

Proposed Principles to Guide Global Allocation of Pandemic Vaccine

Safe and effective influenza vaccines are the best way to mitigate the consequences of an influenza pandemic. Based on experience with past pandemics, the greatest health burdens are likely to occur in developing countries. To reduce the adverse effects of an influenza pandemic in developing countries, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has been engaged in discussions with many partners to try to ensure these countries have access to pandemic influenza vaccines in a timely fashion. As a result of these discussions, we have proposed several principles for global allocation of pandemic vaccines, when available. We hope these principles will stimulate discussion of potential actions to be taken by governments, vaccine manufacturers, and international health organizations to ensure equitable access to vaccines during the pandemic.

1. The global community should take steps to protect all populations, including those without resources to protect themselves.
2. Vaccination should be considered in the context of comprehensive pandemic preparedness and response efforts in all nations.
3. Developed countries and vaccine manufacturers should urgently agree upon a mechanism to ensure access to vaccine by developing countries.
4. Influenza vaccine manufacturers should identify strategies such as tiered pricing and/or donations to make pandemic vaccine more accessible to developing nations.
5. Pandemic vaccines allocated to developing nations should become available in the same timeframe as vaccine for developed nations.
6. The global community should obtain data to help establish a consensus on the safety and efficacy of adjuvants, and efforts should be made to ensure the fullest use of this and other dose sparing strategies.
7. All countries obtaining pandemic vaccine should ensure that mechanisms are in place to provide this vaccine to their populations, to ensure this scarce resource is not wasted, and donors should be prepared to provide resources and technical assistance to help countries bolster these mechanisms.
8. The World Health Organization is uniquely positioned to lead the global response to a pandemic virus and should support governments and industry in their efforts to implement these principles.