Federal watchdog seeks public's opinion on how to protect Canadians from excessively priced, Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (Ottawa) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/patented-medicine-prices-review/news/2019/11/federal-watchdog-seeks-publics-opinion-on-how-to-protect-canadians-from-excessively-priced-patented-medicines.html>.

<sup>3134</sup> Federal watchdog seeks public's opinion on how to protect Canadians from excessively priced, Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (Ottawa) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/patented-medicine-prices-review/news/2019/11/federal-watchdog-seeks-publics-opinion-on-how-to-protect-canadians-from-excessively-priced-patented-medicines.html>.

<sup>3135</sup> Addressing stigma in Canada's health system is critical for improving health outcomes, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2019/12/addressing-stigma-in-canadas-health-system-is-critical-for-improving-health-outcomes.html>.

<sup>3136</sup> Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

<sup>3137</sup> Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

<sup>3138</sup> Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

<sup>3139</sup> Addressing stigma in Canada's health system is critical for improving health outcomes, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2019/12/addressing-stigma-in-canadas-health-system-is-critical-for-improving-health-outcomes.html>.

people.<sup>3140</sup> Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller and Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations also outlined their support to build the Youth Empowerment and Healing Wellness Investment in Saskatoon, Treaty Six Territory, Saskatchewan.<sup>3141</sup> Indigenous Services Canada also announced an investment of approximately CAD425 million towards various initiatives focusing on life promotion and suicide prevention, including a Hope for Wellness Helpline.<sup>3142</sup>

On 29 January 2020, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Bill Blair and Executive Director of the Online Therapy Unit at the University of Regina Dr. Heather Hadjistavropoulos announced the launch of an Internet-delivered cognitive behavior therapy pilot project for public safety personnel.<sup>3143</sup> This project aims to provide access to mental health care and treatment for public safety personnel, especially in rural and remote areas, who are exposed to traumatic incidents on the job.<sup>3144</sup> It will be delivered by the Internet Therapy for Public Safety Personnel team in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment.<sup>3145</sup> The program is supported by a CAD10 million federal investment, previously announced as part of the National Action Plan on post-traumatic stress injuries.<sup>3146</sup> The pilot project will be called the PSP Wellbeing course and will give access to free education and guidance on techniques for managing depression, anxiety and post-traumatic injuries.<sup>3147</sup>

On 2 March 2020, Minister of Seniors Deb Schulte announced a CAD9 million of investment in projects for seniors in British Columbia through the New Horizons for Seniors Program.<sup>3148</sup> This

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<sup>3140</sup> Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

<sup>3141</sup> Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

<sup>3142</sup> Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

<sup>3143</sup> Launch of New Therapy for Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries, Public Safety Canada (Regina) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/launch-of-new-therapy-for-post-traumatic-stress-injuries.html>.

<sup>3144</sup> Launch of New Therapy for Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries, Public Safety Canada (Regina) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/launch-of-new-therapy-for-post-traumatic-stress-injuries.html>.

<sup>3145</sup> Launch of New Therapy for Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries, Public Safety Canada (Regina) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/launch-of-new-therapy-for-post-traumatic-stress-injuries.html>.

<sup>3146</sup> Launch of New Therapy for Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries, Public Safety Canada (Regina) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/launch-of-new-therapy-for-post-traumatic-stress-injuries.html>.

<sup>3147</sup> Launch of New Therapy for Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries, Public Safety Canada (Regina) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/launch-of-new-therapy-for-post-traumatic-stress-injuries.html>.

<sup>3148</sup> Minister Schulte announces a \$9.3 million investment in British Columbia seniors through New Horizons for Seniors, Employment and Social Development Canada (Surrey) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/minister-schulte-announces-investments-of-over-9-million-for-seniors-across-british-columbia-at-pics.html>.

funding from the government will ensure that seniors can foster their social inclusion, community engagement and also support healthy aging.<sup>3149</sup>

On 3 March 2020, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu and Member of Parliament and Special Representative for the Prairies announced funding of approximately CAD2.9 million to improve access to care and services for people living with chronic pain in Canada.<sup>3150</sup> CAD1.7 million of this funding will be given to the University of Saskatchewan through Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP).<sup>3151</sup> Through this investment, pharmacists will receive special training aimed to facilitate care for people living with chronic pain.<sup>3152</sup> CAD1.2 million of this funding will be invested into the Alberta Health Services (AHS) to evaluate and improve opioid prescribing practices by working in conjunction with the Alberta College of Family Physicians and the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health.<sup>3153</sup>

On 18 March 2020, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu announced that an Interim Order was signed.<sup>3154</sup> This order allows for expedited access to COVID-19 diagnostic test kits and related medical devices for use by healthcare providers.<sup>3155</sup> This order made two new diagnostic tests readily accessible in Canada: the Roche Molecular System Inc. cobas SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic device and the ThermoFisher Scientific TaqPath™ COVID-19 Combo Kit.<sup>3156</sup> This Interim Order allows the Government of Canada to make health products available to address larger scale public health emergencies.<sup>3157</sup>

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<sup>3149</sup> Minister Schulte announces a \$9.3 million investment in British Columbia seniors through New Horizons for Seniors, Employment and Social Development Canada (Surrey) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/minister-schulte-announces-investments-of-over-9-million-for-seniors-across-british-columbia-at-pics.html>.

<sup>3150</sup> Government of Canada announces funding to help people living with chronic pain, Health Canada (Saskatoon) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-funding-to-help-people-living-with-chronic-pain.html>.

<sup>3151</sup> Government of Canada announces funding to help people living with chronic pain, Health Canada (Saskatoon) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-funding-to-help-people-living-with-chronic-pain.html>.

<sup>3152</sup> Government of Canada announces funding to help people living with chronic pain, Health Canada (Saskatoon) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-funding-to-help-people-living-with-chronic-pain.html>.

<sup>3153</sup> Government of Canada announces funding to help people living with chronic pain, Health Canada (Saskatoon) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-funding-to-help-people-living-with-chronic-pain.html>.

<sup>3154</sup> Health Canada expedites access to COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory test kits and other medical devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/health-canada-expedites-access-to-covid-19-diagnostic-laboratory-test-kits-and-other-medical-devices.html>.

<sup>3155</sup> Health Canada expedites access to COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory test kits and other medical devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/health-canada-expedites-access-to-covid-19-diagnostic-laboratory-test-kits-and-other-medical-devices.html>.

<sup>3156</sup> Health Canada expedites access to COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory test kits and other medical devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/health-canada-expedites-access-to-covid-19-diagnostic-laboratory-test-kits-and-other-medical-devices.html>.

<sup>3157</sup> Health Canada expedites access to COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory test kits and other medical devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/health-canada-expedites-access-to-covid-19-diagnostic-laboratory-test-kits-and-other-medical-devices.html>.

On 26 March 2020, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada Marc Miller announced the details of the Indigenous Community Support Fund of CAD305 million to aid and support the needs in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation communities related to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3158</sup> The Indigenous Community Support Fund is in addition to the COVID-19 Response Fund, which was announced on 11 March 2020.<sup>3159</sup> This fund will be used for measures such as support for elders & vulnerable community members, addressing food insecurity, educational support, mental health assistance, emergency response service and general preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>3160</sup>

On 30 March 2020, Indigenous Services Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) agreed to provide and administer CAD2.6 million to help Indigenous families in the Northwest Territories on the land during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3161</sup> This federal funding is a part of the “At Home on The Land” initiative and will allow families to maintain safer physical distances in cabins and camps while remaining on their land.<sup>3162</sup> It will also ensure that they can acquire necessary provisions such as wood, fuel, first aid equipment, transportation and other items as needed.<sup>3163</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced that it is awarding Amazon Canada a contract to manage the distribution of personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves and other equipment purchased by the government for healthcare workers.<sup>3164</sup> Amazon Canada will be distributing through its Canadian delivery partners, Canada Post and Purolator, to provincial health authorities, hospitals and other government agencies across the country.<sup>3165</sup>

On 3 April 2020, Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller and Chief Rudy Turtle of the Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation) signed an agreement to

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<sup>3158</sup> Addressing urgent needs in Indigenous communities related to COVID-19, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa, Algonquin territory) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/addressing-urgent-needs-in-indigenous-communities-related-to-covid-19.html>.

<sup>3159</sup> Addressing urgent needs in Indigenous communities related to COVID-19, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa, Algonquin territory) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/addressing-urgent-needs-in-indigenous-communities-related-to-covid-19.html>.

<sup>3160</sup> Addressing urgent needs in Indigenous communities related to COVID-19, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa, Algonquin territory) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/addressing-urgent-needs-in-indigenous-communities-related-to-covid-19.html>.

<sup>3161</sup> Indigenous, Territorial and Federal leaders mobilize funding to support unique northern physical distancing initiative, Indigenous Services Canada (Yellowknife, Treaty 11 Territory) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/indigenous-territorial-and-federal-leaders-mobilize-funding-to-support-unique-northern-physical-distancing-initiative.html>.

<sup>3162</sup> Indigenous, Territorial and Federal leaders mobilize funding to support unique northern physical distancing initiative, Indigenous Services Canada (Yellowknife, Treaty 11 Territory) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/indigenous-territorial-and-federal-leaders-mobilize-funding-to-support-unique-northern-physical-distancing-initiative.html>.

<sup>3163</sup> Indigenous, Territorial and Federal leaders mobilize funding to support unique northern physical distancing initiative, Indigenous Services Canada (Yellowknife, Treaty 11 Territory) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/indigenous-territorial-and-federal-leaders-mobilize-funding-to-support-unique-northern-physical-distancing-initiative.html>.

<sup>3164</sup> Government of Canada partners with Amazon to help get personal protective equipment to front-line healthcare workers, Public Services and Procurement Canada (Gatineau) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-partners-with-amazon-to-help-get-personal-protective-equipment-to-frontline-healthcare-workers.html>.

<sup>3165</sup> Government of Canada partners with Amazon to help get personal protective equipment to front-line healthcare workers, Public Services and Procurement Canada (Gatineau) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-partners-with-amazon-to-help-get-personal-protective-equipment-to-frontline-healthcare-workers.html>.

provide federal funding and support to construct a mercury care home in Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation).<sup>3166</sup> Through this agreement, Indigenous Services Canada will provide CAD19.5 million to construct a mercury care home to meet the needs of the community members of Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek who are living with methylmercury poisoning.<sup>3167</sup>

On 10 April 2020, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough issued a statement establishing the COVID-19 Disability Advisory Group (CDAG).<sup>3168</sup> This group will consider real time lived experiences of persons with disabilities during this crisis and provide advice on how to address disability specific issues and how to address systemic gaps and challenges to Minister Carla Qualtrough.<sup>3169</sup>

Canada fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems by addressing stigma, investing in health of First Nations communities and with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage by improving access to alternative cancer therapies, maintaining costs of patented drugs and improving access to care for First Nations communities. Canada is also managing its response to COVID-19 through ensuring people have the right supports in place to treat and prevent the disease.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Arshdeep Anlakh*

#### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 19 September 2019, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe met with pharmaceutical manufacturers in Matignon to discuss the shortages of medications in hospitals. Shortages can be attributed to problems in the supply chain.<sup>3170,3171</sup>

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<sup>3166</sup> The Government of Canada and Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation) sign a framework agreement to build a mercury care home, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa, Traditional Algonquin Territory) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/04/the-government-of-canada-and-asubpeeschoseewagong-netum-anishinabek-grassy-narrows-first-nation-sign-a-framework-agreement-to-build-a-mercury-care-.html>.

<sup>3167</sup> The Government of Canada and Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation) sign a framework agreement to build a mercury care home, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa, Traditional Algonquin Territory) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/04/the-government-of-canada-and-asubpeeschoseewagong-netum-anishinabek-grassy-narrows-first-nation-sign-a-framework-agreement-to-build-a-mercury-care-.html>.

<sup>3168</sup> Statement by Minister Qualtrough on Canada's Disability-Inclusive approach to its COVID-19 pandemic response, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/04/statement-by-minister-qualtrough-on-canadas-disability-inclusive-approach-to-its-covid-19-pandemic-response.html>.

<sup>3169</sup> Statement by Minister Qualtrough on Canada's Disability-Inclusive approach to its COVID-19 pandemic response, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/04/statement-by-minister-qualtrough-on-canadas-disability-inclusive-approach-to-its-covid-19-pandemic-response.html>.

<sup>3170</sup> France medication shortage crisis prompts PM meeting, The Connexion (Paris) 20 September 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-medication-hospital-and-pharmacy-shortage-crisis-prompts-PM-meeting>.

On 15 October 2019, the National Assembly passed a bill, as part of a larger bioethics bill, that serves to legalize in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment for lesbian and single women within the country.<sup>3172</sup> Previously, only infertile heterosexual couple were legally qualified for the treatment.<sup>3173</sup> IVF is a medically assisted reproduction method through donated sperm.<sup>3174</sup> The bill, pending Senate approval, ensures that the costs of IVF for all women under the age of 43 are fully covered by the healthcare system.<sup>3175</sup> However, clinicians at France’s network of public sperm banks noted that the “current supply just meets the demand” and that France may face shortage.<sup>3176</sup>

On 12 November 2019, President of France Emanuel Macron and President of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Félix Tshisekedi expressed support for the French-Congolese roadmap, developed by Professor Yves Lévy from France and Professor Muyembe from DRC, to fight against the Ebola epidemic.<sup>3177</sup> Three components of the roadmap include: an emergency humanitarian response to provide ground-level support in DRC, strengthening the scientific partnership between French researchers and National Institute for Biomedical Research in Kinshasa and development efforts to strengthen Congolese health system.<sup>3178</sup> France pledged EUR71 million for healthcare in DRC between 2019 and 2021 and will make resources from Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Ministry for the Armed Forces and Ministry of Solidarity and Health available to “put these efforts in practice.”<sup>3179</sup>

On 20 November 2019, the French government promised to absorb approximately EUR10 billion worth of public hospital debt in order to end protests led by French medical professionals against

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<sup>3171</sup> Health: French people worried about drug shortages, Franceinfo (Paris) 19 September 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. [https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/medicament/sante-les-francais-inquiets-par-les-penuries-de-medicaments\\_3623847.html](https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/medicament/sante-les-francais-inquiets-par-les-penuries-de-medicaments_3623847.html).

<sup>3172</sup> France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Toronto) 15 October 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

<sup>3173</sup> France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Toronto) 15 October 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

<sup>3174</sup> France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Toronto) 15 October 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

<sup>3175</sup> France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Toronto) 15 October 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

<sup>3176</sup> France may face sperm shortage under Macron plan to ease IVF rules, Reuters (Paris) 24 September 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-reform-ivf/france-may-face-sperm-shortage-under-macron-plan-to-ease-ivf-rules-idUSKBN1W917N>.

<sup>3177</sup> Joint press release - Combating the Ebola epidemic and strengthening the healthcare system in DRC: France and the DRC step up their joint efforts. (21 November 2019) Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 November 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/events/article/joint-press-release-combating-the-ebola-epidemic-and-strengthening-the>.

<sup>3178</sup> Joint press release - Combating the Ebola epidemic and strengthening the healthcare system in DRC: France and the DRC step up their joint efforts. (21 November 2019) Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 November 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/events/article/joint-press-release-combating-the-ebola-epidemic-and-strengthening-the>.

<sup>3179</sup> Joint press release - Combating the Ebola epidemic and strengthening the healthcare system in DRC: France and the DRC step up their joint efforts. (21 November 2019) Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 November 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/events/article/joint-press-release-combating-the-ebola-epidemic-and-strengthening-the>.

multi-billion euro spending cuts in regards to the French healthcare system.<sup>3180</sup> This figure represents nearly one third of total debt.<sup>3181</sup> Prime Minister Edouard Philippe also promised an additional EUR1.5 billion over for hospitals, along with an EUR800 bonus for 40,000 nurses and other caretakers who earn less than EUR 1,900 per month.<sup>3182</sup>

On 24 February 2020, Health Minister Olivier Véran announced plans to activate 70 new medical care facilities across the country in order to prepare for possible outbreaks of the coronavirus.<sup>3183</sup> These facilities are currently used for medical care in conjunction with university hospital centers.<sup>3184</sup> The decision was made amidst the rising number of coronavirus cases in neighboring Italy.<sup>3185</sup>

On 21 March 2020, Health Minister Olivier Véran announced that the government has ordered 250 million health masks to protect frontline medical workers in response to current shortages.<sup>3186</sup> The order was placed with both French and foreign suppliers.<sup>3187</sup> Health Minister Olivier Véran also announced that the government plans to launch a review into the shortage of protective gear at a later date.<sup>3188</sup>

On 21 March 2020, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced that the government has instructed manufacturers and researchers within the country to work on addressing current the current shortage of health masks by finding a means to multiply production lines or by developing alternative health mask prototypes, reusable or otherwise.<sup>3189</sup>

On 26 March 2020, France announced that a high-speed train will take COVID19 patients from Alsace, one of the regions experiencing a higher proportion of COVID19 cases, to hospitals in less affected regions.<sup>3190</sup> Each train car will be staffed with a doctor, an intern, an anesthesiologist, and three

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<sup>3180</sup> France promises cash, debt reduction for hospitals to quell unrest, National Post (Toronto) 20 November 2019. Access date: December 18, 2019. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/france-promises-cash-debt-reduction-for-hospitals-to-quell-unrest>.

<sup>3181</sup> France promises cash, debt reduction for hospitals to quell unrest, National Post (Toronto) 20 November 2019. Access date: December 18, 2019. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/france-promises-cash-debt-reduction-for-hospitals-to-quell-unrest>.

<sup>3182</sup> France promises cash, debt reduction for hospitals to quell unrest, National Post (Toronto) 20 November 2019. Access date: December 18, 2019. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/france-promises-cash-debt-reduction-for-hospitals-to-quell-unrest>.

<sup>3183</sup> France plans new medical units to handle coronavirus, Anadolu Agency (Turkey) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/france-plans-new-medical-units-to-handle-coronavirus-/1743307>.

<sup>3184</sup> France plans new medical units to handle coronavirus, Anadolu Agency (Turkey) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/france-plans-new-medical-units-to-handle-coronavirus-/1743307>.

<sup>3185</sup> France plans new medical units to handle coronavirus, Anadolu Agency (Turkey) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/france-plans-new-medical-units-to-handle-coronavirus-/1743307>.

<sup>3186</sup> France orders 250 million masks to ease coronavirus shortage, National Post (Toronto) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/france-orders-250-million-masks-to-ease-coronavirus-shortage>.

<sup>3187</sup> France orders 250 million masks to ease coronavirus shortage, National Post (Toronto) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/france-orders-250-million-masks-to-ease-coronavirus-shortage>.

<sup>3188</sup> France orders 250 million masks to ease coronavirus shortage, National Post (Toronto) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/france-orders-250-million-masks-to-ease-coronavirus-shortage>.

<sup>3189</sup> French government orders '250 million masks' against coronavirus, France 24 (Paris) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200321-french-government-orders-250-million-masks-against-coronavirus-olivier-v%C3%A9ran-says>.

<sup>3190</sup> France to use medicalised high-speed trains to transport Covid-19 victims to hospital, rfi (Paris) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <http://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200326-france-to-use-medicalised-high-speed-trains-to-transport-covid-19-victims-to-hospital>.

nurses.<sup>3191</sup> Trains will be transformed so that stretchers are laid over seats and other essential medical equipment is onboard the train.<sup>3192</sup>

On 8 April 2020, Health Minister Olivier Véran and the Secretary of State for Digital Cédric O officially announced plans to develop a smartphone application to track the spread of the coronavirus during an interview with Le Monde.<sup>3193</sup> The “StopCovid” project has been launched in an attempt to design an application that would act to limit the spread of the virus by identifying chains of transmission.<sup>3194</sup> The application would warn users when they have come into contact with an individual who has tested positive for the coronavirus.<sup>3195</sup> The application would be installed on a voluntary basis.<sup>3196</sup>

On 16 April 2020, President Emmanuel Macron announced that healthcare workers on the frontlines of the COVID19 crisis will receive a bonus of tax-free EUR 500-EUR 1500 per person.<sup>3197</sup> Workers from departments that were the most affected will receive more compensation than administrative workers or those in less-affected departments.<sup>3198</sup> Overtime wages for healthcare workers will also increase by 50%; this increase will remain tax free.<sup>3199</sup>

France has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems by absorbing public hospital debts, responding to COVID19 crisis by addressing masks shortage and developing StopCovid and with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage by expanding access to assisted reproductive services.

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<sup>3191</sup> France to use medicalised high-speed trains to transport Covid-19 victims to hospital, rfi (Paris) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <http://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200326-france-to-use-medicalised-high-speed-trains-to-transport-covid-19-victims-to-hospital>.

<sup>3192</sup> France to use medicalised high-speed trains to transport Covid-19 victims to hospital, rfi (Paris) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <http://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200326-france-to-use-medicalised-high-speed-trains-to-transport-covid-19-victims-to-hospital>.

<sup>3193</sup> “The StopCovid application will retrace the history of social relations”: the government’s tracks for the digital tracking of patients, Le Monde (Paris) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. [https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/04/08/stopcovid-l-application-sur-laquelle-travaille-le-gouvernement-pour-contrer-l-epidemie\\_6035927\\_3244.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/04/08/stopcovid-l-application-sur-laquelle-travaille-le-gouvernement-pour-contrer-l-epidemie_6035927_3244.html).

