



Our position on:

Why pandemic preparedness is a priority for GSK, our sector, and public health

What is the challenge?

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for governments and other stakeholders to take a dramatically different approach to detecting and managing outbreaks. It has also brought our interdependencies to the fore, underlining that strengthened national health security requires international coordination.

Why is pandemic preparedness a priority?

Experience tells us that tackling public health challenges requires scaled interventions and bold investment choices made over a sustained period of time. We are actively engaged with governments and other stakeholders to strengthen global pandemic preparedness; drawing on learnings from COVID-19 and previous outbreaks; and reaffirming the role of innovation and promoting sustainable approaches for the biopharmaceutical sector and for public health.

GSK was one of five companies to sit on the Pandemic Preparedness Partnership Steering Group in 2021, convened by the UK Government. The partnership brought together industry, international organisations and leading experts to advise G7 governments on a roadmap to help speed up the response to a future pandemic through R&D and embedding best practice in business-as-usual activity.

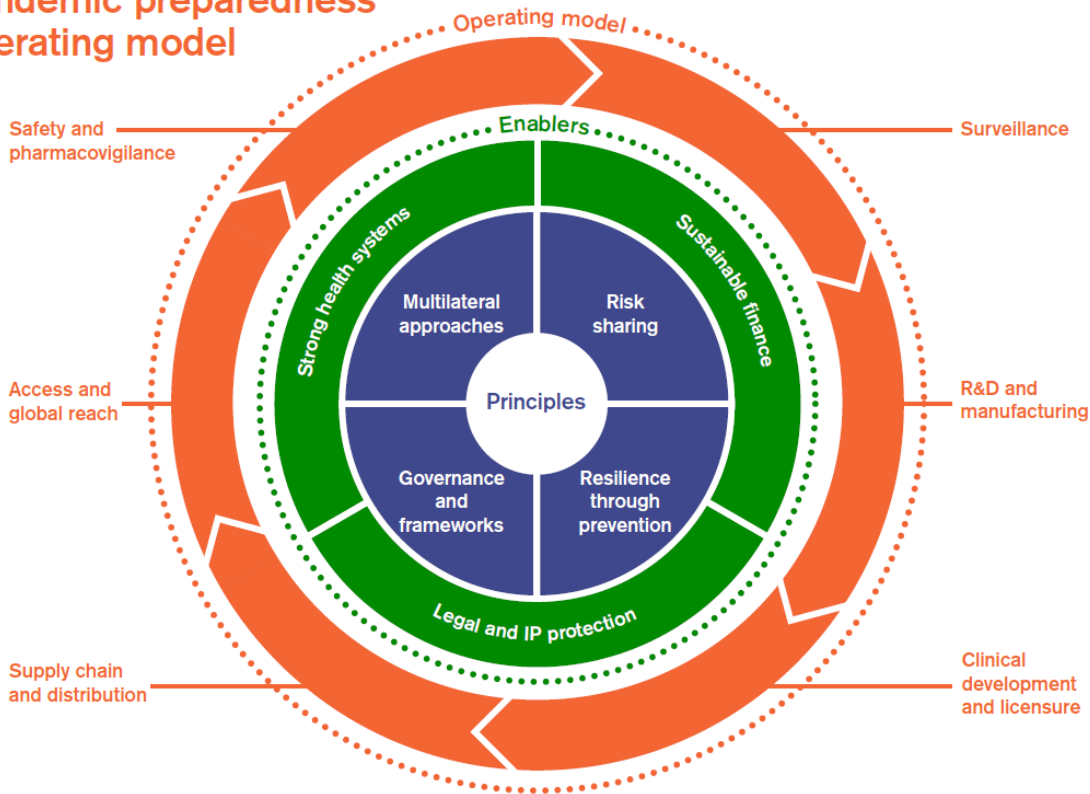
We view pandemic preparedness as a priority because:

