



Our position on Pandemic preparedness

What is the issue?

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for governments and other stakeholders to dramatically rethink how we prevent, detect and respond to outbreaks. It has also brought our interdependencies to the fore – health security of individual nations requires international coordination.

What is GSK's view?

- **Experience tells us that public health challenges require scaled interventions and bold, sustained investment choices.** We have actively contributed to the fight against COVID-19 and are engaged with governments and other stakeholders to strengthen future global pandemic preparedness. Any approach should draw on learnings from COVID-19 and previous outbreaks; reaffirm the role of innovation; and be sustainable for the pharmaceutical sector and public health.
- **As a global healthcare company, we are innovating to get ahead of disease – including helping the world better prepare for viral outbreaks and get ahead of antimicrobial resistance.** To effectively counter these threats, interventions to prevent and mitigate infectious disease should be appropriately available and accessible. Equity of access can only be achieved through governments, industry and other stakeholders working together to find collective, sustainable solutions.
- **Global health security is integral to our business model** – helping protect people from the 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 countriesⁱ.
- **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. 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 e.g. through more people workingⁱⁱ.
- **Planning for the next pandemic must start now** – exiting the “pandemic era” requires a decisive shift towards prevention – including addressing the environmental impacts that can result in more viruses spilling over from animals to people. Efficiencies achieved during COVID-19, including accelerated clinical trial design and inter-agency cooperation, should be adopted by industry, governments and regulators to deliver better healthcare during pandemics and peacetime.

What policy actions are needed to strengthen pandemic preparedness?

Governments, international organisations, and the private sector must forge a common agenda to expand our capacity to quickly detect diseases with pandemic potential; and mobilise interventions at pace and scale. This should build on existing national, regional and international mechanisms.

Below we set out the policy framework that we believe should underpin a coordinated approach to preventing and managing future pandemics; and the steps governments can take to implement this framework. We are committed to working with governments and other stakeholders to advocate for this model, and play our part in embedding it.



What are the principles that underpin pandemic preparedness?

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.

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 public and private funding.

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 an effective pandemic response at national, regional and global levels.

Resilience through prevention, to protect lives and livelihoods – stronger, more optimised prevention and healthcare delivery capabilities should be embedded in health and economic planning at national and international levels, accounting for ageing demographics, high-risk comorbidities (e.g. asthma, obesity) and driving preventative care (e.g. lifecourse vaccination).

What are the enablers needed to sustain pandemic preparedness and what steps can governments take to embed them?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Sustainable finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop purpose-built finance mechanisms to support a mix of advanced procurement, direct manufacturing investments, and “push” funding. • Establish a global finance solution now, co-ordinating with countries, multilateral development banks and international organisations. • Implement market-based incentives to tackle the looming threat of antimicrobial resistance. |
| Legal and IP protections | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse a legal framework that promotes competition and incentivises innovative R&D and manufacturing scale-up with strong protections for innovator IP. • Ensure legal protection for patients and innovators to maintain public confidence in vaccines and ensure the success of immunisation systems. |
| Strong health systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund and strengthen national health systems. • Support policies to increase routine vaccination coverage for all ages. • Plan for scale-up administration of vaccines and other complex medicines like monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) during emergencies. • Test health security capacities and publish after-action reviews annually. |

How can governments support a networked, end-to-end operating model?

- | | |
|---|---|
| Surveillance: tracking and forecasting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure transparent and coherent methods and systems for collecting, using and sharing data, coordinated between public and private sectors. • Support state-of-the-art monitoring and data-based risk assessments for more timely detection of disease. • Enable access to genomic sequencing and testing. • Eliminate any impediments to rapid strain/sequence sharing. |
| R&D and manufacturing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support an R&D agenda, via external funding, that allows innovators to proactively develop prototype vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. • Foster a collaborative environment and enable access to technologies, materials, and processes for R&D. • Enable public-private partnership models that could support the creation of extra hybrid production capacities. |

Clinical development and licensure

- Support a global and regional network approach to manufacturing infrastructure and capacity.
- Build stronger, more robust clinical trial networks.
- Facilitate pre-aligned pathways, protocols, and data requirements for developing new medicines and vaccines.
- Permit specific/medically critical pandemic products labelled for one market to be accepted in another.

Supply chain and distribution

- Maintain and grow global supply chains.
- Safeguard, strengthen and promote free and open markets.
- Ensure dependable frameworks and customs procedures.

Access and global reach

- Build upon the political will and multi-stakeholder coordination that created the Covax facility with an aim towards a permanent global procurement and deployment mechanism.
- Establish a mechanism for national governments to monitor development of biopharmaceutical technologies for pandemic response.
- Improve vaccine confidence through public health initiatives and health worker education.

Safety and pharmacovigilance

- Strengthen patient safety, pharmacovigilance and adverse event evaluation in less-resourced countries.
- Work in partnership with industry to raise public awareness of the important role pharmacovigilance plays in safe implementation of immunisation programmes.

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

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