<sup>3194</sup> “The StopCovid application will retrace the history of social relations”: the government’s tracks for the digital tracking of patients, Le Monde (Paris) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. [https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/04/08/stopcovid-l-application-sur-laquelle-travaille-le-gouvernement-pour-contrer-l-epidemie\\_6035927\\_3244.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/04/08/stopcovid-l-application-sur-laquelle-travaille-le-gouvernement-pour-contrer-l-epidemie_6035927_3244.html).

<sup>3195</sup> “The StopCovid application will retrace the history of social relations”: the government’s tracks for the digital tracking of patients, Le Monde (Paris) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. [https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/04/08/stopcovid-l-application-sur-laquelle-travaille-le-gouvernement-pour-contrer-l-epidemie\\_6035927\\_3244.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/04/08/stopcovid-l-application-sur-laquelle-travaille-le-gouvernement-pour-contrer-l-epidemie_6035927_3244.html).

<sup>3196</sup> “The StopCovid application will retrace the history of social relations”: the government’s tracks for the digital tracking of patients, Le Monde (Paris) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. [https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/04/08/stopcovid-l-application-sur-laquelle-travaille-le-gouvernement-pour-contrer-l-epidemie\\_6035927\\_3244.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/04/08/stopcovid-l-application-sur-laquelle-travaille-le-gouvernement-pour-contrer-l-epidemie_6035927_3244.html).

<sup>3197</sup> France to give €150-€1500 to key staff and families, The Connexion (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-confirms-grants-of-150-1-500-to-key-frontline-healthcare-staff-and-low-income-families>.

<sup>3198</sup> France to give €150-€1500 to key staff and families, The Connexion (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-confirms-grants-of-150-1-500-to-key-frontline-healthcare-staff-and-low-income-families>.

<sup>3199</sup> France to give €150-€1500 to key staff and families, The Connexion (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-confirms-grants-of-150-1-500-to-key-frontline-healthcare-staff-and-low-income-families>.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Madison Leisk*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 21 September 2019, Health Minister Jens Spahn travelled to Mexico in order to speak with healthcare workers and offer a speedy visa process to those willing to move to Germany.<sup>3200</sup> These actions are aimed at addressing a shortage of nurses and ancillary staff within German care homes as the government faces the struggles of an aging population.<sup>3201</sup> Minister Spahn also announced that the recognition of professional qualifications would be accelerated for Mexican workers.<sup>3202</sup> These efforts are to meet the goal of finding 10 per cent more care workers to address the care worker crisis and growing need for care workers.<sup>3203</sup>

On 7 November 2019, the Digital Supply Act was approved by Parliament, which aims to increasingly digitalize many of Germany's healthcare services.<sup>3204</sup> As a result of the new law, doctors will be able to prescribe digital health apps to their patients, which can be reimbursed by the country's statutory health insurance and receive payments for online consultations.<sup>3205</sup> The Act also aims to phase out the use of paper by promoting e-prescriptions and providing higher rates of compensation to doctors who send electronic medical letters in comparison to other more traditional methods, such as faxes.<sup>3206</sup> The government claims that patient health records for those with statutory insurance will be completely electronic by 2021.<sup>3207</sup> The Act will also enable patient data from health insurance funds to be used by authorities as well as research institutes and university

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<sup>3200</sup> Germany looks to Mexico to help tackle nursing-care crisis, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 21 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-looks-to-mexico-to-help-tackle-nursing-care-crisis/a-50528445>.

<sup>3201</sup> Germany looks to Mexico to help tackle nursing-care crisis, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 21 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-looks-to-mexico-to-help-tackle-nursing-care-crisis/a-50528445>.

<sup>3202</sup> Germany looks to Mexico to help tackle nursing-care crisis, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 21 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-looks-to-mexico-to-help-tackle-nursing-care-crisis/a-50528445>.

<sup>3203</sup> Germany looks to Mexico to help tackle nursing-care crisis, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 21 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-looks-to-mexico-to-help-tackle-nursing-care-crisis/a-50528445>.

<sup>3204</sup> Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

<sup>3205</sup> Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

<sup>3206</sup> Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

<sup>3207</sup> Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

hospitals without consent.<sup>3208</sup> Data for research use will be anonymized and used to gain “better insight into patients with chronic diseases,” according to Minister Spahn.<sup>3209</sup>

On 14 November 2019, the Measles Protection Act was passed by Parliament, which aims to increase immunization rates by instituting compulsory measles vaccinations.<sup>3210</sup> As of March 2020, parents who fail to give their children the measles vaccination will be met with fines of up to EUR2500.<sup>3211</sup> Additionally, unvaccinated children will risk being banned from their nursery or school.<sup>3212</sup> The law will also require staff in childcare facilities to be vaccinated and to provide proof of vaccination.<sup>3213</sup> The new law aims to address increasingly high rates of vaccine hesitancy fueled by the anti-vaccination movement and protect against rising rates of measles outbreaks.<sup>3214</sup>

On 29 November 2019, the Act to Improve Healthcare Provision through Digitalization and Innovation was passed by Parliament, which is continuation of Germany’s efforts to become a world leader in the digitalization of healthcare.<sup>3215</sup> The Act includes measures aimed at making healthcare apps available to patients more quickly, continuing to promote innovation in healthcare by investing EUR 200 million per year until 2024 in the innovation fund, making it mandatory for pharmacies and hospitals to be connected with the growing digital infrastructure, making online video consultations commonplace, mandating health insurance funds to offer members opportunities to improve their digital health skills, creating a streamlined process for information collection, storage and exchange within hospital networks, and achieving optimal conditions for patient data protection by adapting provisions of the Fifth Book of Social Code.<sup>3216</sup>

On 18 December 2019, Parliament passed a bill that will effectively place a ban on conversion therapy, which includes any practices aimed at “curing” individuals of their homosexuality.<sup>3217</sup> Starting in 2020, any individuals found in violation of this law, whether by offering or advertising such services, will be sentenced with up to a year in prison and subject to fines of up to EUR

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<sup>3208</sup> Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

<sup>3209</sup> Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

<sup>3210</sup> German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

<sup>3211</sup> German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

<sup>3212</sup> German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

<sup>3213</sup> German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

<sup>3214</sup> German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

<sup>3215</sup> Digital Healthcare Act (DVG), Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/digital-healthcare-act.html>.

<sup>3216</sup> Digital Healthcare Act (DVG), Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/digital-healthcare-act.html>.

<sup>3217</sup> Germany moves to ban gay ‘conversion therapy’, France 24 (Paris) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191218-germany-moves-to-ban-gay-conversion-therapy>.

30,000.<sup>3218</sup> According to Minister Spahn, the new law seeks to recognize that homosexuality is not an illness and that these misleading practices cause undo harm, particularly to those who may be struggling with their sexuality.<sup>3219</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the Senate of Berlin approved plans to build a new hospital in advance of an expected increase in coronavirus cases.<sup>3220</sup> The new hospital will be equipped with 1,000 hospital beds and will be used in the event that there is a shortage elsewhere in the state and/or country.<sup>3221</sup> It will be built with the assistance of the German armed forces.<sup>3222</sup> No deadline was set for the completion of the new hospital.<sup>3223</sup>

On 25 March 2020, a coronavirus aid package was passed by Parliament in order to mitigate the economic damage caused in the wake of the coronavirus.<sup>3224</sup> The aid package commits a total of EUR750 billion to address the current crisis in Germany.<sup>3225</sup> Importantly, the aid package includes the COVID-19 Hospital Relief Act and the Law for the Protection of the Population in an Epidemic Situation of National Importance.<sup>3226</sup> The COVID-19 Hospital Relief Act aims to lessen the economic burden felt by both hospitals and other health care facilities, such as nursing homes.<sup>3227</sup> The Act will enable hospitals to increase their care capacity as the number of patients with the coronavirus infection continues to rise.<sup>3228</sup> The Law for the Protection of the Population in an Epidemic Situation of National Importance aims to improve the government's responsiveness to epidemics such as the coronavirus by granting the federal government additional competencies for a limited period of time.<sup>3229</sup>

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<sup>3218</sup> Germany moves to ban gay 'conversion therapy', France 24 (Paris) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191218-germany-moves-to-ban-gay-conversion-therapy>.

<sup>3219</sup> Germany moves to ban gay 'conversion therapy', France 24 (Paris) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191218-germany-moves-to-ban-gay-conversion-therapy>.

<sup>3220</sup> Berlin to build 1,000-bed coronavirus hospital, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/berlin-to-build-1000-bed-coronavirus-hospital/a-52811671>.

<sup>3221</sup> Berlin to build 1,000-bed coronavirus hospital, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/berlin-to-build-1000-bed-coronavirus-hospital/a-52811671>.

<sup>3222</sup> Berlin to build 1,000-bed coronavirus hospital, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/berlin-to-build-1000-bed-coronavirus-hospital/a-52811671>.

<sup>3223</sup> Berlin to build 1,000-bed coronavirus hospital, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/berlin-to-build-1000-bed-coronavirus-hospital/a-52811671>.

<sup>3224</sup> Coronavirus: German parliament passes historic aid package, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-german-parliament-passes-historic-aid-package/a-52908339>.

<sup>3225</sup> Coronavirus: German aid package gets final approval, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-german-aid-package-gets-final-approval/a-52941219>.

<sup>3226</sup> Federal Council approves legislative packages to support the healthcare system in coping with the corona epidemic, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzespaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

<sup>3227</sup> Federal Council approves legislative packages to support the healthcare system in coping with the corona epidemic, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzespaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

<sup>3228</sup> Federal Council approves legislative packages to support the healthcare system in coping with the corona epidemic, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzespaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

<sup>3229</sup> Federal Council approves legislative packages to support the healthcare system in coping with the corona epidemic, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzespaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

Germany has fully complied with their commitment to build a more resilient and sustainable health system, particularly through its efforts to digitalize healthcare services and address the coronavirus. Furthermore, Germany has also taken steps towards the achievement of universal health coverage by implementing the COVID-19 Hospital Relief Act and investing to expand access of healthcare apps for patients and health service providers.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Madison Leisk*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 30 August 2019, the Italy-China visit by delegations from the Italian Ministry of Health ended, with the discussions focused closely on avian influenza, swine vesicular disease and scientific cooperation as Italy expressed willingness to receive and host Chinese researchers at their institutes to collaborate on food virology research.<sup>3230</sup> Italy also noted that it aims to work with China to prevent another avian flu outbreak.<sup>3231</sup>

On 17 September 2019, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza promoted patient equality, and safe use of medicines as national and global healthy priorities during a workshop organized by the Ministry of Health.<sup>3232</sup> Topics including National Health Service financing, training of healthcare providers and involvement of citizens to work together and improve patient safety levels across the country were discussed.<sup>3233</sup>

On 29 September 2019, Italy celebrated World Health Day and the Ministry of Health presented at the Cardio Race with an information to raise awareness on the importance of cardiovascular disease prevention, airway management in infants and young children and offered free electrocardiograms and ultrasound requisition for all participants.<sup>3234</sup>

On 14 October 2019, the epidemiological surveillance for the 2019-2020 flu season began through the Influnet system, with surveys and biological samples collected by a sentinel of general

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<sup>3230</sup> Export Italy-China, the visit of the Ministry of Health delegation ended, Ministry of Health (Rome), 30 August 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3872](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3872).

<sup>3231</sup> Export Italy-China, the visit of the Ministry of Health delegation ended, Ministry of Health (Rome), 30 August 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3872](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3872).

<sup>3232</sup> Security of care, Minister Speranza: "It is a priority to be tackled together", Ministry of Health (Rome), 17 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3890](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3890).

<sup>3233</sup> Security of care, Minister Speranza: "It is a priority to be tackled together", Ministry of Health (Rome), 17 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3890](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3890).

<sup>3234</sup> World heart day 2019, the Ministry of Health at the Cardio Race, Ministry of Health (Rome), 27 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3901](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3901).

practitioners and pediatricians to produce weekly reports of influenza outbreaks.<sup>3235</sup> The flu vaccination was offered actively and free of charge until the end of December 2019 to subjects aged 65 or over, children over the 6 months of age, all individuals suffering from disease with increased risk of flu complication, pregnant woman, individual admitted to long-term care facilities, healthcare personnel and subjects who are at high risk of exposure.<sup>3236</sup>

On 25 January 2020, the Ministry of Health Task Force on COVID-19 met with the Minister of Health Roberto Speranza and other authorities to ensure adequate availability medical and nursing staff in hospitals and on major airports (Rome and Milan).<sup>3237</sup>

On 1 March 2020, Economy Minister Roberto Gualtieri announced EUR3.6 billion would be “injected into the economy,” part of which will go towards funding the National Health System.<sup>3238</sup>

On 17 March 2020, University Minister Gaetano Manfredi announced that he would allow 10,000 medical students into the National Health System and scrap their final examinations to cope with the shortage of medical staff amidst the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>3239</sup> These graduates will be expected to work in general practitioners’ clinics and old age homes so that more experienced doctors can work in hospitals burdened with COVID-19 patients.

Italy has demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems by strategizing to prevent avian flu outbreak, allowing student doctors to join the workforce early and cope with staff shortage, funding National Health System to cope with COVID-19 and discussing training of healthcare providers, patient safety and patient equality. Italy has also demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage by providing free electrocardiogram and ultrasounds assessing cardiac health and free flu vaccines to vulnerable populations to avoid an outbreak.

Thus, Italy has been awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Zixuan (Maggie) Xiao*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

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<sup>3235</sup> Flu season 2019-2020, Influnet vaccination and surveillance is underway, Ministry of Health, 18 October 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3933](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3933).

<sup>3236</sup> Flu season 2019-2020, Influnet vaccination and surveillance is underway, Ministry of Health (Rome), 18 October 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3933](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3933).

<sup>3237</sup> New Coronavirus, the Ministry's task force at work, Ministry of Health (Rome) 26 January 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4023](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4023).

<sup>3238</sup> Italy's hospitals reach breaking point as Rome boosts funding to help virus-hit economy, CNBC (Rome) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/03/italy-to-spend-3point6-billion-euros-to-help-virus-hit-economy.html>.

<sup>3239</sup> Italy rushes new doctors into service as coronavirus deaths rise above 2,500, Reuters (Rome) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-italy/italy-rushes-to-promote-new-doctors-to-relieve-coronavirus-crisis-idUSKBN214245>.

On 28 August 2019, at the 7th edition of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced that the Japanese government will support Kenya's Universal Health Coverage programme.<sup>3240</sup>

On 29 August 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also pledged JPY12 million to support the Nigerian government's public health sector.<sup>3241</sup>

On 1 October 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare implemented major medical, nursing care and welfare related changes in response to the consumption tax hike.<sup>3242</sup> The Elderly Health Bureau invested public funds to reduce insurance premiums for persons 65 years old or older who are exempt from municipal tax, with specific reduction rate prescribed by individual insurer according to regulation.<sup>3243</sup> Over the full year, the government will also invest JPY100 billion to expand experienced and skilled staff for improving nursing home care.<sup>3244</sup> For welfare recipients and persons with disabilities, the Social Affairs Bureau Protection Division reports a remuneration reform for disability welfare services focusing on improving the experience and skills of staff.<sup>3245</sup>

On 5 November 2019, a digital healthcare company MORE Health with an integrated network of physician specialists announced its collaboration with Japan's Integrity Healthcare, a government-funded company engaged with medical infrastructure, to offer international patients the best medical resources in Japan through Co-Diagnosis, a collaborative diagnosis serviced through a cloud-based platform.<sup>3246</sup>

On 7 November 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare released the schedule and venue for 21 free seminars, to be held in 14 cities nationwide between 6 December 2019 and 23 January 2020.<sup>3247</sup> The seminars will disseminate and explain the work style reform of medical staff as they shift to a non-equity medical system under the Revised Medical Law for healthcare professionals.<sup>3248</sup>

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<sup>3240</sup> Kevin Rotich, "Japanese PM backs rollout of Kenya's universal health cover", Business Daily (Kenya). 28 August 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/news/Japanese-PM-backs-kenya-healthcare/539546-5252556-vjeadz/index.html>.

<sup>3241</sup> Dennis Erezi, "Japanese PM pledges \$412,740 for Nigeria's defence college, healthcare", The Guardian (Nigeria). 29 August 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. <https://guardian.ng/news/japanese-pm-pledges-412740-for-nigerias-defence-college-healthcare/>.

<sup>3242</sup> About main system change (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare relations in October, the first year of Reiwa), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 26 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659\\_00005.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659_00005.html).

<sup>3243</sup> About main system change (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare relations in October, the first year of Reiwa), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 26 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659\\_00005.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659_00005.html).

<sup>3244</sup> About main system change (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare relations in October, the first year of Reiwa), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 26 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659\\_00005.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659_00005.html).

<sup>3245</sup> About main system change (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare relations in October, the first year of Reiwa), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 26 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659\\_00005.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659_00005.html).

<sup>3246</sup> MORE Health Announces Collaboration with Japan's Integrity Healthcare, PR News Wire (San Mateo). 5 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/more-health-announces-collaboration-with-japans-integrity-healthcare-300949505.html>.

<sup>3247</sup> We hold "seminar about system about medical corporation" in the first year of Reiwa, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 7 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_07679.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_07679.html).

<sup>3248</sup> We hold "seminar about system about medical corporation" in the first year of Reiwa, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 7 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_07679.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_07679.html).

On 18 November 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare held a “Skilled Medical Care” Ambassador Appointment Event to appoint Mr. Nakamura and His Excellency Demon as “good medical care” ambassadors, following a round-table conference to address physician burnout and long wait times during weekend consultations, with aims of alleviating excessive burden on healthcare providers.<sup>3249</sup>

On 29 November 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare approved of the “BRACAnalysis” genetic test to screen for breast cancer patients for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer syndrome so as to enable earlier treatment.<sup>3250</sup>

On 1 December 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in cooperation with the AIDS Prevention Foundation and other related non-governmental organizations held various public awareness events for “World AIDS day” across Japan to counter discrimination and prejudice against AIDS patients and take initiative to educate health centres and relevant organizations on correct knowledge of AIDS.<sup>3251</sup> The event outline included street campaigns, performances by artists who support the advocacy cause, and free HIV testing.<sup>3252</sup>

On 28 February 2020, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare released a summary sheet of the various efforts implemented by the relevant ministries, local governments, and related organizations to strengthen suicide prevention measures for the month of March.<sup>3253</sup> Actions include the expansion of dial-in mental health counseling lines, extension of operating hours and widespread dissemination of information about mental health consultation and support via YouTube videos, banners, and search-linked ads.<sup>3254</sup>

On 4 March 2020, the Department of Economic Affairs addressed in a press release that masks will be distributed preferentially to Nakafurano Town and Kitami City, two of the most affected regions from COVID-19, within a few days to secure about 40 masks per household in order to protect as many residents as possible.<sup>3255</sup>

On 5 March 2020, the Food Monitoring and Safety Division held its 23rd technical review meeting on food hygiene and management, releasing draft hygiene management guidelines for brown sugar, frozen tofu, chikuwabu, garlic and fuji production.<sup>3256</sup>

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<sup>3249</sup> “Skilled Medical Care” Ambassador Appointment Event will be held on November 18, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 14 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_07884.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_07884.html).

<sup>3250</sup> Dana Dovey “Japan Approves Genetic Testing For Breast Cancer Treatment”, Forbes 29 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/danadovey/2019/11/29/japan-approves-genetic-testing-for-breast-cancer-treatment/#4129148837f4>.

<sup>3251</sup> We carry out spread enlightenment event for World AIDS Day, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000183582\\_00005.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000183582_00005.html).

<sup>3252</sup> We carry out spread enlightenment event for World AIDS Day, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. 1 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000183582\\_00005.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000183582_00005.html)

<sup>3253</sup> About main approach of suicide measures reinforcement month in the first year of Reiwa, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 28 February 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020.

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/jisatsutaisakugekkan2020.html>.

<sup>3254</sup> About main approach of suicide measures reinforcement month in the first year of Reiwa, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 28 February 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020.

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/jisatsutaisakugekkan2020.html>.

<sup>3255</sup> About priority distribution of masks to Nakafurano Town and Kitami City, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 4 March 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_09967.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_09967.html).

<sup>3256</sup> About holding of the 23rd technical review meeting on food hygiene management, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 5 March 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_09975.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_09975.html).

On 6 March 2020, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare announced that COVID-19 testing will be included under national health insurance system.<sup>3257</sup> Prior to this, individuals could only get tested when recommended by public health centres.<sup>3258</sup> After this announcement, patients will be able to request testing for themselves from public hospitals or private testing companies without referral from a public health centre.<sup>3259</sup> Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has also announced that they will take efforts to develop faster testing kits; current testing kits deliver results within a few hours.<sup>3260</sup>

On 9 March 2020, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced a COVID-19 aid package totalling JPY430.8 billion.<sup>3261</sup> Part of this package will be allocated towards hospitals to improve medical facilities and stockpile on masks and other personal protective equipment.<sup>3262</sup>

On 11 March 2020, the Mental and Disability Health Division held its first meeting to discuss implementation of a community-based comprehensive care system for mental illness.<sup>3263</sup>

On 24 March 2020, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) announced the launch of a free remote health consultation service with doctors in partnership with Mediplat.<sup>3264</sup> This service will enable doctors to advise patients based on their symptoms while providing an effective way of triaging potential cases and keeping frontline medical safe unless there is an urgent need for medical treatment.<sup>3265</sup>

On 3 April 2020, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare advised local governments to accommodate COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms in hotels instead of hospitals to ease the shortage of healthcare facilities, especially in urban areas with high number of COVID-19 cases.<sup>3266</sup>

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<sup>3257</sup> Japan to include COVID-19 testing in national health insurance, Insurance Business Asia (Tokyo). 6 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/asia/news/breaking-news/japan-to-include-covid19-testing-in-national-health-insurance-216048.aspx>.

