

MANIFEST 'VACCINES: A UNIVERSAL PUBLIC GOOD'

After a year of pandemic, the whole world awaits vaccines with hope, as the most effective healthcare measure to gain control over COVID-19.

We, the healthcare professionals, who live with the daily reality of COVID-19, and who know the consequences the disease has for many citizens along with the burden of pain and suffering it brings, watch the vaccine campaign that has just started as a hopeful reality.

Biomedical research has played a key role in the development of these vaccines and deserves credit for that. It must be pointed out that these vaccines were made possible thanks to the public funding of this research.

Unfortunately, production and worldwide distribution of COVID-19 vaccines is limited and therefore irregular and uneven. Not everyone can have access to vaccines. There are many barriers, including those limitations from patents and the lack of knowledge transfer, to scale up the world production.

In an unprecedented crisis, we believe, exceptional measures must be taken to overcome the barriers and interests with public health criteria. The present situation of the pandemic and the COVID-19 vaccination process meet all the circumstances of exceptionality, of necessary equity, of interest for public health to legitimate this demand:

On behalf of Healthcare professionals, we ask Governments and International Organizations to establish and apply all legal measures, respecting the basic principle of intellectual property, improve significantly the production and distribution capacity of vaccines against COVID-19, to manufacture as many doses as possible, at the lowest cost and make them widely available to the whole world.

That is why we support and sign the [Vaccine Equity Declaration](#) promoted by the World Health Organisation (WHO). This initiative calls on governments, pharmaceutical companies, regulatory agencies and global leaders to join efforts to accelerate equitable distribution of vaccines worldwide, especially among health personnel. **We ask all health organisations (professional associations, scientific societies, academic and research institutions, etc.), as well as doctors and other health professionals, to also adhere to this statement.**

VACCINE EQUITY DECLARATION

It is well known that in the health crisis we suffer, nobody will be safe until everybody is safe. In this exceptional situation, to preserve everybody's health is the only legitimate goal.

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With the support of

ISGlobal Instituto de
Salud Global
Barcelona