- 1. As a global healthcare company innovating to tackle disease, health security is central to our agenda** – including helping the world better prepare for outbreaks and tackling antimicrobial resistance. Our core contribution to the fight against COVID-19 is in using our science, experience and capacity to develop, produce, and distribute vaccines and medicines. A summary of our COVID-19 R&D, and approach to pricing and access of COVID-19 solutions, is available [here](#).
- 2. We believe global health security is integral to our business model** – protecting people from the health and economic consequences of epidemic and pandemic threats; and building capacity to respond to global emergencies into our regular operations, without disrupting the development and supply of interventions for other diseases. The pandemic has resulted in people missing out on essential health services in 90% of countries¹. Delays in diagnosis could lead to 3,500 avoidable cancer deaths in the UK alone²; half of parents have cancelled or delayed their child's meningitis vaccination during the pandemic.
- 3. Investing in preparedness and prevention has a clear return** – through bold investment in prevention, such as immunisation, governments can foster healthy populations; and health systems that better prevent, manage, and recover from shocks. Only 2.8% of domestic health spending in OECD countries goes towards prevention (including preparedness and public health)³. COVID-19 has exposed the cost of this underinvestment in lives and jobs lost, with the pandemic expected to wipe £21.5 trillion off global output. Treating healthcare budgets as an “insurance” against future threats would help protect lives and livelihoods: for every \$1 spent on improving health, an economic return of \$2-\$4 is possible through, eg more people working⁴.
- 4. Planning for the next pandemic must start now** – the risk of pandemics is increasing, with more than five new infectious diseases emerging in humans each year⁵. Exiting the “pandemic era” requires a decisive shift towards prevention – including addressing the environmental impacts that result in more viruses spilling over from animals to humans. Learnings and efficiencies achieved during COVID-19, including accelerated clinical trial design and inter-agency cooperation, should also be adopted by industry, governments and regulators to deliver more effective and efficient healthcare during both pandemics and peacetime.

What is our view?

Governments, international organisations, and the private sector must forge a common agenda to expand our capacity to quickly detect diseases and mobilise interventions at pace and scale, building from existing national, regional and international mechanisms.

Pandemic preparedness operating model



We believe there are **four principles at the core of pandemic preparedness** which – when adopted by governments and industry – underpin a sustainable pandemic preparedness operating model, supported by key enablers. We are committed to working with governments and other stakeholders to advocate for this model, and play our part in embedding it, to help pre-empt and better manage pandemics:

1. **Multilateral approaches, as a backbone to national health security** – the world’s ability to identify, contain and respond to pandemic threats requires coordinated disease surveillance, unfettered access to pathogen identification, expedited access to clinical trial networks and joint working on procurement and manufacturing readiness to enable global and domestic responses.
2. **Risk-sharing, as a means to sustainability and scale** – future preparedness will require sustained pandemic vaccine and therapeutic research, development and manufacturing capacity at global scale, and will need public and private funding.
3. **Governance and frameworks, for collective readiness and effectiveness** – convergent regulatory requirements; free movement of goods during crisis; liability protection frameworks and no-fault compensation systems; and containment protocols based on sound public health principles are integral to ensure a rapid and effective pandemic response at national, regional and global levels.
4. **Resilience through prevention, to protect lives and livelihoods** – embed stronger, more optimised prevention and healthcare delivery capabilities into health and economic planning at national and international levels, accounting for aging demographics, high-risk comorbidities (e.g. asthma, obesity) and driving preventative care (e.g. lifecourse vaccination).

¹ [COVID-19 continues to disrupt essential health services in 90% of countries \(who.int\)](#).

² Maringe C, Spicer J, Morris M, Purushotham A, Nolte E, Sullivan R, et al. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer deaths due to delays in diagnosis in England, UK: a national, population-based, modelling study. *The Lancet Oncology*. 2020;21(8):1023-34

³ Glassman, A and Smitham, E, [Financing for Global Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness: Taking Stock and What's Next](#), Center for Global Development, 8 March 2021

⁴ McKinsey Global Institute, [Prioritising Health: A Prescription for Prosperity](#), 8 July 2020

⁵ [Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#), 29 October 2020