<sup>3258</sup> Japan to include COVID-19 testing in national health insurance, Insurance Business Asia (Tokyo). 6 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/asia/news/breaking-news/japan-to-include-covid19-testing-in-national-health-insurance-216048.aspx>.

<sup>3259</sup> Japan to include COVID-19 testing in national health insurance, Insurance Business Asia (Tokyo). 6 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/asia/news/breaking-news/japan-to-include-covid19-testing-in-national-health-insurance-216048.aspx>.

<sup>3260</sup> Japan to include COVID-19 testing in national health insurance, Insurance Business Asia (Tokyo). 6 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/asia/news/breaking-news/japan-to-include-covid19-testing-in-national-health-insurance-216048.aspx>.

<sup>3261</sup> Japan announces \$4 billion coronavirus package, not yet eyeing extra budget, Reuters (Tokyo). 9 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-healthcare-coronavirus-japan-package/japan-unveils-4-billion-coronavirus-package-not-yet-eyeing-extra-budget-idUSKBN20X04B>.

<sup>3262</sup> Japan announces \$4 billion coronavirus package, not yet eyeing extra budget, Reuters (Tokyo). 9 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-healthcare-coronavirus-japan-package/japan-unveils-4-billion-coronavirus-package-not-yet-eyeing-extra-budget-idUSKBN20X04B>.

<sup>3263</sup> We will hold the 1st "Study Meeting on the Construction of Community-based Comprehensive Care System for Mental Illness, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 11 March 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_10017.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_10017.html).

<sup>3264</sup> Japanese Ministry, METI, launches free remote health consultation service to address COVID-19 related concerns, Healthcare IT News (Tokyo). 3 April 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/asia-pacific/japanese-ministry-meti-launches-free-remote-health-consultation-service-address>.

<sup>3265</sup> Japanese Ministry, METI, launches free remote health consultation service to address COVID-19 related concerns, Healthcare IT News (Tokyo). 3 April 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/asia-pacific/japanese-ministry-meti-launches-free-remote-health-consultation-service-address>.

<sup>3266</sup> Japan to house Covid-19 patients in hotels as hospitals feel strain, The Star (Tokyo). 3 April 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/regional/2020/04/03/japan-to-house-covid-19-patients-in-hotels-as-hospitals-feel-strain>.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems by addressing physician burnout and long wait times, improving diagnosis and treatment for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer syndrome, providing training to medical professionals to understand reform of working style and improving access to mental health care options. Japan has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage by providing free HIV testing and raising HIV awareness, investing in senior citizens' care, providing more comprehensive healthcare options to international travelers and implementing community-based comprehensive care system for mental illness.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Zixuan (Maggie) Xiao*

### **United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 3 September 2019, British High Commissioner to Kenya Jane Marriott presented to the President of the Republic of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta.<sup>3267</sup> Marriott indicated the UK government's support of Kenya's Big Four objectives of affordable housing, food security, manufacturing, and universal healthcare.<sup>3268</sup>

On 5 September 2019, Minister for Care Caroline Dinenage announced that the second phase of an adult social care recruitment campaign is underway.<sup>3269</sup> The campaign, titled "When you care, every day makes a difference" aims to increase interest in adult social care as a career, given the shortage of 122,000 workers.<sup>3270</sup> The campaign is geared towards people between ages 20 and 39 who have expressed significant interest in adult social care as a vocation through a survey administered in England.<sup>3271</sup> The aim of the campaign is to fulfil the need of 580,000 more social care workers by 2035 to support the ageing population.<sup>3272</sup>

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<sup>3267</sup> New British High Commissioner to Kenya presents credentials: speech by Jane Marriott, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-the-new-british-high-commissioner>.

<sup>3268</sup> New British High Commissioner to Kenya presents credentials: speech by Jane Marriott, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-the-new-british-high-commissioner>.

<sup>3269</sup> Next phase of adult social care recruitment campaign begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-adult-social-care-recruitment-campaign-begins>.

<sup>3270</sup> Next phase of adult social care recruitment campaign begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-adult-social-care-recruitment-campaign-begins>.

<sup>3271</sup> Next phase of adult social care recruitment campaign begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-adult-social-care-recruitment-campaign-begins>.

<sup>3272</sup> Next phase of adult social care recruitment campaign begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-adult-social-care-recruitment-campaign-begins>.

On 8 September 2019, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock announced EUR1 million funding to expand the cost-recovery team at the National Health Service (NHS).<sup>3273</sup> Cost-recovery experts serve to reclaim debts of overseas visitors when they receive care in the UK as solely UK residents are eligible for free healthcare.<sup>3274</sup> Experts will aide cost-recovery managers in easing administrative burden by helping identify patients that need to be charged, standardizing and implementing rules and exemptions across the country, and improving reporting of income and debt collection.<sup>3275</sup> The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) reassures their commitment to protecting the most vulnerable people in society, including refugees, victims of modern slavery, asylum seekers and children cared for by local authorities.<sup>3276</sup> Improved debt recollection from tourists will enable reallocation of funds to maintain delivery of high-quality front-line patient care at NHS.<sup>3277</sup> DHSC also notes that emergent care will be provided to tourists and other non-residents without full payment with debt being recollected after treatment.<sup>3278</sup>

On 9 September 2019, the government announced EUR130 million of funding in healthcare innovations for cancer and debilitating illnesses, such as dementia and Parkinson's.<sup>3279</sup> EUR50 million will be allocated to NHS diagnostic services and artificial intelligence technology at Centres of Excellence.<sup>3280</sup> EUR7.5 million will be used for adult social care, while EUR14 million will be used for bioscience initiatives such as developing treatments for diseases and developing vaccines.<sup>3281</sup> EUR69.5 million investment through UK Research and Innovation will be directed towards four British projects – 1. Nucleic Acid Therapy Accelerator to develop genetic therapies for various diseases; 2. The Advanced Pain Discovery Platform to better understand pain; 3. UK Centre of Evidence Implantation in Adult Social Care to implement innovations that enable more people to

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<sup>3273</sup> £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

<sup>3274</sup> £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

<sup>3275</sup> £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

<sup>3276</sup> £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

<sup>3277</sup> £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

<sup>3278</sup> £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

<sup>3279</sup> Government to invest over £130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>.

<sup>3280</sup> Government to invest over £130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>.

<sup>3281</sup> Government to invest over £130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>.

receive care at home; and 4. Tackling Multimorbidity to propel drug development and enable earlier diagnosis and lesser progression.<sup>3282</sup>

On 10 September 2019, Public Health England (PHE) published a five-year infectious diseases strategy to “prevent, detect, respond to and reduce the impact of infectious diseases.”<sup>3283</sup> PHE will be working alongside the NHS and local authorities to integrate diagnostic mechanisms and surveillance systems that enable infection prevention and control, be a global leader in tackling antimicrobial resistance by reducing use of antibiotic treatments, and strengthen England’s and global health protection systems.<sup>3284</sup>

On 10 September 2019, the Department of Health in Northern Ireland published the “Protect Life 2” suicide prevention strategy.<sup>3285</sup> Northern Ireland has the highest suicide rates when compared to other UK nations.<sup>3286</sup> The strategy received an additional EUR1.35 million in funding through the transformation programme and will require additional funding to be fully implemented.<sup>3287</sup>

On 11 September 2019, the DHSC announced they were accepting proposals to make the pensions of doctors and nurses more flexible.<sup>3288</sup> The government indicated that health care professionals do not take on extra shifts due to facets of the NHS Pension Scheme and pension tax rules as they currently stand.<sup>3289</sup> Changes in the pension scheme will allow healthcare professionals more flexibility to choose individual pension plans, enabling them to maximize clinical work without high taxes.<sup>3290</sup>

On 11 September 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a new immigration route that would permit international students to remain in the UK for two years after graduation while looking for a job.<sup>3291</sup> The intention is to encourage international talent, including individuals the Science,

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<sup>3282</sup> Government to invest over £130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>.

<sup>3283</sup> Public Health England launches new infectious disease strategy, Public Health England (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-england-launches-new-infectious-disease-strategy>.

<sup>3284</sup> Public Health England launches new infectious disease strategy, Public Health England (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-england-launches-new-infectious-disease-strategy>.

<sup>3285</sup> Action plan to fight suicide epidemic that claims a life in Northern Ireland every day, Belfast Telegraph (Belfast) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/action-plan-to-fight-suicide-epidemic-that-claims-a-life-in-northern-ireland-every-day-38481802.html>.

<sup>3286</sup> Suicides: Plan revealed to reduce number of deaths, BBC News (London) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-49639583>.

<sup>3287</sup> Suicides: Plan revealed to reduce number of deaths, BBC News (London) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-49639583>.

<sup>3288</sup> Seniors clinicians’ pensions: government asks for views on new proposals, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/senior-clinicians-pensions-government-asks-for-views-on-new-proposals>.

<sup>3289</sup> Seniors clinicians’ pensions: government asks for views on new proposals, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/senior-clinicians-pensions-government-asks-for-views-on-new-proposals>.

<sup>3290</sup> Seniors clinicians’ pensions: government asks for views on new proposals, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/senior-clinicians-pensions-government-asks-for-views-on-new-proposals>.

<sup>3291</sup> World’s largest genetics research project to fight deadly diseases and new offer for international students, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-genetics-research-project-to-fight-deadly-diseases-and-offer-new-offer-for-international-students>.

Technology, Engineering, and Math fields (STEM), to remain in the UK and potentially become more involved in breakthroughs in STEM fields, particularly genomics.<sup>3292</sup> One EUR200 million project in which graduates can become involved is the world's largest whole genome sequencing project that aims to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of various diseases.<sup>3293</sup> Another project by Genomics England in collaboration with NHS has enabled 25 per cent patients with rare diseases to receive a diagnosis for the first time.<sup>3294</sup>

On 12 September 2019, eight new female genital mutilation support clinics were opened in communities in England where there is the greatest need with the aim of reaching women before they reach to NHS with life-threatening complications.<sup>3295</sup> Clinic sites include Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, and five London boroughs.<sup>3296</sup> The clinics aim to address the physical and psychological impact of female genital mutilation through treatment, support, and education on prevention.<sup>3297</sup> Funding comes from the EUR33.9 billion the UK government invested in the NHS.<sup>3298</sup>

On 23 September 2019, International Development Secretary Alok Sharma delivered a speech in New York at the United Nations General Assembly political declaration on universal health coverage.<sup>3299,3300</sup> He announced funding of EUR600 million over 2020-2025 towards Reproductive Health Supplies programme aimed at providing access to family planning resources to more than 20 million women and girls, preventing unplanned pregnancies and unsafe abortions and reducing

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<sup>3292</sup> World's largest genetics research project to fight deadly diseases and new offer for international students, Prime Minister's Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-genetics-research-project-to-fight-deadly-diseases-and-offer-new-offer-for-international-students>.

<sup>3293</sup> World's largest genetics research project to fight deadly diseases and new offer for international students, Prime Minister's Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-genetics-research-project-to-fight-deadly-diseases-and-offer-new-offer-for-international-students>.

<sup>3294</sup> World's largest genetics research project to fight deadly diseases and new offer for international students, Prime Minister's Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-genetics-research-project-to-fight-deadly-diseases-and-offer-new-offer-for-international-students>.

<sup>3295</sup> We must work together to end FGM for good, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-work-together-to-end-fgm-for-good>.

<sup>3296</sup> We must work together to end FGM for good, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-work-together-to-end-fgm-for-good>.

<sup>3297</sup> We must work together to end FGM for good, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-work-together-to-end-fgm-for-good>.

<sup>3298</sup> We must work together to end FGM for good, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-work-together-to-end-fgm-for-good>.

<sup>3299</sup> Achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030 Hinges on 'Bold National Leadership, Secretary-General Tells General Assembly, as World Leaders Commit to Declaration, United Nations (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12181.doc.htm>.

<sup>3300</sup> Healthcare for everyone must prioritise women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, says UK at UN General Assembly, Department for International Development (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/healthcare-for-everyone-must-prioritise-womens-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-says-uk-at-un-general-assembly>.

pregnancy and childbirth complications.<sup>3301</sup> Secretary Sharma stated that “We cannot achieve Universal Health Coverage without Universal Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.”<sup>3302</sup>

On 23 September 2019, Secretary Hancock confirmed that the UK government will fund healthcare for 180,000 UK nationals in the European Union after Brexit in a no-deal scenario.<sup>3303</sup> Healthcare costs will be covered for six months, or up to one year for individuals who are currently undergoing treatment.<sup>3304</sup> The UK government will also cover costs while individuals turn to local healthcare as to avoid gaps in coverage.<sup>3305</sup>

On 24 September 2019, at the 74th United Nations General Assembly, Chief Medical Officer for England Professor Dame Sally Davies announced funding to combat antimicrobial resistance and noted that universal healthcare coverage cannot be achieved without tackling antimicrobial resistance.<sup>3306</sup> EUR6.2 million will be used to strengthen surveillance systems in Africa and Asia that can inform policy decisions and EUR12 million will be used for research collaborations between the UK and low and middle income countries.<sup>3307</sup> Funding will be provided by the Fleming Fund and the National Institute of Health Research Global Health Research program.<sup>3308</sup>

On 27 September 2019, Prime Minister Johnson pledged EUR200 million to the NHS to improve cancer screening equipment, including magnetic resonance imaging, computerized tomography scanners, and breast screening equipment, which can enable earlier diagnoses.<sup>3309</sup> The investment was

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<sup>3301</sup> Healthcare for everyone must prioritise women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, says UK at UN General Assembly, Department for International Development (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/healthcare-for-everyone-must-prioritise-womens-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-says-uk-at-un-general-assembly>.

<sup>3302</sup> Alok Sharma speech to UN General Assembly on Universal Health Coverage, Department for International Development (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/alok-sharma-speech-to-un-general-assembly-on-universal-health-coverage>.

<sup>3303</sup> Government takes steps to protect healthcare access for UK nationals living in the EU after 31 October, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-steps-to-protect-healthcare-access-for-uk-nationals-living-in-the-eu-after-31-october>.

<sup>3304</sup> Government takes steps to protect healthcare access for UK nationals living in the EU after 31 October, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-steps-to-protect-healthcare-access-for-uk-nationals-living-in-the-eu-after-31-october>.

<sup>3305</sup> Government takes steps to protect healthcare access for UK nationals living in the EU after 31 October, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-steps-to-protect-healthcare-access-for-uk-nationals-living-in-the-eu-after-31-october>.

<sup>3306</sup> IVI-led Consortium Awarded Fleming Fund Regional Grant to Improve Data Sharing in Fight against Antimicrobial Resistance, International Vaccine Institute (Seoul) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.ivi.int/ivi-consortium-awarded-fleming-fund-regional-grant/>.

<sup>3307</sup> UK to invest in new research against evolving global health threats, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-invest-in-new-research-against-evolving-global-health-threats>.

<sup>3308</sup> UK to invest in new research against evolving global health threats, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-invest-in-new-research-against-evolving-global-health-threats>.

<sup>3309</sup> Prime Minister pledges funding for cancer screening overhaul, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-pledges-funding-for-cancer-screening-overhaul>.

made in efforts to increase efficiency and patient safety.<sup>3310</sup> On 20 October 2019, the government announced the 78 NHS trusts that will receive funding.<sup>3311</sup>

On 30 September 2019, the DHSC published the Health Infrastructure Plan.<sup>3312</sup> The plan provides capital to build new hospitals, invest in technology, modernize facilities, and ensure the safety of estates.<sup>3313</sup> Specifically, EUR2.8 billion was allocated to build six new hospitals by 2025 and 21 other hospitals were provided with seed funding.<sup>3314</sup> Overall, 40 schemes for new hospitals fall under the Health Infrastructure Plan.<sup>3315</sup>

On 3 October 2019, the DHSC placed hormone replacement therapy products, which currently face shortage, on the list of medicines that face restrictions and cannot be parallel exported to tackle supply shortages.<sup>3316</sup> Shortage protocols for the antidepressant fluoxetine were also introduced for the antidepressant fluoxetine.<sup>3317</sup> Measures were put in place to address shortages.<sup>3318</sup>

On 4 October 2019, PHE announced that 30 million people will receive the flu vaccine for free.<sup>3319</sup> For the first time, all students in primary schools are eligible to receive the free vaccine.<sup>3320</sup>

On 9 October 2019, Secretary Hancock delivered a speech in Manchester at the NHS Providers Annual Conference.<sup>3321</sup> He reiterated features of the Long Term Plan Bill, Health Infrastructure Plan,

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<sup>3310</sup> Prime Minister pledges funding for cancer screening overhaul, Prime Minister's Office (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-pledges-funding-for-cancer-screening-overhaul>.

<sup>3311</sup> 78 NHS trusts to receive new cancer screening machines, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/78-nhs-trusts-to-receive-new-cancer-screening-machines>.

<sup>3312</sup> New hospital building programme announced, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hospital-building-programme-announced>.

<sup>3313</sup> New hospital building programme announced, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hospital-building-programme-announced>.

<sup>3314</sup> New hospital building programme announced, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hospital-building-programme-announced>.

<sup>3315</sup> New hospital building programme announced, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hospital-building-programme-announced>.

<sup>3316</sup> New restrictions on parallel exports to tackle HRT shortages, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-on-parallel-exports-to-tackle-hrt-shortages>.

<sup>3317</sup> New restrictions on parallel exports to tackle HRT shortages, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-on-parallel-exports-to-tackle-hrt-shortages>.

<sup>3318</sup> New restrictions on parallel exports to tackle HRT shortages, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-on-parallel-exports-to-tackle-hrt-shortages>.

<sup>3319</sup> Biggest NHS flu campaign under way, BBC News (London) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-49895681>; Flu vaccination: The main things to know about the 2019 programme, Public Health England (London) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2019/10/04/flu-vaccination-the-main-things-to-know-about-the-2019-programme/>.

<sup>3320</sup> Flu vaccination: The main things to know about the 2019 programme, Public Health England (London) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2019/10/04/flu-vaccination-the-main-things-to-know-about-the-2019-programme/>.

and the health technology body NHSX.<sup>3322</sup> He also discussed the upcoming release of the People Plan, which addresses the need for more health care workers.<sup>3323</sup>

On 10 October 2019, Department for International Development Ghana Director Philip Smith delivered a speech indicating UK government's support for mental health care initiatives in Ghana.<sup>3324</sup> Specifically, Smith discussed improving access to services, and issuing a UK Aid programme aimed at reducing stigma among Ghanaian youth.<sup>3325</sup> Mental healthcare delivery is indicated as an important component of universal health coverage.<sup>3326</sup>

On 19 October 2019, Prime Minister Johnson addressed speculation regarding trade negotiations over the NHS.<sup>3327</sup> In the House of Commons, Johnson stated "And our first decision, on which I believe there will be unanimity is that in any future trade negotiations with any country our NHS will not be on the table."<sup>3328</sup>

On 19 October 2019, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care Jo Churchill announced the roll-out of electronic prescription services across England in November 2019.<sup>3329</sup> The electronic prescription service is intended to increase efficiency in the NHS for patients and staff.<sup>3330</sup>

On 22 October 2019, the UK government awarded a EUR1.9 million Rough Sleeping Grant to projects that aim to improve access to healthcare for individuals who sleep rough, considering that people experiencing rough sleeping have poorer health than the general population.<sup>3331</sup> The six

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<sup>3321</sup> How we build an NHS that's there for every member of society, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-we-build-an-nhs-thats-there-for-every-member-of-society>.

<sup>3322</sup> How we build an NHS that's there for every member of society, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-we-build-an-nhs-thats-there-for-every-member-of-society>.

<sup>3323</sup> How we build an NHS that's there for every member of society, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-we-build-an-nhs-thats-there-for-every-member-of-society>.

<sup>3324</sup> DFID Ghana Director's Speech on World Mental Health Day, DFID Ghana (Accra) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dfid-ghana-directors-speech-on-world-mental-health-day-2019>.

<sup>3325</sup> DFID Ghana Director's Speech on World Mental Health Day, DFID Ghana (Accra) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dfid-ghana-directors-speech-on-world-mental-health-day-2019>.

<sup>3326</sup> DFID Ghana Director's Speech on World Mental Health Day, DFID Ghana (Accra) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dfid-ghana-directors-speech-on-world-mental-health-day-2019>.

<sup>3327</sup> PM statement in the House of Commons: 19 October 2019, Prime Minister's Office (London) 19 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-in-the-house-of-commons-19-october-2019>.

<sup>3328</sup> PM statement in the House of Commons: 19 October 2019, Prime Minister's Office (London) 19 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-in-the-house-of-commons-19-october-2019>.

<sup>3329</sup> National roll-out of electronic prescription service, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-roll-out-of-electronic-prescription-service>.

<sup>3330</sup> National roll-out of electronic prescription service, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-roll-out-of-electronic-prescription-service>.

<sup>3331</sup> Grant awarded to improve the health of people sleeping rough, Public Health England (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/grant-awarded-to-improve-the-health-of-people-sleeping-rough>.

projects involved are located in Lambeth, Newcastle, West Sussex, Portsmouth, and Leeds.<sup>3332</sup> The Rough Sleeping Grant aligns with the Rough Sleeping Strategy published by the UK in August 2018.<sup>3333</sup>

On 22 October 2019, Secretary Hancock approved a EUR184 million capital loan fund for urgent hospital upgrades.<sup>3334</sup> 13 trusts will receive funding for upgrades to areas such as equipment, infrastructure, and general safety.<sup>3335</sup>

On 22 October 2019, the Women and Equalities Committee appointed by the House of Commons and chaired by Member of Parliament Maria Miller released a report indicating that LGBT health needs are not being adequately met as LGBT individuals are treated as straight and cisgender when interacting with the healthcare system.<sup>3336</sup> The report recommends mandated monitoring of sexual orientation and gender identity within the next 12 months.<sup>3337</sup> The report also suggests that the NHS Long Term Care Plan should highlight explicit inequalities that the NHS must address.<sup>3338</sup>

On 23 October 2019, the Health and Social Care Committee released on report on drugs policy that advocates for a harm reduction approach that would benefit drug users and reduce harm and cost to surrounding communities.<sup>3339</sup> Among their recommendations include shifting responsibility for drug policy from the Home Office to the DHSC and decriminalize drug possession for personal use so as to treat possession for personal use as a civil matter rather than a criminal one.<sup>3340</sup> Decriminalization will enable the criminal justice department to reduce costs, funds of which can be reallocated to prevention and treatment programs that save lives of users and provide better protection for

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<sup>3332</sup> Grant awarded to improve the health of people sleeping rough, Public Health England (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/grant-awarded-to-improve-the-health-of-people-sleeping-rough>.

<sup>3333</sup> Grant awarded to improve the health of people sleeping rough, Public Health England (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/grant-awarded-to-improve-the-health-of-people-sleeping-rough>.

<sup>3334</sup> £184 million loan funding for urgent hospital upgrades, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/184-million-loan-funding-for-urgent-hospital-upgrades>.

<sup>3335</sup> £184 million loan funding for urgent hospital upgrades, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/184-million-loan-funding-for-urgent-hospital-upgrades>.

<sup>3336</sup> “Unacceptable inequalities in health outcomes” for LGBT people “glare out wherever you look”, Women and Equalities Committee (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2017/lgbt-health-social-care-report-published-19-20/>.

<sup>3337</sup> “Unacceptable inequalities in health outcomes” for LGBT people “glare out wherever you look”, Women and Equalities Committee (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2017/lgbt-health-social-care-report-published-19-20/>.

<sup>3338</sup> “Unacceptable inequalities in health outcomes” for LGBT people “glare out wherever you look”, Women and Equalities Committee (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2017/lgbt-health-social-care-report-published-19-20/>.

<sup>3339</sup> Radical change needed in approach to UK drug policy, Health and Social Care Committee (London) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/drugs-policy-report-published-19-20/>.

<sup>3340</sup> Radical change needed in approach to UK drug policy, Health and Social Care Committee (London) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/drugs-policy-report-published-19-20/>.

communities.<sup>3341</sup> On 4 November 2019, the Scottish Affairs Committee published a report on “Problem drug use in Scotland” with conclusions similar to that of the Health and Social Care committee.<sup>3342</sup>

On 24 October 2019, Secretary Hancock delivered a speech at the Royal College of General Practitioners annual conference and stated his priorities as people, structures, and technology.<sup>3343</sup> He reiterated the UK government’s commitments to recruit 20,000 primary care clinical staff and provide an extra EUR4.5 billion for primary and community care each year by 2023-2024.<sup>3344</sup> Secretary Hancock also referenced the previous launch of the Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice in April 2019 that limits personal liabilities for professionals, and plans to rely on healthcare technology such as digitized paper records and electronic prescribing in the future.<sup>3345</sup>

On 28 October 2019, the DHSC announced that a EUR1,082,000 fund will be used for personalized bereavement support at 10 NHS areas in England.<sup>3346</sup> Individuals who have lost a family member or friend can receive counselling support and mental health services.<sup>3347</sup>

On 28 October 2019, the UK government announced a EUR3.5 million investment to treat gonorrhoea globally.<sup>3348</sup> Gonorrhoea particularly impacts women and vulnerable groups.<sup>3349</sup> The government is working in partnership with the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Innovation Fund and the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership.<sup>3350</sup>

On 31 October 2019, the UK parliament laid legislation to provide personal health budgets to 10,000 individuals eligible for a wheelchair or requiring mental health support under section 117 of the

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<sup>3341</sup> Radical change needed in approach to UK drug policy, Health and Social Care Committee (London) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/drugs-policy-report-published-19-20/>.

<sup>3342</sup> Health and Social Care Committee Chair comment on Scottish Affairs Committee report on drugs policy, Health and Social Care Committee (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/drugs-policy-scottish-committee-report-chairs-comments-2019/>.

<sup>3343</sup> General practice is the bedrock of the NHS, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/general-practice-is-the-bedrock-of-the-nhs>.

<sup>3344</sup> General practice is the bedrock of the NHS, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/general-practice-is-the-bedrock-of-the-nhs>.

<sup>3345</sup> General practice is the bedrock of the NHS, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/general-practice-is-the-bedrock-of-the-nhs>.

<sup>3346</sup> Suicide bereavement support to be made available across England, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 27 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/suicide-bereavement-support-to-be-made-available-across-england>.

<sup>3347</sup> Suicide bereavement support to be made available across England, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 27 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/suicide-bereavement-support-to-be-made-available-across-england>.

<sup>3348</sup> Government invests in global partnership to treat gonorrhoea, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-in-global-partnership-to-treat-gonorrhoea>.

<sup>3349</sup> Government invests in global partnership to treat gonorrhoea, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-in-global-partnership-to-treat-gonorrhoea>.

<sup>3350</sup> Government invests in global partnership to treat gonorrhoea, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-in-global-partnership-to-treat-gonorrhoea>.

Mental Health Act.<sup>3351</sup> On 2 December 2019, the change in law will come into effect.<sup>3352</sup> Personal health budgets are used in efforts to personalize care and provide patients with greater control over their health.<sup>3353</sup>

On 1 November 2019, the DHSC announced that EUR26 million in funding will be allocated to 25 trusts to support implementation of digital prescription technology.<sup>3354</sup> The upgrade is in efforts to reduce medication errors, increase the speed of access, and ensure that information is stored in a single electronic record.<sup>3355</sup> EUR26 million is the second installment of EUR78 million for the implementation of electronic prescribing systems over the next three years.<sup>3356</sup>

On 5 November 2019, the DHSC and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency added the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine to the list of medications that cannot be parallel exported from the UK.<sup>3357</sup> The restriction was added in efforts to stop medication shortages for individuals that do not receive coverage from the national immunisation programme and must purchase the vaccine privately, such as overseas workers.<sup>3358</sup>

On 5 November 2019, Secretary Hancock announced that 2,250 inpatients with learning disabilities and autism that are situated in a mental health hospital will have their cases reviewed.<sup>3359</sup> This decision was made to reduce the number of patients in restrictive settings in accordance with recommendations by the Care Quality Commission.<sup>3360</sup> Additional measures include increasing transparency regarding inpatients with mental health conditions and providing mandatory training to

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<sup>3351</sup> 100,000 more people to be given personal health budgets, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-000-more-people-to-be-given-personal-health-budgets>.

<sup>3352</sup> 100,000 more people to be given personal health budgets, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-000-more-people-to-be-given-personal-health-budgets>.

<sup>3353</sup> 100,000 more people to be given personal health budgets, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-000-more-people-to-be-given-personal-health-budgets>.

<sup>3354</sup> £26 million to help hospitals introduce digital prescriptions, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/26-million-to-help-hospitals-introduce-digital-prescriptions>.

<sup>3355</sup> £26 million to help hospitals introduce digital prescriptions, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/26-million-to-help-hospitals-introduce-digital-prescriptions>.

<sup>3356</sup> £26 million to help hospitals introduce digital prescriptions, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/26-million-to-help-hospitals-introduce-digital-prescriptions>.

<sup>3357</sup> Medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medicines-that-cannot-be-parallel-exported-from-the-uk>

<sup>3358</sup> New measures to secure MMR vaccine for private patients, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-secure-mmr-vaccine-for-private-patients>.

<sup>3359</sup> All inpatients with learning disability or autism to be given case reviews, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-inpatients-with-learning-disability-or-autism-to-be-given-case-reviews>.

<sup>3360</sup> All inpatients with learning disability or autism to be given case reviews, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-inpatients-with-learning-disability-or-autism-to-be-given-case-reviews>.

NHS and social care workers.<sup>3361</sup> EUR1.4 million government funds will be used to provide the necessary training.<sup>3362</sup>

On 9 November 2019, Secretary Hancock apologized to Bethany, a young girl with autism that was locked up for nearly three years based on terms set forth in the Mental Health Act.<sup>3363</sup> Hancock indicated that the situation is under a serious case review and recommendations will be made going forward.<sup>3364</sup>

On 16 December 2019, the Scottish government published “An Integrated Health and Social Workforce Plan for Scotland,” in partnership with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.<sup>3365</sup> The plan presents ideas to planners and employers in local authorities, NHS, third and independent sector to meet health and social care needs by planning resources needed to build sustainable health systems.<sup>3366</sup>

On 18 December 2019, Secretary Hancock delivered a speech at Policy Exchange indicating his prioritization of prevention, people, technology, and infrastructure.<sup>3367</sup> Hancock reiterated commitments made leading up to the UK general election on 12 December 2019.<sup>3368</sup> Commitments included building 40 new hospitals in the next decade, establishing 50 million more general practitioner appointments, and recruiting more healthcare professionals.<sup>3369</sup> Recruitment targets include 50,000 nurses, 6,000 general practitioners, and 6,000 primary care professionals.<sup>3370</sup> Hancock

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<sup>3361</sup> All inpatients with learning disability or autism to be given case reviews, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-inpatients-with-learning-disability-or-autism-to-be-given-case-reviews>.

<sup>3362</sup> All inpatients with learning disability or autism to be given case reviews, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-inpatients-with-learning-disability-or-autism-to-be-given-case-reviews>.

<sup>3363</sup> Bethany: Health secretary sorry over care for locked-up autistic girl, Sky News (London) 9 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://news.sky.com/story/autistic-bethany-will-be-moved-before-christmas-says-health-secretary-matt-hancock-11857982>; ‘My autistic daughter was held in a cell for two years’, BBC News (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/education-50252079>.

<sup>3364</sup> Bethany: Health secretary sorry over care for locked-up autistic girl, Sky News (London) 9 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://news.sky.com/story/autistic-bethany-will-be-moved-before-christmas-says-health-secretary-matt-hancock-11857982>.

<sup>3365</sup> Health and social care: integrated workforce plan, Health Workforce, Leadership and Service Transformation Directorate (Edinburgh) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-health-social-care-integrated-workforce-plan/>.

<sup>3366</sup> Health and social care: integrated workforce plan, Health Workforce, Leadership and Service Transformation Directorate (Edinburgh) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-health-social-care-integrated-workforce-plan/>.

<sup>3367</sup> What record NHS investment means for each of my priorities, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-record-nhs-investment-means-for-each-of-my-priorities>.

<sup>3368</sup> What record NHS investment means for each of my priorities, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-record-nhs-investment-means-for-each-of-my-priorities>.

<sup>3369</sup> What record NHS investment means for each of my priorities, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-record-nhs-investment-means-for-each-of-my-priorities>.

<sup>3370</sup> What record NHS investment means for each of my priorities, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-record-nhs-investment-means-for-each-of-my-priorities>.

also announced EUR2 billion to support trainee nurses.<sup>3371</sup> Students will receive at least EUR5,000 extra per year and up to EUR3,000 under certain conditions.<sup>3372</sup>

On 19 December 2019, newly re-elected Prime Minister Johnson delivered the Queen's Speech.<sup>3373</sup> Johnson promised to dedicate EUR34 billion in the new NHS Funding Bill.<sup>3374</sup>

On 4 January 2020, the UK government announced EUR40 million of funding for frontline technology in the NHS.<sup>3375</sup> The goal is to reduce the amount of time staff spend logging into computer systems and increase the amount of time dedicated to patients.<sup>3376</sup> Also, EUR4.5 million of funding will be directed towards digital adult social care projects to help vulnerable populations live independently.<sup>3377</sup>

On 13 January 2020, Chair of NHS England Lord Prior announced a collaboration with pharmaceutical company Novartis at the J.P. healthcare conference in San Francisco.<sup>3378</sup> NHS England, the National Institute for Health Research, and Oxford University are involved in the partnership that aims to reduce heart disease among NHS patients.<sup>3379</sup> The partnership will offer Inclisiran to patients at risk of heart disease which will help them reduce cholesterol levels.<sup>3380</sup> The partnership also aims to increase the accessibility of NHS infrastructure and technology.<sup>3381</sup>

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<sup>3371</sup> Nursing students to receive £5,000 payment a year, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nursing-students-to-receive-5-000-payment-a-year>.

<sup>3372</sup> Nursing students to receive £5,000 payment a year, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nursing-students-to-receive-5-000-payment-a-year>.

<sup>3373</sup> NHS PRIORITY Queen's Speech: Boris Johnson to enshrine in law his £34 billion NHS spending pledge, The Sun (London) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10586993/queens-speech-boris-johnson-nhs-pledge-law/>.

<sup>3374</sup> NHS PRIORITY Queen's Speech: Boris Johnson to enshrine in law his £34 billion NHS spending pledge, The Sun (London) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10586993/queens-speech-boris-johnson-nhs-pledge-law/>.

<sup>3375</sup> €40 million investment to reduce NHS staff login times, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-million-investment-to-reduce-nhs-staff-login-times>.

<sup>3376</sup> €40 million investment to reduce NHS staff login times, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-million-investment-to-reduce-nhs-staff-login-times>.

<sup>3377</sup> €40 million investment to reduce NHS staff login times, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-million-investment-to-reduce-nhs-staff-login-times>.

<sup>3378</sup> New heart disease drug to be made available for NHS patients, NHS England (London) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-heart-disease-drug-to-be-made-available-for-nhs-patients>.

<sup>3379</sup> New heart disease drug to be made available for NHS patients, NHS England (London) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-heart-disease-drug-to-be-made-available-for-nhs-patients>.

<sup>3380</sup> UK Government tackles heart disease with new partnership, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-tackles-heart-disease-with-new-partnership>.

<sup>3381</sup> UK Government tackles heart disease with new partnership, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-tackles-heart-disease-with-new-partnership>.

On 15 January 2020, Secretary Hancock introduced the NHS Long Term Plan Funding Bill to Parliament.<sup>3382</sup> The bill mandates that the government provide EUR33.9 billion to the NHS every year by 2024, resulting in a total of EUR148.5 billion by 2024.<sup>3383</sup> The bill will place a “double-lock commitment,” legal obligation on Secretary of State and Treasury to uphold this minimum level of funding for the next 4 years.<sup>3384</sup>

On 22 January 2020, the DHSC and PHE stated there would be enhanced monitoring on direct flights from Wuhan to the UK.<sup>3385</sup> A Port Health team, composed of a port medical inspector, port health doctor, administrative support, and team leader, will be present.<sup>3386</sup> The team will provide advice and support for travellers that feel unwell, and check for symptoms of COVID-19.<sup>3387</sup>

On 3 February 2020, the UK government announced EUR20 million in funding for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.<sup>3388</sup> The funding will be used to develop vaccines and diagnostics to fight COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.<sup>3389</sup> Currently, there are three new programs aimed at developing a vaccine against coronavirus.<sup>3390</sup>

On 4 February 2020, PHE scientists fully sequenced the coronavirus genome.<sup>3391</sup> The sequence can aid the scientific community in understanding viral mutations and methods of virus transmission.<sup>3392</sup>

On 6 February 2020, the UK government and NHS announced EUR1.5 billion in funding over the next four years for general practice.<sup>3393</sup> The funding will be used to reach the government's goal of 50

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<sup>3382</sup> NHS funding bill enters Parliament, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-funding-bill-enters-parliament>.

<sup>3383</sup> NHS funding bill enters Parliament, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-funding-bill-enters-parliament>.

<sup>3384</sup> NHS funding bill enters Parliament, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-funding-bill-enters-parliament>.

<sup>3385</sup> DHSC and PHE statement on coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dhsc-and-phe-statement-on-coronavirus>.

<sup>3386</sup> DHSC and PHE statement on coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dhsc-and-phe-statement-on-coronavirus>.

<sup>3387</sup> DHSC and PHE statement on coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dhsc-and-phe-statement-on-coronavirus>.

<sup>3388</sup> €20m announced to fund vaccines for coronavirus and other infectious diseases, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-announced-to-fund-vaccines-for-coronavirus-and-other-infectious-diseases>.

<sup>3389</sup> €20m announced to fund vaccines for coronavirus and other infectious diseases, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-announced-to-fund-vaccines-for-coronavirus-and-other-infectious-diseases>.

<sup>3390</sup> €20m announced to fund vaccines for coronavirus and other infectious diseases, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-announced-to-fund-vaccines-for-coronavirus-and-other-infectious-diseases>.

<sup>3391</sup> PHE reaches crucial step in fully sequencing novel coronavirus, Public Health England (London) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-reaches-crucial-step-in-fully-sequencing-novel-coronavirus>.

<sup>3392</sup> PHE reaches crucial step in fully sequencing novel coronavirus, Public Health England (London) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-reaches-crucial-step-in-fully-sequencing-novel-coronavirus>.

<sup>3393</sup> €1.5 billion to deliver Government commitment for 50 million more general practice appointments, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15-billion-to-deliver-government-commitment-for-50-million-more-general-practice-appointments>.

million more general practice appointments by 2024.<sup>3394</sup> The funding will be used to recruit 6,000 primary care professionals. Another goal is to develop initiatives for recruiting and retaining doctors.<sup>3395</sup> The General Practice Contract for 2020/21 was also updated to include measures such as a greater number of check-ups for new mothers, an increase of 26,000 new staff, more health checks for vaccinations and learning disabilities, expanded referrals for social prescribing, and better safety checks for prescriptions.<sup>3396</sup>

On 8 February 2020, Secretary Sharma pledged EUR5 million in funding to the World Health Organization (WHO) to support the Emergency Flash Appeal.<sup>3397</sup> The funding will be used to train medical personnel and rapid response teams to prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>3398</sup> The UK will also send experts to the WHO Regional Office for Africa to assist with the international response.<sup>3399</sup>

On 10 February 2020, COVID-19 diagnostic tests developed by PHE were introduced across the UK.<sup>3400</sup> The rollout expands the number of diagnostic laboratories from one to twelve.<sup>3401</sup> The goal is to increase testing capacity across the UK, with the number of tests in England increasing from 100 to 1,000 people each day.<sup>3402</sup>

On 10 February 2020, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock announced that the Health Protection (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 were in effect to reduce the spread of COVID-19.<sup>3403</sup> The regulations state that individuals can be restricted if they are deemed a public health threat

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<sup>3394</sup> €1.5 billion to deliver Government commitment for 50 million more general practice appointments, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15-billion-to-deliver-government-commitment-for-50-million-more-general-practice-appointments>.

<sup>3395</sup> €1.5 billion to deliver Government commitment for 50 million more general practice appointments, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15-billion-to-deliver-government-commitment-for-50-million-more-general-practice-appointments>.

<sup>3396</sup> €1.5 billion to deliver Government commitment for 50 million more general practice appointments, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15-billion-to-deliver-government-commitment-for-50-million-more-general-practice-appointments>.

<sup>3397</sup> New UK aid to help stop the spread of coronavirus around the world, Department for International Development (London) 8 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-aid-to-help-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-around-the-world>.

<sup>3398</sup> New UK aid to help stop the spread of coronavirus around the world, Department for International Development (London) 8 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-aid-to-help-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-around-the-world>.

<sup>3399</sup> New UK aid to help stop the spread of coronavirus around the world, Department for International Development (London) 8 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-aid-to-help-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-around-the-world>.

<sup>3400</sup> PHE novel coronavirus diagnostic test rolled out across UK, Public Health England (London) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-novel-coronavirus-diagnostic-test-rolled-out-across-uk>.

<sup>3401</sup> PHE novel coronavirus diagnostic test rolled out across UK, Public Health England (London) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-novel-coronavirus-diagnostic-test-rolled-out-across-uk>.

<sup>3402</sup> PHE novel coronavirus diagnostic test rolled out across UK, Public Health England (London) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-novel-coronavirus-diagnostic-test-rolled-out-across-uk>.

<sup>3403</sup> Health Secretary announces strengthened legal powers to bolster public health protections against coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-announces-strengthened-legal-powers-to-bolster-public-health-protections-against-coronavirus>.

by health professionals.<sup>3404</sup> Regulation 3 indicates that COVID-19 is a serious public health threat.<sup>3405</sup> In accordance with Regulation 2, Hancock also designated the following locations as isolation facilities: Arrowe Park Hospital and Kents Hill Park.<sup>3406</sup> On 25 February 2020, Heathrow Ariel Hotel was added as an isolation facility.<sup>3407</sup>

On 11 February 2020, the DHSC announced that the impact of coronavirus on medical supply will be monitored.<sup>3408</sup> The government asked medical suppliers to conduct business risk assessments to indicate the level of impact.<sup>3409</sup> Also, companies were urged to hold existing medical supplies when possible to ensure an adequate supply upon leaving the European Union.<sup>3410</sup>

On 13 February 2020, the Medicines and Medical Devices bill was introduced for NHS hospitals.<sup>3411</sup> The bill permits a greater range of professionals to prescribe low risk medicines and introduces new safety regulations for medical devices.<sup>3412</sup> Also, the bill allows hospitals to personalize treatments for patients with unique diseases.<sup>3413</sup>

On 17 February 2020, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) launched a social media awareness campaign regarding polypharmacy.<sup>3414</sup> Individuals can report suspected side effects using the Yellow Card Scheme to inform safe medication usage and regulation.<sup>3415</sup>

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<sup>3404</sup> Health Secretary announces strengthened legal powers to bolster public health protections against coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-announces-strengthened-legal-powers-to-bolster-public-health-protections-against-coronavirus>.

<sup>3405</sup> Secretary of State makes new regulations on coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secretary-of-state-makes-new-regulations-on-coronavirus#history>.

<sup>3406</sup> Secretary of State makes new regulations on coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secretary-of-state-makes-new-regulations-on-coronavirus#history>.

<sup>3407</sup> Secretary of State makes new regulations on coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secretary-of-state-makes-new-regulations-on-coronavirus#history>.

<sup>3408</sup> Government to monitor impact of coronavirus on UK medicine supply, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-monitor-impact-of-coronavirus-on-uk-medicine-supply>.

<sup>3409</sup> Government to monitor impact of coronavirus on UK medicine supply, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-monitor-impact-of-coronavirus-on-uk-medicine-supply>.

<sup>3410</sup> Government to monitor impact of coronavirus on UK medicine supply, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-monitor-impact-of-coronavirus-on-uk-medicine-supply>.

<sup>3411</sup> New bill gives hospitals power to develop personalised treatment, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bill-gives-hospitals-power-to-develop-personalised-treatment>.

<sup>3412</sup> New bill gives hospitals power to develop personalised treatment, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bill-gives-hospitals-power-to-develop-personalised-treatment>.

<sup>3413</sup> New bill gives hospitals power to develop personalised treatment, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bill-gives-hospitals-power-to-develop-personalised-treatment>.

<sup>3414</sup> Taking multiple medicines? Support the Yellow Card scheme by reporting suspected side effects, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/taking-multiple-medicines-support-the-yellow-card-scheme-by-reporting-suspected-side-effects>.

On 20 February 2020, the UK government announced EUR10 million in funding for medical research.<sup>3416</sup> Life Sciences Minister Nadhim Zahawi launched the Innovation Scholars Scheme to generate new technologies and treatments for NHS patients.<sup>3417</sup> UK researchers and businesses can use the funding to develop treatments for life-threatening conditions.<sup>3418</sup>

On 26 February 2020, PHE and the NHS launched a new COVID-19 surveillance system to prevent the spread of coronavirus.<sup>3419</sup> The system will be implemented in some NHS hospital intensive care units and severe respiratory failure centres.<sup>3420</sup> The goal of the surveillance strategy is to quickly detect the spread of coronavirus across England.<sup>3421</sup>

On 3 March 2020, Prime Minister Johnson announced the coronavirus action plan.<sup>3422</sup> An official document was published online to highlight the government's plans as well as preventative measures citizens can implement.<sup>3423</sup> The plan has four stages: contain, delay, research, and mitigate.<sup>3424</sup> The plan also discusses measures that should be implemented in the case that the virus becomes a pandemic.<sup>3425</sup>

On 2 March 2020, the MHRA implemented changes to import restrictions on cannabis-based medicines.<sup>3426</sup> The changes will allow licensed wholesalers to import larger quantities and hold

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<sup>3415</sup> Taking multiple medicines? Support the Yellow Card scheme by reporting suspected side effects, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/taking-multiple-medicines-support-the-yellow-card-scheme-by-reporting-suspected-side-effects>.

<sup>3416</sup> €10 million boost to improve patient care with new technologies, Office for Life Sciences (London) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-million-boost-to-improve-patient-care-with-new-technologies>.

<sup>3417</sup> €10 million boost to improve patient care with new technologies, Office for Life Sciences (London) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-million-boost-to-improve-patient-care-with-new-technologies>.

<sup>3418</sup> €10 million boost to improve patient care with new technologies, Office for Life Sciences (London) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-million-boost-to-improve-patient-care-with-new-technologies>.

<sup>3419</sup> New surveillance system for early detection of COVID-19, Public Health England (London) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-surveillance-system-for-early-detection-of-covid-19>.

<sup>3420</sup> New surveillance system for early detection of COVID-19, Public Health England (London) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-surveillance-system-for-early-detection-of-covid-19>.

<sup>3421</sup> New surveillance system for early detection of COVID-19, Public Health England (London) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-surveillance-system-for-early-detection-of-covid-19>.

<sup>3422</sup> Coronavirus action plan launched, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-action-plan-launched>.

<sup>3423</sup> Coronavirus action plan launched, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-action-plan-launched>.

<sup>3424</sup> Coronavirus action plan launched, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-action-plan-launched>.

<sup>3425</sup> Coronavirus action plan launched, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-action-plan-launched>.

<sup>3426</sup> Faster access to cannabis-based medicines as import restrictions are changed, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/faster-access-to-cannabis-based-medicines-as-import-restrictions-are-changed>.

supplies.<sup>3427</sup> These changes will ensure that treatment is not delayed for individuals with rare and serious epilepsy or multiple sclerosis.<sup>3428</sup>

On 2 March 2020, the E3 committed EUR3 million to Iran through the WHO or United Nations agencies.<sup>3429</sup> The financial support will be used to aid Iran in their fight against the coronavirus.<sup>3430</sup> The E3 consists of France, Germany, and the UK.<sup>3431</sup> The E3 also committed material support, such as equipment for laboratory tests, protective body suits, and gloves.<sup>3432</sup>

On 3 March 2020, the DHSC announced the next phase of the “We Are The NHS” multimedia recruitment campaign, aimed at recruiting healthcare professionals to the NHS.<sup>3433</sup> The latest phase aims to recruit paramedics, radiographers, and nurses.<sup>3434</sup> Efforts are aligned with the government’s goal of recruiting 50,000 more nurses and 26,000 primary care professionals to the NHS by 2024/25.<sup>3435</sup>

On 3 March 2020 to 10 March 2020, the MHRA Enforcement Team and UK Border Force participated in Operation Pangea XIII which spanned 90 countries.<sup>3436</sup> Police and health authorities took part in Operation Pangea XIII which aimed to stop online sales of medical and hygiene products to prevent exploitation of high market demand.<sup>3437</sup>

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<sup>3427</sup> Faster access to cannabis-based medicines as import restrictions are changed, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/faster-access-to-cannabis-based-medicines-as-import-restrictions-are-changed>.

<sup>3428</sup> Faster access to cannabis-based medicines as import restrictions are changed, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/faster-access-to-cannabis-based-medicines-as-import-restrictions-are-changed>.

<sup>3429</sup> €5 million to help fight coronavirus in Iran: E3 statement, Department for International Development (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e3-statement-on-5-million-to-help-fight-coronavirus-in-iran-02-march-2020>.

<sup>3430</sup> €5 million to help fight coronavirus in Iran: E3 statement, Department for International Development (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e3-statement-on-5-million-to-help-fight-coronavirus-in-iran-02-march-2020>.

<sup>3431</sup> €5 million to help fight coronavirus in Iran: E3 statement, Department for International Development (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e3-statement-on-5-million-to-help-fight-coronavirus-in-iran-02-march-2020>.

<sup>3432</sup> €5 million to help fight coronavirus in Iran: E3 statement, Department for International Development (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e3-statement-on-5-million-to-help-fight-coronavirus-in-iran-02-march-2020>.

<sup>3433</sup> National recruitment campaign for paramedics, radiographers and nurses begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-recruitment-campaign-for-paramedics-radiographers-and-nurses-begins>.

<sup>3434</sup> National recruitment campaign for paramedics, radiographers and nurses begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-recruitment-campaign-for-paramedics-radiographers-and-nurses-begins>.

<sup>3435</sup> National recruitment campaign for paramedics, radiographers and nurses begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-recruitment-campaign-for-paramedics-radiographers-and-nurses-begins>.

<sup>3436</sup> Coronavirus: global crackdown sees a rise in unlicensed medical products related to COVID-19, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-global-crackdown-sees-a-rise-in-unlicensed-medical-products-related-to-covid-19>.

<sup>3437</sup> Coronavirus: global crackdown sees a rise in unlicensed medical products related to COVID-19, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-global-crackdown-sees-a-rise-in-unlicensed-medical-products-related-to-covid-19>.

On 5 March 2020, Universal Mental Health Day, the DHSC announced EUR1 million in funding for innovative student mental health projects.<sup>3438</sup> The funding will be focused on reaching students at risk of mental health concerns, as well as individuals that face barriers in accessing resources.<sup>3439</sup>

On 5 March 2020, the UK government listed COVID-19 as a notifiable disease, requiring general practitioners to report any cases to PHE by law.<sup>3440</sup>

On 11 March 2020, Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced EUR5 billion for the COVID-19 fund.<sup>3441</sup> EUR1.6 billion will be directed to local authorities to assist with the COVID-19 response.<sup>3442</sup> Funds will support adult social care workers and services for vulnerable individuals.<sup>3443</sup> EUR1.3 billion will support a safe and fast NHS discharge process for patients that no longer require urgent care.<sup>3444</sup> Such actions will help vacate 15,000 NHS beds in England.<sup>3445</sup>

On 15 March 2020, the DHSC announced EUR16 million in funding in 2020/21 to increase the availability of the drug PrEP across England.<sup>3446</sup> The goal is to provide PrEP at sexual health clinics for individuals at high risk of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).<sup>3447</sup> Such actions align with the government's aim to end HIV transmission by 2030.<sup>3448</sup>

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<sup>3438</sup> €1 million for innovative student mental health projects, Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Education (London) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-for-innovative-student-mental-health-projects>.

<sup>3439</sup> €1 million for innovative student mental health projects, Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Education (London) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-for-innovative-student-mental-health-projects>.

<sup>3440</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19) listed as a notifiable disease, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-listed-as-a-notifiable-disease>.

<sup>3441</sup> Support for those affected by COVID-19, HM Treasury (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19>.

<sup>3442</sup> €2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable>.

<sup>3443</sup> €2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable>.

<sup>3444</sup> €2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable>.

<sup>3445</sup> €2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable>.

<sup>3446</sup> HIV drug PrEP to be available across England, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hiv-drug-prep-to-be-available-across-england>.

<sup>3447</sup> HIV drug PrEP to be available across England, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hiv-drug-prep-to-be-available-across-england>.

<sup>3448</sup> HIV drug PrEP to be available across England, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hiv-drug-prep-to-be-available-across-england>.

On 16 March 2020, Prime Minister Johnson called on leading manufacturers in the UK to increase production of ventilators among other vital medical equipment to help the NHS.<sup>3449</sup> Contributions can be made on several levels, including: design, procurement, assembly, testing, and shipping.<sup>3450</sup> On 26 March 2020, Prime Minister Johnson asked suppliers and manufacturers to increase ventilator production.<sup>3451</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the UK government announced new ministerial structures to combat COVID-19 across the government.<sup>3452</sup> Prime Minister Johnson will chair daily COVID-19 meetings that involve four new implementation committees.<sup>3453</sup> The Health Secretary chairs the healthcare committee, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster chairs the general public sector committee, the Chancellor chairs the economic and business committee, and the Foreign Secretary chairs the international committee.<sup>3454</sup>

On 17 March 2020, NHS England announced efforts to free up 20,000 of 100,000 hospital beds to cope with COVID-19 patients burdening hospitals.<sup>3455</sup> Efforts include postponing non-urgent operations and greater reliance on community care.<sup>3456</sup>

On 18 March 2020, Prime Minister Johnson outlined UK foreign aid during a press conference on COVID-19.<sup>3457</sup> He stated that the UK pledged EUR91 million to international efforts, and EUR150 million to the International Monetary Fund's "Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust" to stop transmission and aid countries in managing the effects of the outbreak.<sup>3458</sup>

On 18 March 2020, the UK government announced plans to increase PHE COVID-19 testing to 25,000 hospital patients each day.<sup>3459</sup> Point-of-care swab tests will be developed to test suspected patients outside of the hospital.<sup>3460</sup>

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<sup>3449</sup> PM call with UK's leading manufacturers, Prime Minister's Office (London) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-uks-leading-manufacturers-16-march-2020>.

<sup>3450</sup> PM call with UK's leading manufacturers, Prime Minister's Office (London) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-uks-leading-manufacturers-16-march-2020>.

<sup>3451</sup> PM call with ventilator manufacturers and suppliers, Prime Minister's Office (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-ventilator-manufacturers-and-suppliers-26-march-2020>.

<sup>3452</sup> New government structures to coordinate response to coronavirus, Prime Minister's Office (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-structures-to-coordinate-response-to-coronavirus>.

<sup>3453</sup> New government structures to coordinate response to coronavirus, Prime Minister's Office (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-structures-to-coordinate-response-to-coronavirus>.

<sup>3454</sup> New government structures to coordinate response to coronavirus, Prime Minister's Office (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-structures-to-coordinate-response-to-coronavirus>.

<sup>3455</sup> Coronavirus: Thousands of extra hospital beds and staff, BBC News (London) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51989183>.

<sup>3456</sup> Coronavirus: Thousands of extra hospital beds and staff, BBC News (London) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51989183>.

<sup>3457</sup> UK takes drastic measures to tackle COVID-19, British Embassy Beijing (Beijing) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-takes-drastic-measures-to-tackle-covid-19>.

<sup>3458</sup> UK takes drastic measures to tackle COVID-19, British Embassy Beijing (Beijing) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-takes-drastic-measures-to-tackle-covid-19>.

<sup>3459</sup> Testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) will increase to 25,000 a day, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/testing-for-coronavirus-covid-19-will-increase-to-25-000-a-day>.

On 20 March 2020, the UK government announced a parallel export ban for more than eighty medicines relevant to COVID-19.<sup>3461</sup> The ban will ensure that there is no shortage for coronavirus patients.<sup>3462</sup> Companies that violate the ban can face consequences by the MHRA.<sup>3463</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the United States Food and Drug Administration awarded PHE scientists USD500,000 for vaccine and treatment development.<sup>3464</sup> The funding supports the international response to COVID-19.<sup>3465</sup>

On 20 March 2020, schools, colleges, and early year settings were closed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to all students except children of key workers and vulnerable children.<sup>3466</sup> Entertainment, hospitality, and indoor leisure premises were also closed across England.<sup>3467</sup> Measures were implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19.<sup>3468</sup>

On 21 March 2020, Secretary Hancock enacted the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Business Closure) (England) Regulations 2020.<sup>3469</sup> The measures include prohibition of food and drink sales on various premises.<sup>3470</sup>

On 21 March 2020, the NHS made a deal with private hospitals to provide 8,000 extra hospital beds in England, 1,200 ventilators, and 20,000 staff to aid the coronavirus response.<sup>3471</sup>

On 23 March 2020, the UK government announced EUR20 million in funding for the COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium.<sup>3472</sup> The NHS, PHE, UK Research and Innovation, Wellcome Sanger

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<sup>3460</sup> Testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) will increase to 25,000 a day, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/testing-for-coronavirus-covid-19-will-increase-to-25-000-a-day>.

<sup>3461</sup> Crucial medicines protected for coronavirus (COVID-19) patients, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crucial-medicines-protected-for-coronavirus-covid-19-patients>.

<sup>3462</sup> Crucial medicines protected for coronavirus (COVID-19) patients, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crucial-medicines-protected-for-coronavirus-covid-19-patients>.

<sup>3463</sup> Crucial medicines protected for coronavirus (COVID-19) patients, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crucial-medicines-protected-for-coronavirus-covid-19-patients>.

<sup>3464</sup> PHE plays crucial role in hunt for COVID-19 vaccine, Public Health England (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-plays-crucial-role-in-hunt-for-covid-19-vaccine>.

<sup>3465</sup> PHE plays crucial role in hunt for COVID-19 vaccine, Public Health England (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-plays-crucial-role-in-hunt-for-covid-19-vaccine>.

<sup>3466</sup> Schools, colleges and early years settings to close, Department of Education (Manchester) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-colleges-and-early-years-settings-to-close>.

<sup>3467</sup> Government announces further measures on social distances, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-further-measures-on-social-distancing>.

<sup>3468</sup> Government announces further measures on social distances, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-further-measures-on-social-distancing>.

<sup>3469</sup> New regulations created by Secretary of State for business closure (COVID-19), Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-regulations-created-by-secretary-of-state-for-business-closure-covid-19>.

<sup>3470</sup> New regulations created by Secretary of State for business closure (COVID-19), Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-regulations-created-by-secretary-of-state-for-business-closure-covid-19>.

<sup>3471</sup> Coronavirus: Thousands of extra hospital beds and staff, BBC News (London) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51989183>.

Institute, and other institutions, will work together to facilitate whole genome sequencing of COVID-19 in order to understand spreading patterns and mutations.<sup>3473</sup>

On 23 March 2020, the NHSX launched the Techforce19 challenge which can award EUR500,000 in funding overall for technology companies.<sup>3474</sup> The goal is to provide digital solutions for individuals who must remain at home due to COVID-19.<sup>3475</sup>

On 23 March 2020, Business Secretary Alok Sharma announced EUR20 million of government investment in six coronavirus research projects aimed at vaccine development and treatment.<sup>3476</sup> Other projects involve repurposing existing therapies, using antibodies to target the virus, drug testing, and collecting data regarding infected patients.<sup>3477</sup>

On 24 March 2020, Secretary Hancock stated that the government is seeking 250,000 volunteers to aid the NHS during COVID-19.<sup>3478</sup> The NHS Volunteer Responders will help 1.5 million people with tasks such as medicine delivery.<sup>3479</sup>

On 24 March 2020, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock stated that the ExCel center will be converted to an intensive care unit named NHS Nightingale.<sup>3480</sup> The temporary hospital will have 4,000 available beds for potential COVID-19 patients.<sup>3481</sup>

On 25 March 2020 the Coronavirus Bill became an Act of Parliament.<sup>3482</sup> The bill allows the UK government to implement emergency measures in response to COVID-19 for two years.<sup>3483</sup> The bill

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<sup>3472</sup> UK launches whole genome sequence alliance to map spread of coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-whole-genome-sequence-alliance-to-map-spread-of-coronavirus>.

<sup>3473</sup> UK launches whole genome sequence alliance to map spread of coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-whole-genome-sequence-alliance-to-map-spread-of-coronavirus>.

<sup>3474</sup> New technology challenge to support people who are isolating, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-technology-challenge-to-support-people-who-are-isolating>.

<sup>3475</sup> New technology challenge to support people who are isolating, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-technology-challenge-to-support-people-who-are-isolating>.

<sup>3476</sup> Vaccine trials among recipients of €20 million coronavirus research investment, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccine-trials-among-recipients-of-20-million-coronavirus-research-investment>.

<sup>3477</sup> Vaccine trials among recipients of €20 million coronavirus research investment, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccine-trials-among-recipients-of-20-million-coronavirus-research-investment>.

<sup>3478</sup> UK asks for 250,000 volunteers to help its health service cope with the coronavirus outbreak, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/24/uk-asks-for-250000-volunteers-to-help-its-health-service-cope-with-the-coronavirus-outbreak.html>.

<sup>3479</sup> UK asks for 250,000 volunteers to help its health service cope with the coronavirus outbreak, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/24/uk-asks-for-250000-volunteers-to-help-its-health-service-cope-with-the-coronavirus-outbreak.html>.

<sup>3480</sup> UK races to convert a convention hall into hospital for coronavirus patients, CNN (London) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/01/health/nightingale-hospital-london-coronavirus-intl-gbr/index.html>.

<sup>3481</sup> UK races to convert a convention hall into hospital for coronavirus patients, CNN (London) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/01/health/nightingale-hospital-london-coronavirus-intl-gbr/index.html>.

<sup>3482</sup> Lords examines emergency Covid-19 legislation, UK Parliament (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2020/march/lords-debates-emergency-covid-19-legislation/>.

forbids group gatherings and allows the government to order suspected COVID-19 cases to self-isolate, among other measures.<sup>3484</sup>

On 25 March 2020, the UK government launched the free coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp.<sup>3485</sup> The service is designed to offer information to the public regarding COVID-19, reducing the burden for the NHS.<sup>3486</sup> The service will include information about prevention and symptoms, latest statistics, and general advice.<sup>3487</sup>

On 25 March 2020, the Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) announced an Open Call for Innovation for industry members interested in developing sanitizing technology for ambulances and other settings.<sup>3488</sup> Such measures would reduce the amount of time required to clean ambulances after attending to an individual suspected of COVID-19.<sup>3489</sup> DASA is working with the Welsh Government, The Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Centre of Excellence, the Welsh Ambulance Service, Innovate UK, and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.<sup>3490</sup>

On 26 March 2020, Secretary Hancock announced that 15,266 former professionals in England offered to help the NHS with COVID-19.<sup>3491</sup> Also, 5,750 final year medics and 17,000 final year nursing students would be approached to consider assisting the NHS in the following week.<sup>3492</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the UK government pledged EUR210 million to find a vaccine for the coronavirus.<sup>3493</sup> The announcement was made following a virtual summit of G20 leaders.<sup>3494</sup> The

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<sup>3483</sup> Emergency coronavirus legislation passed by MPs without opposition, The Guardian (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/23/mps-to-review-coronavirus-emergency-laws-every-six-months>.

<sup>3484</sup> Emergency coronavirus legislation passed by MPs without opposition, The Guardian (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/23/mps-to-review-coronavirus-emergency-laws-every-six-months>.

<sup>3485</sup> Government launches Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp, Cabinet Office (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-coronavirus-information-service-on-whatsapp>.

<sup>3486</sup> Government launches Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp, Cabinet Office (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-coronavirus-information-service-on-whatsapp>.

<sup>3487</sup> Government launches Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp, Cabinet Office (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-coronavirus-information-service-on-whatsapp>.

<sup>3488</sup> COVID-19: Call for rapid sanitising technology for ambulances, Defence and Security Accelerator (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-call-for-rapid-sanitising-technology-for-ambulances>.

<sup>3489</sup> COVID-19: Call for rapid sanitising technology for ambulances, Defence and Security Accelerator (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-call-for-rapid-sanitising-technology-for-ambulances>.

<sup>3490</sup> COVID-19: Call for rapid sanitising technology for ambulances, Defence and Security Accelerator (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-call-for-rapid-sanitising-technology-for-ambulances>.

<sup>3491</sup> Health and Social Care Secretary responds to NHS workforce statistics, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-and-social-care-secretary-responds-to-nhs-workforce-statistics>.

<sup>3492</sup> Health and Social Care Secretary responds to NHS workforce statistics, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-and-social-care-secretary-responds-to-nhs-workforce-statistics>.

<sup>3493</sup> UK pledges €544 million to find coronavirus vaccine, British High Commission New Delhi (New Delhi) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-544-million-to-find-coronavirus-vaccine>.

funds were allocated for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, bringing the UK total to EUR544 million.<sup>3495</sup> The total funding involves EUR210 million for vaccine development, EUR40 million for treatment development, and EUR23 million for testing devices.<sup>3496</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the DHSC launched the new COVID-19 testing program for frontline NHS workers.<sup>3497</sup> The program will involve both government and industry to increase COVID-10 testing.<sup>3498</sup> Involved parties include Thermo Fisher Scientific, Amazon, Boots, Royal Mail and Randox, Wellcome Trust, and UK universities.<sup>3499</sup> The goal is to inform NHS staff whether they need to self-isolate.<sup>3500</sup>

On 28 March 2020, Secretary Sharma temporarily suspended regulations to bring personal protective equipment and hand sanitizers to NHS staff more quickly.<sup>3501</sup> The intention is to protect healthcare workers on the frontline.<sup>3502</sup>

On 28 March 2020, Prime Minister Johnson wrote a letter to every household in the UK.<sup>3503</sup> The intention advised individuals to stay home to protect the NHS and help the public at large.<sup>3504</sup> The letters will be delivered to 30 million households across the UK to remind individuals to maintain social distancing to limit the spread of COVID-19.<sup>3505</sup>

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<sup>3494</sup> UK pledges €544 million to find coronavirus vaccine, British High Commission New Delhi (New Delhi) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-544-million-to-find-coronavirus-vaccine>.

<sup>3495</sup> UK pledges €544 million to find coronavirus vaccine, British High Commission New Delhi (New Delhi) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-544-million-to-find-coronavirus-vaccine>.

<sup>3496</sup> UK pledges €544 million to find coronavirus vaccine, British High Commission New Delhi (New Delhi) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-544-million-to-find-coronavirus-vaccine>.

<sup>3497</sup> Government launches new drive on coronavirus tests for frontline NHS staff, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-drive-on-coronavirus-tests-for-frontline-nhs-staff>.

<sup>3498</sup> Government launches new drive on coronavirus tests for frontline NHS staff, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-drive-on-coronavirus-tests-for-frontline-nhs-staff>.

<sup>3499</sup> Government launches new drive on coronavirus tests for frontline NHS staff, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-drive-on-coronavirus-tests-for-frontline-nhs-staff>.

<sup>3500</sup> Coronavirus: Health workers on frontline to be tested in England, BBC News (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-52070199>.

<sup>3501</sup> Regulations temporarily suspended to fast-track supplies of PPE to NHS staff and protect companies hit by COVID-19, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulations-temporarily-suspended-to-fast-track-supplies-of-ppe-to-nhs-staff-and-protect-companies-hit-by-covid-19>.

<sup>3502</sup> Regulations temporarily suspended to fast-track supplies of PPE to NHS staff and protect companies hit by COVID-19, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulations-temporarily-suspended-to-fast-track-supplies-of-ppe-to-nhs-staff-and-protect-companies-hit-by-covid-19>.

<sup>3503</sup> PM letter to nation on coronavirus, Prime Minister's Office (London) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pm-letter-to-nation-on-coronavirus>.

<sup>3504</sup> PM letter to nation on coronavirus, Prime Minister's Office (London) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pm-letter-to-nation-on-coronavirus>.

<sup>3505</sup> PM letter to nation on coronavirus, Prime Minister's Office (London) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pm-letter-to-nation-on-coronavirus>.

On 29 March 2020, Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick announced that the UK government delivered the first of 50,000 free food boxes along with medications supplied by community pharmacies to vulnerable populations.<sup>3506</sup>

On 29 March 2020, Mental Health Minister Nadine Dorries announced that the PHE published mental health guidance for individuals during the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>3507</sup> Mental health charities donated EUR5 million to help expand service and the guidance is supported by the NHS.<sup>3508</sup>

On 30 March 2020, Secretary Hancock temporarily approved two measures for early medical abortions: early abortion pills up to ten weeks without the need to visit a hospital or clinic, and prescription of pills by registered medical practitioners.<sup>3509</sup> The measures were introduced to encourage individuals to stay at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3510</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the MHRA approved a breathing aid for COVID-19 patients.<sup>3511</sup> The MHRA guided the University College London and Mercedes Formula One in the development of an adapted Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device.<sup>3512</sup> The device functions by providing the lungs with oxygen, reducing the need for a ventilator.<sup>3513</sup> Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove stated that the 10,000 CPAP devices will be provided to patients.<sup>3514</sup>

On 31 March 2020, Chancellor Sunak removed import taxes on medical equipment such as ventilators, coronavirus testing kits, face masks, protective garments, and eye protectors.<sup>3515</sup> The

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<sup>3506</sup> First food parcels delivered to clinically vulnerable people, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (London) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-food-parcels-delivered-to-clinically-vulnerable-people>.

<sup>3507</sup> New advice to support mental health during coronavirus outbreak, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-advice-to-support-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>.

<sup>3508</sup> New advice to support mental health during coronavirus outbreak, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-advice-to-support-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>.

<sup>3509</sup> Temporary approval of home use for both stages of early medical abortion, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-approval-of-home-use-for-both-stages-of-early-medical-abortion--2>.

<sup>3510</sup> Temporary approval of home use for both stages of early medical abortion, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-approval-of-home-use-for-both-stages-of-early-medical-abortion--2>.

<sup>3511</sup> MHRA approves new life-saving breathing aid to help keep coronavirus (COVID-19) patients out of intensive care, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-approves-new-life-saving-breathing-aid-to-help-keep-coronavirus-covid-19-patients-out-of-intensive-care>.

<sup>3512</sup> MHRA approves new life-saving breathing aid to help keep coronavirus (COVID-19) patients out of intensive care, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-approves-new-life-saving-breathing-aid-to-help-keep-coronavirus-covid-19-patients-out-of-intensive-care>.

<sup>3513</sup> MHRA approves new life-saving breathing aid to help keep coronavirus (COVID-19) patients out of intensive care, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-approves-new-life-saving-breathing-aid-to-help-keep-coronavirus-covid-19-patients-out-of-intensive-care>.

<sup>3514</sup> Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster opens the coronavirus press conference, Cabinet Office (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/chancellor-of-the-duchy-of-lancaster-opens-the-coronavirus-press-conference-31-march-2020>.

<sup>3515</sup> Chancellor waives duties and VAT on vital medical imports, HM Treasury (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-waives-duties-and-vat-on-vital-medical-imports>.

items will not be taxed according to customs duty or import VAT to increase the import of essential items during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3516</sup>

On 31 March 2020, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove announced the first Penlon ventilators from the government's challenge will be delivered to the NHS in the following week.<sup>3517</sup> More ventilators are expected in the coming weeks.<sup>3518</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the UK government provided EUR200 million to community pharmacies.<sup>3519</sup> An additional EUR100 million will be provided on 1 May 2020.<sup>3520</sup> The funding will be used to help pharmacies continue delivering essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3521</sup>

On 2 April 2020, Secretary Hancock pledged that 100,000 COVID-19 tests will take place each day by the end of April.<sup>3522</sup> This pledge was part of the 5-pillar plan to increase testing capacity, which states the intention to increase swab testing, deliver increased commercial swab testing, develop blood testing, conduct UK wide surveillance, and create a national testing effort.<sup>3523</sup>

On 2 April 2020, Secretary Hancock announced EUR13.4 billion of NHS debt will be written off.<sup>3524</sup> This intention is to provide the NHS with financial support to maintain services and improve infrastructure during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3525</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the DHSC announced the Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy (RECOVERY).<sup>3526</sup> RECOVERY will be the largest randomized clinical trial project in the world.<sup>3527</sup>

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<sup>3516</sup> Chancellor waives duties and VAT on vital medical imports, HM Treasury (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-waives-duties-and-vat-on-vital-medical-imports>.

<sup>3517</sup> First new ventilators to roll off production line this weekend as industry answers call to step up manufacturing, Cabinet Office (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-new-ventilators-to-roll-off-production-line-this-weekend-as-industry-answers-call-to-step-up-manufacturing>.

<sup>3518</sup> First new ventilators to roll off production line this weekend as industry answers call to step up manufacturing, Cabinet Office (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-new-ventilators-to-roll-off-production-line-this-weekend-as-industry-answers-call-to-step-up-manufacturing>.

<sup>3519</sup> €300 million announced for community pharmacies to support them during coronavirus outbreak, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-announced-for-community-pharmacies-to-support-them-during-coronavirus-outbreak>.

<sup>3520</sup> €300 million announced for community pharmacies to support them during coronavirus outbreak, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-announced-for-community-pharmacies-to-support-them-during-coronavirus-outbreak>.

<sup>3521</sup> €300 million announced for community pharmacies to support them during coronavirus outbreak, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-announced-for-community-pharmacies-to-support-them-during-coronavirus-outbreak>.

<sup>3522</sup> Health Secretary sets out plan to carry out 100,000 coronavirus tests a day, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-sets-out-plan-to-carry-out-100000-coronavirus-tests-a-day>.

<sup>3523</sup> Health Secretary sets out plan to carry out 100,000 coronavirus tests a day, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-sets-out-plan-to-carry-out-100000-coronavirus-tests-a-day>.

<sup>3524</sup> NHS to benefit from €13.4 billion debt write-off, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-to-benefit-from-13-4-billion-debt-write-off>.

<sup>3525</sup> NHS to benefit from €13.4 billion debt write-off, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-to-benefit-from-13-4-billion-debt-write-off>.

<sup>3526</sup> World's largest trial of potential coronavirus treatments rolled out across the UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-trial-of-potential-coronavirus-treatments-rolled-out-across-the-uk>.

<sup>3527</sup> World's largest trial of potential coronavirus treatments rolled out across the UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-trial-of-potential-coronavirus-treatments-rolled-out-across-the-uk>.

1,000 patients across 132 hospitals were recruited thus far to test treatments including Lopinavir-Ritonavir, Dexamethasone, and Hydroxychloroquine.<sup>3528</sup> The project received EUR2.1 million from the EUR20 million dedicated for research.<sup>3529</sup> Funding sources include the UK Research and Innovation and the DHSC.<sup>3530</sup>

On 4 April 2020, Secretary Hancock launched the Coronavirus Status Checker on the NHS website.<sup>3531</sup> People with coronavirus symptoms can fill out the status checker and answer a questionnaire about their experience with the NHS.<sup>3532</sup> The purpose of the Coronavirus Status Checker is to collect information that can inform improvements to the NHS coronavirus response.<sup>3533</sup>

On 5 April 2020, the UK government pledged EUR200 million for global COVID-19 response efforts.<sup>3534</sup> Of the EUR200 million, EUR130 million is for the United Nations, EUR65 million is for the World Health Organization, and EUR50 million is for the Red Cross.<sup>3535</sup> The goal is to minimize the spread of COVID-19 during the second wave.<sup>3536</sup>

On 9 April 2020, Secretary Hancock launched a diagnostic lab network in Milton Keynes.<sup>3537</sup> The lab is the largest in British history and will work to increase national testing.<sup>3538</sup> Two other Lighthouse Labs will open in Alderley Park and Glasgow.<sup>3539</sup>

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<sup>3528</sup> World's largest trial of potential coronavirus treatments rolled out across the UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-trial-of-potential-coronavirus-treatments-rolled-out-across-the-uk>.

<sup>3529</sup> World's largest trial of potential coronavirus treatments rolled out across the UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-trial-of-potential-coronavirus-treatments-rolled-out-across-the-uk>.

<sup>3530</sup> World's largest trial of potential coronavirus treatments rolled out across the UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-trial-of-potential-coronavirus-treatments-rolled-out-across-the-uk>.

<sup>3531</sup> NHS asks people to share their coronavirus symptoms to help others, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-asks-people-to-share-their-coronavirus-symptoms-to-help-others>.

<sup>3532</sup> NHS asks people to share their coronavirus symptoms to help others, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-asks-people-to-share-their-coronavirus-symptoms-to-help-others>.

<sup>3533</sup> NHS asks people to share their coronavirus symptoms to help others, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-asks-people-to-share-their-coronavirus-symptoms-to-help-others>.

<sup>3534</sup> UK pledges 200 million pounds in aid to help stop second coronavirus wave, New York Times (London) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/04/11/world/europe/11reuters-health-coronavirus-britain-aid.html>.

<sup>3535</sup> UK pledges 200 million pounds in aid to help stop second coronavirus wave, New York Times (London) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/04/11/world/europe/11reuters-health-coronavirus-britain-aid.html>.

<sup>3536</sup> UK pledges 200 million pounds in aid to help stop second coronavirus wave, New York Times (London) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/04/11/world/europe/11reuters-health-coronavirus-britain-aid.html>.

<sup>3537</sup> Health Secretary launches biggest diagnostic lab network in British history to test for coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-launches-biggest-diagnostic-lab-network-in-british-history-to-test-for-coronavirus>.

<sup>3538</sup> Health Secretary launches biggest diagnostic lab network in British history to test for coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-launches-biggest-diagnostic-lab-network-in-british-history-to-test-for-coronavirus>.

On 9 April 2020, the UK government launched a campaign advising the public to remain at home over the Easter weekend.<sup>3540</sup> The multimedia campaign aims to minimize the spread of COVID-19.<sup>3541</sup>

On 10 April 2020, Secretary Hancock published a plan regarding personal protective equipment with three strands: guidance, distribution, and future supply.<sup>3542</sup> The purpose is to ensure that the equipment reaches individuals who are most in need.<sup>3543</sup> Other existing measures include a 24-hour helpline for emergency equipment drops to healthcare providers and military intervention to help supply equipment.<sup>3544</sup> There is also an impending website to aid healthcare providers.<sup>3545</sup>

On 10 April 2020, the British Medical Association called on the government to investigate the disproportionate death of black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) doctors.<sup>3546</sup> The first ten doctors who died from the virus in the UK were BAME, in addition to three of six nurses who have died.<sup>3547</sup>

On 13 April 2020, Chancellor Sunak announced that EUR14 billion will be allocated to public services from the coronavirus emergency response fund.<sup>3548</sup> The NHS and local authorities will receive funding.<sup>3549</sup>

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems through investments in personnel, infrastructure, technology,

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<sup>3539</sup> Health Secretary launches biggest diagnostic lab network in British history to test for coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-launches-biggest-diagnostic-lab-network-in-british-history-to-test-for-coronavirus>.

<sup>3540</sup> Coronavirus: Government launches campaign urging people to stay at home this easter, Prime Minister's Office (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-government-launches-campaign-urging-people-to-stay-at-home-this-easter>.

<sup>3541</sup> Coronavirus: Government launches campaign urging people to stay at home this easter, Prime Minister's Office (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-government-launches-campaign-urging-people-to-stay-at-home-this-easter>.

<sup>3542</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): personal protective equipment (PPE) plan, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe-plan>.

<sup>3543</sup> Government sets out plan for national effort on PPE, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plan-for-national-effort-on-ppe>.

<sup>3544</sup> Government sets out plan for national effort on PPE, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plan-for-national-effort-on-ppe>.

<sup>3545</sup> Government sets out plan for national effort on PPE, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plan-for-national-effort-on-ppe>.

<sup>3546</sup> UK government urged to investigate coronavirus deaths of BAME doctors, The Guardian (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/apr/10/uk-coronavirus-deaths-bame-doctors-bma>.

<sup>3547</sup> UK government urged to investigate coronavirus deaths of BAME doctors, The Guardian (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/apr/10/uk-coronavirus-deaths-bame-doctors-bma>.

<sup>3548</sup> Chancellor provides over €14 billion for our NHS and vital public services, HM Treasury (London) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-provides-over-14-billion-for-our-nhs-and-vital-public-services>.

<sup>3549</sup> Chancellor provides over €14 billion for our NHS and vital public services, HM Treasury (London) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-provides-over-14-billion-for-our-nhs-and-vital-public-services>.

research, as well as introducing unique strategies, programs, and funding for affected communities. The United Kingdom has also fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage through providing aid to overseas British nationals and international citizens, increasing access to vaccines and treatments, introducing supportive services for the public, and contributing additional funding to the National Health Service.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jessica Saini*

### **United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 3 September 2019, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) will award USD170 million to Emergent BioSolutions of Gaithersburg, Maryland to purchase the smallpox vaccine for people at high risk for smallpox infection over the next decade.<sup>3550</sup> This will build and replenish the Strategic National Stockpile in order to enhance biodefense preparedness.<sup>3551</sup> ASPR remains committed to the commitment of developing two additional vaccines and treatments for smallpox; Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, a component of ASPR, is still continuing to collaborate with federal and private partners to develop additional smallpox vaccines that can be administered to people at a high risk of infection or reaction to traditional vaccines and to develop antiviral drugs.<sup>3552</sup>

On 3 September 2019, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at HHS issued guidance on how to ensure equal access to services for all segments of the community during emergency circumstances, particularly Hurricane Dorian.<sup>3553</sup> OCR has also declared a public health emergency and waived certain provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act within disaster areas for 72 hours so that patient information can be shared with family members and friends who may assist in their care and between covered entities for treatment purposes, public health activities and to prevent or lessen serious threat to health and safety.<sup>3554</sup>

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<sup>3550</sup> HHS Purchase Smallpox Vaccine to Enhance Biodefense Preparedness (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/hhs-purchases-smallpox-vaccine-to-enhance-biodefense-preparedness.html>.

<sup>3551</sup> HHS Purchase Smallpox Vaccine to Enhance Biodefense Preparedness (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/hhs-purchases-smallpox-vaccine-to-enhance-biodefense-preparedness.html>.

<sup>3552</sup> HHS Purchase Smallpox Vaccine to Enhance Biodefense Preparedness (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/hhs-purchases-smallpox-vaccine-to-enhance-biodefense-preparedness.html>.

<sup>3553</sup> OCR Issues Guidance to Help Ensure Equal Access to Emergency Services and the Appropriate Sharing of Medical Information during Hurricane Dorian (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/ocr-issues-guidance-to-help-ensure-equal-access-during-hurricane-dorian.html>

<sup>3554</sup> OCR Issues Guidance to Help Ensure Equal Access to Emergency Services and the Appropriate Sharing of Medical Information during Hurricane Dorian (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/ocr-issues-guidance-to-help-ensure-equal-access-during-hurricane-dorian.html>.

On 4 September 2019, HHS announced USD1.8 billion in funding would be going towards states so that they are able to expand access to treatment for the opioid crisis and support gathering of real-time overdose data.<sup>3555</sup>

On 10 September 2019, the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology provided funding for two Leading Edge Acceleration Projects in Health Information Technology to improve health care for all Americans. Projects aim to develop health information technology infrastructure to focus on consent management, population health research, enhancement of engagement with health research and care amongst underrepresented populations, appropriate data sharing between patients, researchers and clinicians and patient security and privacy.<sup>3556</sup>

On 10 September 2019, HHS through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded almost USD9 million to launch Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies pilot program. This program aims to improve access to and continuity of maternal obstetric care in rural communities specifically Missouri, New Mexico and Texas.<sup>3557</sup> The unique aspect of this program is that network requirements provide a detailed outline of specific stakeholder involvement to focus on developing sustainable strategies at a regional level by focusing on financial stability in care, introducing telehealth and a network-based approach to ensure continuum of care.<sup>3558</sup>

On 11 September 2019, HHS through the HRSA awarded USD50 million for funding 77 health centres to support new organizations and existing health centres in improving access to quality healthcare in both rural and urban communities for vulnerable populations where financial, geographical or cultural barriers to affordable health care exist.<sup>3559</sup>

On 12 September 2019, HHS allocated USD351 million to states, territories and non-profit organizations through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Visiting Program, that provides voluntary, evidence-based home visiting to pregnant women and parents with young children up to kindergarten to enable many families, especially families considered at-risk, raise healthy children.<sup>3560</sup> An additional USD18,7 million funding towards State Maternal Health Innovation through nine cooperative agreements will aid states to improve maternal health outcomes, particularly reduce maternal mortality.<sup>3561</sup> USD2.6 million will be allocated to Supporting Maternal Health Innovation to aid HRSA maternal health grantees and stakeholders in developing innovative and evidence-based

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<sup>3555</sup> Trump Administration Announces \$1.8 Billion in Funding to States to Continue Combating Opioid Crisis (Washington) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/04/trump-administration-announces-1-8-billion-funding-states-combating-opioid.html>.

<sup>3556</sup> HHS Announces Health IT Awardees Focused on Innovative Interoperability Solutions (Washington) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/10/hhs-announces-health-it-awardees-innovative-interoperability-solutions.html>.

<sup>3557</sup> HHS Awards \$9 Million to Develop New Models to Improve Obstetrics Care in Rural Communities (Washington) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/10/hhs-awards-9-million-new-models-obstetrics-care-rural-communities.html>.

<sup>3558</sup> HHS Awards \$9 Million to Develop New Models to Improve Obstetrics Care in Rural Communities (Washington) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/10/hhs-awards-9-million-new-models-obstetrics-care-rural-communities.html>.

<sup>3559</sup> HHS Awards More than \$50 Million to Establish New Health Center Sites (Washington) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/11/hhs-awards-more-than-50-million-establish-new-health-center-sites.html>.

<sup>3560</sup> HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>

<sup>3561</sup> HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>.

strategies to reduce maternal mortality.<sup>3562</sup> USD1.8 million will be allocated to Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) to build upon AIM's foundational work to expand reach by addressing preventable maternal mortality outside of hospital and birthing facility settings.<sup>3563</sup>

On 18 September 2019, HHS through the HRSA awarded USD85 million to 298 health centres for affordable and accessible oral health services to be used towards the support of new infrastructure which includes equipment purchases, mobile units for inaccessible communities and training of staff to integrate oral health within overall systemic health services.<sup>3564</sup>

On 24 September 2019, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that on average premiums would decline 23 per cent from 2018 for Medicare Advantage while benefits and enrollment are expected to increase.<sup>3565</sup> Secretary Alex Azar of HHS indicated that this would mean "lower costs, more options and benefits tailored to patients' needs."<sup>3566</sup>

On 30 September 2019, HHS through the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) allocated USD33.6 million to 50 current Title X grantees for the supplementation of family services through prioritizing unserved and underserved areas and low-income individuals.<sup>3567</sup> Grantees that did not comply with statutory and regulatory requirements that did not allow federal funding to be used towards abortion services as a method of family planning relinquished funds.<sup>3568</sup> OPA aided in mitigating interruption of services due to voluntary relinquishment of funds.<sup>3569</sup>

On 2 October 2019, HHS through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded USD13.5 million for community involvement for the federal initiative "Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for Americans," which aims to reduce new HIV infections through investing in locally tailored plans for each community and increasing local health department capacity.<sup>3570</sup>

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<sup>3562</sup> HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>.

<sup>3563</sup> HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>

<sup>3564</sup> HHS Awards over \$85 Million to Help Health Centers Expand Access to Oral Health Care (Washington) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/18/hhs-awards-over-85-million-help-health-centers-expand-access-oral-healthcare.html>.

<sup>3565</sup> HHS Secretary Azar Statement on 2020 Medicare Advantage Rate Decrease (Washington) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/24/secretary-azar-statement-2020-medicare-advantage-rate-decrease.html>.

<sup>3566</sup> HHS Secretary Azar Statement on 2020 Medicare Advantage Rate Decrease (Washington) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/24/secretary-azar-statement-2020-medicare-advantage-rate-decrease.html>.

<sup>3567</sup> HHS Issues Supplemental Grant Awards to Title X Recipients (Washington) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/30/hhs-issues-supplemental-grant-awards-to-title-x-recipients.html>.

<sup>3568</sup> HHS Issues Supplemental Grant Awards to Title X Recipients (Washington) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/30/hhs-issues-supplemental-grant-awards-to-title-x-recipients.html>.

<sup>3569</sup> HHS Issues Supplemental Grant Awards to Title X Recipients (Washington) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/30/hhs-issues-supplemental-grant-awards-to-title-x-recipients.html>.

<sup>3570</sup> HHS Awards \$13.5 Million to Accelerate State and Local Planning Efforts for Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America (Washington) 2 October 2019. Date Access: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/02/hhs-awards-13.5-million-dollars-to-accelerate-state-and-local-planning-efforts.html>.

On 10 October 2019, HHS published “Guide for Clinicians on the Appropriate Dosage Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Analgesics” to provide clinicians with a guide when contemplating or initiating a change in opioid dosage.<sup>3571</sup> HHS recommends clinicians to not suddenly discontinue or rapidly decrease dosage due to significant risks of opioid withdrawal barring life-threatening circumstances.<sup>3572</sup> The guide includes issues to consider when changing dosage that include need to treat symptoms of withdrawal and provide behavioural support.<sup>3573</sup>

On 16 October 2019, HHS Secretary Alex Azar stated that the all-time high approval of generic drugs by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) contributed to lower drug prices, promoting health and improved access to prescription to drugs.<sup>3574</sup>

On 22 October 2019, HHS through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality announced USD16 million for initiatives to enable over 700 primary care practices to address patients’ unhealthy alcohol use.<sup>3575</sup>

On 23 October 2019, HHS through the HRSA announced USD319 million for awards to clinicians and students through the National Health Service Corps, to provide quality care to Americans in rural, urban and tribal communities.<sup>3576</sup> HHS Secretary Alex Azar said that there is a particular focus on improving healthcare in rural communities through building “a strong, sustainable rural healthcare workforce.”<sup>3577</sup>

On 25 October 2019, HHS through the HRSA announced USD2.27 billion for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grants to support HIV primary medical care, medication, and essential support services to Americans to increase access to treatment and medical advances, especially for low income people in hard-to-reach areas.<sup>3578</sup>

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<sup>3571</sup> HHS Announces Guide for Appropriate Tapering or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Use (Washington) 10 October 2019. Date Accessed: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/10/hhs-announces-guide-appropriate-tapering-or-discontinuation-long-term-opioid-use.html>.

<sup>3572</sup> HHS Announces Guide for Appropriate Tapering or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Use (Washington) 10 October 2019. Date Accessed: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/10/hhs-announces-guide-appropriate-tapering-or-discontinuation-long-term-opioid-use.html>.

<sup>3573</sup> HHS Announces Guide for Appropriate Tapering or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Use (Washington) 10 October 2019. Date Accessed: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/10/hhs-announces-guide-appropriate-tapering-or-discontinuation-long-term-opioid-use.html>.

<sup>3574</sup> Secretary Azar Statement on FDA’s 2019 Generic Drug Approval Record (Washington) 16 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/16/secretary-azar-statement-on-fda-2019-generic-drug-approval-record.html>.

<sup>3575</sup> HHS Awards \$16 Million to Help Primary Care Practices Address Patients’ Unhealthy Alcohol Use (Washington) 22 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/22/hhs-awards-16-million-help-primary-care-practices-address-unhealthy-alcohol-use.html>.

<sup>3576</sup> HHS Awards \$319 Million to Support Health Workforce Providers Caring for the Underserved (Washington) 23 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/23/hhs-awards-319-million-support-health-workforce-providers-caring-underserved.html>.

<sup>3577</sup> HHS Awards \$319 Million to Support Health Workforce Providers Caring for the Underserved (Washington) 23 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/23/hhs-awards-319-million-support-health-workforce-providers-caring-underserved.html>.

<sup>3578</sup> HHS Awards \$2.27 Billion in Grants to Help Americans Access HIV/AIDS Care, Support Services and Medication (Washington) 25 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/25/hhs-awards-2-billion-grants-help-americans-access-hiv-care-services-medications.html>.

On 30 October 2019, HHS and Mental Health Services Administration launched “FindTreatment.gov” to connect Americans with substance abuse treatment locations to improve access to treatment, prevention and recovery.<sup>3579</sup>

On 1 November 2019, the CMS finalized Medicare policies to increase choice through eliminating payment differences between services, encouraging medical innovation and increasing access of them, and empowering senior patients.<sup>3580</sup>

On 4 November 2019, HHS, the American Society of Nephrology, and National Kidney Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding to create a campaign on kidney disease to increase education, awareness and prevention of chronic kidney disease to improve health.<sup>3581</sup>

On 14 November 2019, th HHS will provide advanced development support from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to test diagnostic technology that distinguishes between viral and bacterial infection through reading gene expressions under a USD6 million contract with Inflammatrix Inc.<sup>3582</sup> Funding will also enable Inflammatrix Inc. to apply for FDA clearance.<sup>3583</sup> Development of this rapid diagnostic tool will allow clinicians to make a decision on whether antibiotics are required to treat the infection based on identification of the infection as bacterial.<sup>3584</sup> Tests will also enable clinicians to determine the risk of death from organ failure and identify susceptibility to antibiotics, ultimately promoting antimicrobial stewardship and tackling antimicrobial resistance.<sup>3585</sup>

On 15 November 2019, th HHS announced that CMS issued two rules to increase healthcare price transparency to the public, empowering patients and increasing competition between health

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<sup>3579</sup> HHS Secretary Azar, SAMHSA Assistant Secretary McCance-Katz Statements on Launch of FindTreatment.Gov (Washington) 30 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/30/statements-on-launch-of-findtreatment-gov.html>.

<sup>3580</sup> CY 2020 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System Final Rule (CMS-1717-FC) (Washington) 1 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/cy-2020-medicare-hospital-outpatient-prospective-payment-system-and-ambulatory-surgical-center-0>.

<sup>3581</sup> HHS Secretary Azar Statment on Step Forward in President Trump’s Kidney Health Initiative (Washington) 4 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/04/hhs-secretary-azar-statement-step-forward-president-trump-s-kidney-health-initiative.html>.

<sup>3582</sup> HHS Advances Development of Tests to Distinguish Bacterial from Viral Infections across Multiple Healthcare Settings (Washington) 14 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/14/hhs-advances-development-tests-distinguish-bacterial-viral-infections.html>.

<sup>3583</sup> HHS Advances Development of Tests to Distinguish Bacterial from Viral Infections across Multiple Healthcare Settings (Washington) 14 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/14/hhs-advances-development-tests-distinguish-bacterial-viral-infections.html>.

<sup>3584</sup> HHS Advances Development of Tests to Distinguish Bacterial from Viral Infections across Multiple Healthcare Settings (Washington) 14 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/14/hhs-advances-development-tests-distinguish-bacterial-viral-infections.html>.

<sup>3585</sup> HHS Advances Development of Tests to Distinguish Bacterial from Viral Infections across Multiple Healthcare Settings (Washington) 14 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/14/hhs-advances-development-tests-distinguish-bacterial-viral-infections.html>.

providers and health coverage to decrease healthcare costs for Americans.<sup>3586</sup> The Transparency in Coverage Rule will require health plans to provide consumers access to cost-sharing information such as an estimation of liability and disclose rates for in-network providers and amounts paid to out-of-network providers.<sup>3587</sup> The other rule will require hospitals to make all hospital standard charges and the minimum and maximum amounts chargeable for common shoppable services, such as X-rays, publicly accessible.<sup>3588</sup> CMS will also be provided with enforcement tools such as monitoring, auditing and corrective action plans and the ability to impose a civil fine of USD300.<sup>3589</sup> The rules will be finalized by 2021.<sup>3590</sup>

On 3 December 2019, HHS launched “Ready, Set, PrEP,” a national program that makes medications for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), taken daily to prevent HIV, available at no cost to people without prescription drug insurance coverage.<sup>3591</sup> This program is a component of ‘Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America’ that aims to reduce the number of new HIV infections by 90% in the next ten years.<sup>3592</sup>

On 5 December 2019, the Indian Health Services (IHS) and the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Native American Child Health released clinical recommendations for IHS, tribal, and urban Indian organizations for neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome and standards of care for screening, diagnosing, and treatment at health care facilities.<sup>3593</sup> These standards will improve the quality of care for mothers and their infants that are impacted by the opioid crisis.<sup>3594</sup>

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<sup>3586</sup> Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

<sup>3587</sup> Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

<sup>3588</sup> Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

<sup>3589</sup> Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

<sup>3590</sup> Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

<sup>3591</sup> Ready, Set, PrEP Expands Access to Medication to Prevent HIV, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/03/ready-set-prep-expands-access-to-medication-to-prevent-hiv.html>.

<sup>3592</sup> Ready, Set, PrEP Expands Access to Medication to Prevent HIV, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/03/ready-set-prep-expands-access-to-medication-to-prevent-hiv.html>.

<sup>3593</sup> IHS and AAP Release Clinical Recommendations to Improve Care of American Indian, Alaska Native Women and Infants Impacted by Prenatal Opioid Exposure (Washington) 5 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/05/ihs-and-aap-release-clinical-recommendations-to-improve-care-of-american-indian-alaska-native-women-and-infants-impacted-by-prenatal-opioid-exposure.html>.

<sup>3594</sup> IHS and AAP Release Clinical Recommendations to Improve Care of American Indian, Alaska Native Women and Infants Impacted by Prenatal Opioid Exposure (Washington) 5 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/05/ihs-and-aap-release-clinical-recommendations-to-improve-care-of-american-indian-alaska-native-women-and-infants-impacted-by-prenatal-opioid-exposure.html>.

On 17 December 2019, HHS through CMS proposed removing financial disincentives to living organ donors through expanding reimbursable expenses for living donors including lost wages, as well as child or elder care so that recipients can receive better quality organs.<sup>3595</sup> This measure was taken in response to the shortage in available kidney donors considering the national waiting list consists of 96,000 people.<sup>3596</sup> Proposed changes will be in effect starting 2022.<sup>3597</sup>

On 18 December 2019, HHS, the FDA, and President Trump proposed allowing certain prescription drugs to be imported from Canada.<sup>3598</sup> This would allow for lower U.S. drug prices and improve access to medication for Americans.<sup>3599</sup>

On 4 February 2020, HHS and Office of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), announced that they are collaborating with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. to expand on a previous agreement to develop treatment for COVID-19.<sup>3600</sup>

On 10 February 2020, HHS started the first foundry for American Biotechnology in the nation, which serves to protect and respond to health security threats through the production of technological solutions.<sup>3601</sup> This will also enable biotechnologies to become a part of daily medical care and emergency response more efficiently and increase the bioeconomy in the United States.<sup>3602</sup> A commercialization program that will be developed and managed by the Foundry will enable for private sector industries to more efficiently adopt technologies while reducing the need of stockpiling medical equipment, supplies and medications for federal and state governments.<sup>3603</sup>

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<sup>3595</sup> Trump Administration Proposes New Rules to Increase Accountability and Availability of the Organ Supply (Washington) 17 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/17/trump-administration-proposes-new-rules-increase-accountability-availability-organ-supply.html>.

<sup>3596</sup> Trump Administration Proposes New Rules to Increase Accountability and Availability of the Organ Supply (Washington) 17 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/17/trump-administration-proposes-new-rules-increase-accountability-availability-organ-supply.html>.

<sup>3597</sup> Trump Administration Proposes New Rules to Increase Accountability and Availability of the Organ Supply (Washington) 17 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/17/trump-administration-proposes-new-rules-increase-accountability-availability-organ-supply.html>.

<sup>3598</sup> Trump Administration Takes Historic Steps to Lower U.S. Prescription Drug Prices (Washington) 18 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/18/trump-administration-takes-historic-steps-to-lower-us-prescription-drug-prices.html>.

<sup>3599</sup> Trump Administration Takes Historic Steps to Lower U.S. Prescription Drug Prices (Washington) 18 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/18/trump-administration-takes-historic-steps-to-lower-us-prescription-drug-prices.html>.

<sup>3600</sup> HHS, Regeneron Collaborate to Develop 2019-nCoV Treatment, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/04/hhs-regeneron-collaborate-to-develop-2019-ncov-treatment.html>.

<sup>3601</sup> HHS Pioneers First Foundry For American Bioethnology, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/10/hhs-pioneers-first-foundry-for-american-biotechnology.html>.

<sup>3602</sup> HHS Pioneers First Foundry For American Bioethnology, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/10/hhs-pioneers-first-foundry-for-american-biotechnology.html>.

<sup>3603</sup> HHS Pioneers First Foundry For American Bioethnology, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/10/hhs-pioneers-first-foundry-for-american-biotechnology.html>.

On 11 February 2020, HHS and the Office of ASPR announced that they are collaborating with Janssen Research and Development to expand the existing partnership to accelerate the development of a vaccine for COVID19 to assist with public health response.<sup>3604</sup>

On 18 February 2020, component of ASPR called Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) announced that they will provide expertise and allocate funding to Sanofi Pasteur to support a licensed vaccine for the COVID19 vaccine using Sanofi's recombinant DNA platform, with the aim to ensure health security and prevent future outbreaks.<sup>3605</sup>

On 18 February 2020, HHS and BARDA announced that they are collaborating with Janssen Research and Development through an existing partnership to develop treatments for coronavirus that reduce the severity of symptoms as well as treat the infection.<sup>3606</sup> BARDA is also collaborating with Janssen to develop a vaccine for COVID19, and has worked with Janssen in the past to develop vaccines for infectious diseases such as Ebola and influenza.<sup>3607</sup>

On 26 February 2020, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the HHS awarded USD 117 million as part of the "Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America (EHE)" initiative towards expanding access to care, treatment, medication, and prevention services for HIV.<sup>3608</sup> The aim of EHE is to reduce the number of new HIV infections in the United States by 90 per cent.<sup>3609</sup>

On 4 March 2020, HHS planned to purchase 500 million N95 respirators to protect healthcare workers through the upcoming 18 months to ensure the Strategic National Stockpile can meet the needs during the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>3610</sup>

On 4 March 2020, HHS and the Center for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) announced funding to support states and local jurisdictions in their COVID-19 response.<sup>3611</sup> USD 25 million will be

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<sup>3604</sup> HHS, Janssen Join Forces On Coronavirus Vaccin, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/11/hhs-janssen-join-forces-on-coronavirus-vaccine.html>.

<sup>3605</sup> HHS Engages Sanofi's Recombinant Technology for 2019 Novel Coronavirus Vaccine, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/18/hhs-engages-sanofis-recombinant-technology-for-2019-novel-coronavirus-vaccine.html>.

<sup>3606</sup> HHS, Janssen Collaborate to Develop Coronavirus Therapeutics, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/18/hhs-janssen-collaborate-to-develop-coronavirus-therapeutics.html>.

<sup>3607</sup> HHS, Janssen Collaborate to Develop Coronavirus Therapeutics, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/18/hhs-janssen-collaborate-to-develop-coronavirus-therapeutics.html>.

<sup>3608</sup> HHS Awards \$117 Million to End the HIV Epidemic in the United States, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/26/hhs-awards-117-million-to-end-hiv-epidemic-in-the-united-states.html>.

<sup>3609</sup> HHS Awards \$117 Million to End the HIV Epidemic in the United States, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/26/hhs-awards-117-million-to-end-hiv-epidemic-in-the-united-states.html>.

<sup>3610</sup> HHS to Procure N95 Respirators to Support Healthcare Workers in COVID-19 Outbreaks, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/04/hhs-to-procure-n95-respirators-to-support-healthcare-workers-in-covid-19-outbreaks.html>.

<sup>3611</sup> HHS Announces Initial Funding to Jurisdictions Supporting COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/04/hhs-announces-initial-funding-jurisdictions-supporting-covid-19-response.html>.

awarded to the states and local jurisdictions with the largest burden of response and preparedness and USD10 million for coronavirus surveillance across the United States.<sup>3612</sup>

On 6 March 2020, President Donald Trump signed Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act 2020 which consists of USD 8.3 billion of federal funding for states and territories to aid them in preparing to respond to COVID-19 outbreak and in streamlining efforts for more efficient communication between state and federal public health departments.<sup>3613</sup>

On 9 March 2020, HHS finalized two rules to provide patients with their health data in order for them to make informed decisions and manage their care.<sup>3614</sup> These rules will enable patients to access information within their electronic health records integrated with their health insurance through a smartphone app of their choice and will require more aspects of clinical data, as outlined in US Core Data for Interoperability, to be a part of electronic health records for more efficient transmission of information between different healthcare facilities.<sup>3615</sup>

On 9 March 2020, HHS announced that they will support Hologic in developing high-throughput COVID19 diagnostic tests to detect the SARS-CoV-2 genetic material and have results ready for clinicians in under three hours.<sup>3616</sup> According to BARDA Director Rick Bright, early detection and rapid testing will enable clinicians to properly treat infections, ultimately mitigating the spread of COVID-19.<sup>3617</sup>

On 11 March 2020, CDC announced that they will provide over USD 560 million to state and local health departments to support COVID19 preparedness and response.<sup>3618</sup>

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<sup>3612</sup> HHS Announces Initial Funding to Jurisdictions Supporting COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/04/hhs-announces-initial-funding-jurisdictions-supporting-covid-19-response.html>.

<sup>3613</sup> CDC to Award Over %560 Million to State and Local Jurisdictions in Support of COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 11 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/11/cdc-to-award-over-560-million-to-state-local-jurisdictions-in-support-of-covid-19-response.html>.

<sup>3614</sup> HHS Finalizes Historic Rules to Provide Patients More Control of Their Health Data, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/09/hhs-finalizes-historic-rules-to-provide-patients-more-control-of-their-health-data.html>.

<sup>3615</sup> HHS Finalizes Historic Rules to Provide Patients More Control of Their Health Data, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/09/hhs-finalizes-historic-rules-to-provide-patients-more-control-of-their-health-data.html>.

<sup>3616</sup> HHS Supports Development of First High-Throughput COVID-19 Diagnostic Test, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 9 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/09/hhs-supports-development-of-first-high-throughput-covid-19-diagnostic-test.html>.

<sup>3617</sup> HHS Supports Development of First High-Throughput COVID-19 Diagnostic Test, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 9 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/09/hhs-supports-development-of-first-high-throughput-covid-19-diagnostic-test.html>.

<sup>3618</sup> CDC to Award Over %560 Million to State and Local Jurisdictions in Support of COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 11 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/11/cdc-to-award-over-560-million-to-state-local-jurisdictions-in-support-of-covid-19-response.html>.

On 13 March 2020, HHS announced that they will support DiaSorin Molecular with USD 679,000 and Qiagen with USD 598,000 to aid them in developing diagnostic tests for COVID-19 to detect the virus in approximately one hour.<sup>3619</sup>

On 17 March 2020, HHS and the Trump Administration announced that Medicare coverage for telehealth visits would be expanded to include telehealth services during the COVID-19 outbreak in order for Americans to access care remotely.<sup>3620</sup>

On 18 March 2020, HHS, through the HRSA, announced that they will be collecting information from HRSA-funded health centres to assess their involvement in COVID-19 response and support the overall response to the pandemic.<sup>3621</sup>

On 18 March 2020, HHS announced that they will support Mesa Bioetech with technical expertise and USD 561,330 to develop rapid diagnostic test for COVID-19 to detect and reduce the spread of the virus.<sup>3622</sup>

On 18 March 2020, HHS announced that they are working towards developing high-volume emergency drug packaging and awarded Apject Systems America with USD 456 million towards research development to ensure low-cost prefilled syringes for a consortium for Rapid Aseptic Packaging of Injectable Drugs (RAPID) to deliver vaccines and therapeutic drugs.<sup>3623</sup>

On 20 March 2020, HHS announced that the CDC would be providing funding of USD 80 million to tribes, tribal organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations to increase public health capacities in order to support COVID19 outbreak management efforts.<sup>3624</sup>

On 24 March 2020, HHS awarded USD 100 million across 1,381 health centres for screening, testing, medical supplies, and improving telehealth capacities in response to COVID-19.<sup>3625</sup>

On 24 March 2020, HHS provided USD 100 million for healthcare systems in response to increasing COVID-19 patients to benefit the National Special Pathogen System.<sup>3626</sup> The National Special

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<sup>3619</sup> HHS funds development of COVID-19 diagnostic tests, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 13 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/13/hhs-funds-development-covid-19-diagnostic-tests.html>

<sup>3620</sup> Secretary Azar Announces Historic Expansion of Telehealth Access to Combat COVID-19, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 17 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/17/secretary-azar-announces-historic-expansion-of-telehealth-access-to-combat-covid-19.html>.

<sup>3621</sup> HHS Takes New Action to Cut Red Tape to Support COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/18/hhs-takes-new-action-to-cut-red-tape-to-support-covid-19-response.html>

<sup>3622</sup> HHS Supports Mesa Biotech to Develop a Rapid Diagnostic to Detect Novel Coronavirus Infections, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/18/hhs-supports-mesa-biotech-develop-rapid-diagnostic-detect-novel-coronavirus-infections.html>.

<sup>3623</sup> HHS Announces New Public-Private Partnership to Develop U.S.-Based, High-Speed Emergency Drug Packaging Solutions, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/18/hhs-announces-new-public-private-partnership-to-develop-us-based-high-speed-emergency-drug-packaging-solutions.html>.

<sup>3624</sup> HHS announces upcoming action to provide funding to tribes for COVID-19 response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 20 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/20/hhs-announces-upcoming-action-to-provide-funding-to-tribes-for-covid-19-response.html>.

<sup>3625</sup> HHS Awards \$100 Million to Health Centres for COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 24 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/24/hhs-awards-100-million-to-health-centers-for-covid-19-response.html>.

Pathogen System leverages a pre-established infrastructure to manage the Ebola outbreak and will apply that approach to treat trauma, burn, cardiac and stroke patients.<sup>3627</sup> The National Special Pathogen System includes ten regional Ebola facilities amongst other healthcare facilities, one in each HHS region, which have enhanced capability to treat patients infected with special pathogens such as coronavirus and will use training and curriculum provided by National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Centre to help other health centres prepare to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>3628</sup>

On 24 March 2020, HHS announced USD 250 million funding towards providing meals for older adults in the community through grants from the Administration for Community Living as older adults are more vulnerable to COVID-19.<sup>3629</sup>

On 27 March 2020, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, with investments in over USD 100 billion for hospitals and healthcare providers, in addition to USD 27 billion for vaccines, therapeutics, and personal protective equipment.<sup>3630</sup>

On 2 April 2020, HHS and the Department of Justice announced that approximately 192,000 N95 respirator masks would be distributed from those who were hoarding the masks and price gouging previously to frontline workers in New York and New Jersey for the COVID-19 efforts.<sup>3631</sup>

On 6 April 2020, HHS announced the CDC would provide USD 186 million to state and local jurisdictions to support COVID-19 response.<sup>3632</sup> This will go towards supplementing existing agreements with lab equipment, supplies, staffing, shipping, infection control, monitoring individuals, and data management in areas that have the highest reported COVID-19 cases.<sup>3633</sup> The funding will

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<sup>3626</sup> HHS Provides \$100 Million to Help U.S. Healthcare System Prepare for COVID-19 Patients, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 24 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/24/hhs-provides-100-million-to-help-us-healthcare-systems-prepare-for-covid-19-patients.html>.

<sup>3627</sup> HHS Provides \$100 Million to Help U.S. Healthcare System Prepare for COVID-19 Patients, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 24 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/24/hhs-provides-100-million-to-help-us-healthcare-systems-prepare-for-covid-19-patients.html>.

<sup>3628</sup> HHS Provides \$100 Million to Help U.S. Healthcare System Prepare for COVID-19 Patients, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 24 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/24/hhs-provides-100-million-to-help-us-healthcare-systems-prepare-for-covid-19-patients.html>.

<sup>3629</sup> HHS Announces Grants to Provide Meals for Older Adults, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 24 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/24/hhs-announces-grants-to-provide-meals-for-older-adults.html>.

<sup>3630</sup> Secretary Azar Statement on President Trump's Signing of the CARES Act, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 27 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/27/secretary-azar-statement-on-president-trumps-signing-of-the-cares-act.html>.

<sup>3631</sup> DOJ and HHS Partner to Distribute More than Half a Million Medical Supplies Confiscated from Price Gougers, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 2 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/02/doj-and-hhs-partner-to-distribute-more-than-half-a-million-medical-supplies-confiscated-from-price-gougers.html>.

<sup>3632</sup> HHS Announces Upcoming Funding Action to Provide \$186 Million for COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 6 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/06/hhs-announces-upcoming-funding-action-provide-186-million-covid19-response.html>.

<sup>3633</sup> HHS Announces Upcoming Funding Action to Provide \$186 Million for COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 6 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/06/hhs-announces-upcoming-funding-action-provide-186-million-covid19-response.html>.

also go towards supplementing the Emerging Infections Program (EIP) with increasing surveillance capabilities.<sup>3634</sup>

On 6 April 2020, HHS announced that they will support the state, territorial and tribal public health labs in all places, including remote and rural populations with “ID NOW COVID-19 rapid point of care test,” which provides results in under 13 minutes.<sup>3635</sup> On 8 April 2020, HHS announced a contract with General Motors for USD 489 million for 30,000 ventilators under the Defense Production Act (DPA) to combat COVID-19.<sup>3636</sup>

On 8 April 2020, HHS announced an agreement with DuPont for 450,000 TYVEK suits to be delivered to frontline healthcare workers that week to protect them from COVID-19, with an additional 2.25 million in the upcoming five weeks, with the option of purchasing up to 4.5 million.<sup>3637</sup>

On 8 April 2020, HHS awarded USD 1.3 billion to 1,387 health centers to be used towards detection, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of COVID-19 in addition to maintaining or increasing health capacity and staffing in response to the pandemic.<sup>3638</sup>

On 8 April 2020, Indian Health Services (IHS) announced they would be expanding telehealth for American Indians and Alaska Natives to access healthcare from home during the COVID-19 pandemic across IHS federal facilities.<sup>3639</sup>

On 8 April 2020, HHS announced a contract with Philips for USD 646.7 million for 43,000 ventilators under the DPA to combat COVID-19.<sup>3640</sup>

On 8 April 2020, HHS announced that licensed pharmacists could administer COVID-19 tests to make them more accessible, under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act.<sup>3641</sup>

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<sup>3634</sup> HHS Announces Upcoming Funding Action to Provide \$186 Million for COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 6 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/06/hhs-announces-upcoming-funding-action-provide-186-million-covid19-response.html>.

<sup>3635</sup> HHS Supports State, Territorial and Tribal Public Health Labs with COVID-19 Rapid Point-of-Care Tests, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 6 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/06/hhs-supports-state-territorial-and-tribal-public-health-labs-with-covid-19-rapid-point-of-care-test.html>.

<sup>3636</sup> HHS Announces Ventilator Contract with GM under Defense Production Act, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/hhs-announces-ventilator-contract-with-gm-under-defense-production-act.html>.

<sup>3637</sup> HHS to Provide Millions of TYVEK Protective Suits for U.S. Healthcare Workers, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/hhs-provide-millions-tyvek-protective-suits-us-healthcare-workers.html>.

<sup>3638</sup> HHS Awards \$1.3 Billion to Health Centers in Historic U.S. Response to COVID-19, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/hhs-awards-billion-to-health-centers-in-historic-covid19-response.html>.

<sup>3639</sup> Indian Health Service Expands Telehealth Services During COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/indian-health-service-expands-telehealth-services-during-covid-19-response.html>.

<sup>3640</sup> HHS Announces Ventilator Contract with Philips under Defense Production Act, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/hhs-announces-ventilator-contract-with-philips-under-defense-production-act.html>.

On 10 April 2020, HHS will begin to deliver relief funding from the CARES Act, with USD 30 billion going towards supporting healthcare-related expenses or lost revenue from coronavirus, such as testing and treatment for uninsured Americans.<sup>3642</sup>

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems through improving transparency of hospital costs, proposing programs to combat health crises such as HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality, opioid overuse and antimicrobial resistance. The United States has also demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage through providing free or lower cost medication, investing in rural healthcare, and reducing Medicaid premiums. The United States has worked towards providing access to care for all during the COVID-19 pandemic through the allocation of funding for testing, research and development, telehealth options to receive healthcare, and purchasing personal protective equipment.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1

*Analyst: Sophia DiNicolò*

### **European Union: +1**

European Union has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 12 September 2019, the European Commission partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO) to host a Global Vaccination Summit, in order to spread awareness about the efficacy of vaccines in fighting against preventable diseases.<sup>3643</sup> They specifically targeted vaccine misinformation, and the inequity in vaccine coverage rates, as threats to universal health coverage.<sup>3644</sup>

On 23 September 2019, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis released a statement emphasizing the necessity of increasing efforts towards Universal Health Coverage, if the European Union is to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.<sup>3645</sup> In order to do so, the European Union must support partner countries in building resilient health systems and continue to support in improvement of primary healthcare services.<sup>3646</sup> Vytenis Andriukaitis also noted the EU aims to promote a ‘health in all policies’ approach to ensure that all

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<sup>3641</sup> HHS Statements on Authorizing Licensed Pharmacists to Order and Administer COVID-19 Tests, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/hhs-statements-on-authorizing-licensed-pharmacists-to-order-and-administer-covid-19-tests.html>.

<sup>3642</sup> HHS to Begin Immediate Delivery of Initial \$30 Billion of CARES Act Provider Relief Funding, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 10 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/10/hhs-to-begin-immediate-delivery-of-initial-30-billion-of-cares-act-provider-relief-funding.html>.

<sup>3643</sup> Global Vaccination Summit, World Health Organization (Brussels) 12 September 2019. Access date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2019/09/12/default-calendar/global-vaccination-summit>.

<sup>3644</sup> Global Vaccination Summit, World Health Organization (Brussels) 12 September 2019. Access date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2019/09/12/default-calendar/global-vaccination-summit>.

<sup>3645</sup> EU Statement by Commissioner Andriukaitis – United Nations General Assembly: High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67764/eu-statement-commissioner-andriukaitis-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-high-level-meeting\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67764/eu-statement-commissioner-andriukaitis-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-high-level-meeting_en).

<sup>3646</sup> EU Statement by Commissioner Andriukaitis – United Nations General Assembly: High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67764/eu-statement-commissioner-andriukaitis-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-high-level-meeting\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67764/eu-statement-commissioner-andriukaitis-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-high-level-meeting_en).

determinants of health are addressed beyond the health sector including water, sanitation, gender equality and nutrition education. The Commissioner also promoted an investment of EUR100 million into the WHO's Partnership Programme made in June 2019, which aims to both strengthen health systems and universal health coverage.<sup>3647</sup>

On 10 October 2019, the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations released a statement in support of the United Nations resolution to realize universal health coverage.<sup>3648</sup> They emphasized the European Union's rights-based approach to health by protecting human rights, including sexual and reproduction rights and affirmed their commitment to striving for universal health coverage in Europe and beyond.<sup>3649</sup>

On 17 October 2019, the European Union's Health Policy Platform hosted its annual meeting focused on establishing the health priorities within Europe.<sup>3650</sup> Various health stakeholders and interest groups attended the meeting which consisted of award presentations to cities, non-governmental organizations and schools for efforts in prevention and reduction of obesity, interactive roundtable discussing promotion of healthy weight in young adults, joint statements by stakeholder organizations discussing various health priorities and thematic network proposals to rally support for projects in the upcoming year. The joint statement of one of the stakeholder groups, Nobody Left Outside, focused on the need to expand coverage to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Europe.<sup>3651</sup>

On 10 November 2019, the European Union provided Yemen with EUR79 million in order to sustain their health services amidst a violent conflict.<sup>3652</sup> This includes access to sanitation, food, water, and healthcare centres.<sup>3653</sup> This is part of a wider European Union project in Yemen, which has to date provided EUR440 million in funds to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis.<sup>3654</sup>

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<sup>3647</sup> EU Statement by Commissioner Andriukaitis – United Nations General Assembly: High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

[https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67764/eu-statement-commissioner-andriukaitis-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-high-level-meeting\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67764/eu-statement-commissioner-andriukaitis-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-high-level-meeting_en).

<sup>3648</sup> EU Explanation of Position – United Nations General Assembly Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/68759/eu-explanation-position-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-universal-health-coverage\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/68759/eu-explanation-position-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-universal-health-coverage_en).

<sup>3649</sup> EU Explanation of Position – United Nations General Assembly Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/68759/eu-explanation-position-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-universal-health-coverage\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/68759/eu-explanation-position-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-universal-health-coverage_en).

<sup>3650</sup> EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/health/policies/events/ev\\_20191017\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/policies/events/ev_20191017_en).

<sup>3651</sup> EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/health/policies/events/ev\\_20191017\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/policies/events/ev_20191017_en).

<sup>3652</sup> EU supports Yemen with €79 million to sustain public services and generate job opportunities, EU External Action (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70193/eu-supports-yemen-%E2%82%AC79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job-opportunities\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70193/eu-supports-yemen-%E2%82%AC79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job-opportunities_en).

<sup>3653</sup> EU supports Yemen with €79 million to sustain public services and generate job opportunities, EU External Action (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70193/eu-supports-yemen-%E2%82%AC79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job-opportunities\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70193/eu-supports-yemen-%E2%82%AC79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job-opportunities_en).

<sup>3654</sup> EU supports Yemen with €79 million to sustain public services and generate job opportunities, EU External Action (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70193/eu-supports-yemen-%E2%82%AC79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job-opportunities\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70193/eu-supports-yemen-%E2%82%AC79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job-opportunities_en).

On 28 November 2019, the European Commission published health reports analyzing the health systems of its thirty Member States.<sup>3655</sup> The reports outline how vaccination hesitance, lack of access to mobile health services, and continued healthcare inequities are the main challenges faced by the EU Member States.<sup>3656</sup> The reports demonstrate that health systems of Member States have been shifting towards preventative healthcare and health promotion.<sup>3657</sup> Furthermore, a key finding noted that task shifting, by enhancing the roles of health professionals such as nurses and pharmacists, have demonstrated strong potential in improving the resilience of health systems.<sup>3658</sup> Results of the reports will be used to “encourage mutual learning and exchange of good practices.”<sup>3659</sup>

On 5 December 2019, EU provided a EUR 297 million assistance package to refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.<sup>3660</sup> EUR 70 million of these funds are to be used for improving healthcare for vulnerable populations in Lebanon, and EUR 39 million are to be dedicated to improving waste management and health conditions for Syrian refugee camps in Jordan.<sup>3661</sup>

On 10 December 2019, EU Health and Safety Commissioner Kyriakides announced a plan, entitled the Europe Beats Cancer Plan to tackle access to cancer treatment for 2020.<sup>3662</sup> This strategy will rely on emphasis on preventative measures, an expansion in screening processes, increased access to treatments, and e-health data expansion to optimize healthcare delivery.<sup>3663</sup>

On 18 December 2019, the European Investment Bank granted the biotech company MolMed with a line of credit of up to EUR 15 million in order to spur research and innovation into cancer and rare disease treatments.<sup>3664</sup>

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<sup>3655</sup> State of Health in the EU: shift to prevention and primary care is the most important trend across countries, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 8 April 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6336](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6336).

<sup>3656</sup> State of Health in the EU: shift to prevention and primary care is the most important trend across countries, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 8 April 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6336](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6336).

<sup>3657</sup> State of Health in the EU: shift to prevention and primary care is the most important trend across countries, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6336](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6336).

<sup>3658</sup> State of Health in the EU: shift to prevention and primary care is the most important trend across countries, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6336](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6336).

<sup>3659</sup> State of Health in the EU: shift to prevention and primary care is the most important trend across countries, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6336](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6336).

<sup>3660</sup> The EU adopted 297 million in concrete actions for refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6659](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6659).

<sup>3661</sup> The EU adopted 297 million in concrete actions for refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6659](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6659).

<sup>3662</sup> Keynote speech by Commissioner Kyriakides at the conference on “Better Access to Cancer Treatment,” European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 8 April 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech\\_19\\_6737](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_19_6737).

<sup>3663</sup> Keynote speech by Commissioner Kyriakides at the conference on “Better Access to Cancer Treatment,” European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 8 April 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech\\_19\\_6737](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_19_6737).

<sup>3664</sup> Italy: the EIB supports MolMed investment in research, development, and manufacturing for cancer and rare diseases innovative treatments, European Commission (Milan) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 17 April 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6807](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6807).

On 31 January 2019, the EU launched a EUR10 million funding program for COVID-19 research projects, specifically relating to public health preparedness and resilience.<sup>3665</sup> This was part of their Horizons 2020 research and innovation programming.<sup>3666</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the European Commission launched a consultation plan about its Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, in order to allow European residents to help shape health policies.<sup>3667</sup> The next steps entail consultations with stakeholders until July, and the plan is expected to be unveiled by the end of 2020.<sup>3668</sup>

On 1 March 2020, the EU provided EUR 30 million in assistance to Sudan, with the aid package specifically targeting the expansion of emergency healthcare services, nutrition, and access to clean water.<sup>3669</sup>

On 6 March 2020, the EU increased funding (an additional EUR37.5 million) from the Horizons 2020 Research and Innovation programming to be used for vaccine development, treatment, and public health preparedness and resilience, to effectively manage the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>3670</sup>

On 19 March 2020, the European Commission announced the creation of a stockpile of medical supplies (masks, ventilators, vaccines, medicine), financed up to 90 per cent by the EU.<sup>3671</sup> This stockpile is in response to supply shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3672</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the EU put forth guidelines to facilitate cross-border treatments and medical services in response to the extra burden on the healthcare system due to COVID-19.<sup>3673</sup> In order to provide support to healthcare systems of its member states, the EU will be reimbursing all costs of health travel and initiating a Clinical Management Support System as a forum for the distribution of information amongst healthcare professionals.<sup>3674</sup>

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<sup>3665</sup> Coronavirus: EU mobilises 10 million for research, European Commission (Brussels) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/coronavirus-eu-mobilises-eur10-million-for-research-2020-jan-31\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/coronavirus-eu-mobilises-eur10-million-for-research-2020-jan-31_en).

<sup>3666</sup> Coronavirus: EU mobilises 10 million for research, European Commission (Brussels) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/coronavirus-eu-mobilises-eur10-million-for-research-2020-jan-31\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/coronavirus-eu-mobilises-eur10-million-for-research-2020-jan-31_en).

<sup>3667</sup> European Commission launches EU-wide public consultation on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_154](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_154).

<sup>3668</sup> European Commission launches EU-wide public consultation on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_154](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_154).

<sup>3669</sup> Sudan: European Union provides 30 million in humanitarian assistance, European Commission (Brussels) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_359](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_359).

<sup>3670</sup> COVID-19: Commission steps up research funding and selects 17 projects in vaccine development, treatment, and diagnostics, European Commission (Brussels) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_386](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_386).

<sup>3671</sup> COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_476](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476).

<sup>3672</sup> COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_476](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476).

<sup>3673</sup> Coronavirus: Commission encourages and facilitates cross-border treatment of patients and deployment of medical staff, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_590](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_590).

<sup>3674</sup> Coronavirus: Commission encourages and facilitates cross-border treatment of patients and deployment of medical staff, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_590](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_590).

On 8 April 2020, the European Commission requested that its member states ensure the availability of medications, by avoiding national stockpiles and rationing supplies to essential uses, in response to COVID-19.<sup>3675</sup>

On 8 April 2020, the EU put forth their plan for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3676</sup> Part of this plan permits the delivery of funds to partner countries in order to strengthen health systems to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, allocating EUR15.6 billion to these actions.<sup>3677</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the EU allocated EUR2.7 billion in order to strengthen the healthcare sector in the face of COVID-19.<sup>3678</sup> These funds are to be allocated to building emergency health services, such as mobile health units, in addition to funding for medical supplies (masks, ventilators).<sup>3679</sup> Additionally, EUR 3.6 million will be allocated to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to enhance their abilities to identify health threats.<sup>3680</sup>

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems through investments in strengthening health systems by improving primary care services and investments within partner countries and globally. It has also taken efforts to strengthen the healthcare services of its member states in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The European Union has also demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage through committing to spread awareness about vaccines, supporting partner countries in expanding universal health coverage, discussing health policy priorities through reflection and goal setting.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

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<sup>3675</sup> Coronavirus: Commission calls on Member States to optimise supply and availability of medicines, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_622](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_622).

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