

UK leads way as nations endorse landmark pledge to make coronavirus vaccines and treatments available to all

- UK is one of 20 countries and global organisations, like the WHO, to pledge to give the world access to new vaccines and treatments
- Pledge follows calls from the PM and UK Ministers for greater global co-operation in fight against coronavirus
- UK will also virtually co-host new Coronavirus Global Response Summit on 4 May 2020

Countries from around the world today (Friday, 24 April) joined the UK in pledging to give everyone equal access to new coronavirus vaccines and treatments around the world. The move is aimed at boosting global supply of the vaccine, once one is approved for use, to help prevent a second wave of the pandemic.

At the World Health Organization virtual launch event today, First Secretary of State Dominic Raab joined the UN Secretary General, World Health Organization (WHO) Director General and the leaders from the 20 countries, including France, South Africa and Malaysia to pledge the UK's support for the new "COV-access agreement".

This is an unprecedented global agreement between international health organisations and countries. It follows calls from the UK for the countries to work together, including at last month's G20 meeting.

The UK is one of the biggest supporters of the global effort to find a coronavirus vaccine, providing £250 million to international research on the disease to the Centre for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. It is also one of the biggest supporters of the WHO and Gavi, the Global Vaccine Alliance, which distributes vaccines in the poorest countries.

UK scientists at Oxford and Imperial College London Universities are also leading efforts to develop a working vaccine. Human trials started this week in Oxford, and the government has given £42.5 million in funding to support clinical trials at both institutions.

The UK confirmed today that it will co-host a Coronavirus Global Response Summit on 4 May, aiming to raise £7 billion to develop vaccines, treatments and tests to help end the coronavirus pandemic.

It was also announced that the UK will host the major the Global Vaccines Summit virtually on the 4th June, to ensure Gavi is fully funded and at the heart of our efforts to ensure equitable access for any vaccine.

Speaking to other leaders in a video message alongside the UN Secretary

General and WHO Director General this afternoon First Secretary of State Dominic Raab said:

The UK is already one of the biggest donors to the international COVID-19 response, and today we are proud to support the WHO's Call to Action to bring global health partners together to accelerate progress toward a vaccine.

[Video message from UN Secretary General, WHO Director General and First Secretary of State Dominic Raab](#)

International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan said:

British expertise and funding is already leading efforts to find a coronavirus vaccine and treatments, which will save lives in the UK and around the world.

Following calls from the Prime Minister it is great to see other nations working collectively in the fight against coronavirus.

Making sure vaccines, treatments, technologies are available in the most vulnerable countries is vital to ending the pandemic – keeping us, and the rest of the world safe from future infections.

“COV-access agreement”

The new commitment in the agreement follow continued international lobbying from the UK for more global co-operation on the pandemic, including at last week's G20 finance and World Bank meetings, and includes pledges to:

1. Provide access to new treatments, technologies and vaccines across the world
2. Commit to an unprecedented level of international partnership on research and coordinate efforts to tackle the pandemic and reduce infections
3. Reach collective decisions on responding to the pandemic, recognising that the virus' spread in one country can affect all countries
4. Learn from experience and adapt the global response
5. Be accountable, to the most vulnerable communities and the whole world.

As part of this agreement the WHO also announced the appointment of two new Special Envoys to lead global co-operation on vaccine research and help ensure equal access to any successful vaccines. Sir Andrew Witty, the British former head of global drugs giant GSK was appointed alongside Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Board Chair of Gavi.

A new “COV-access Hub” was also announced by the WHO to support co-operation on the research, development and production of new vaccines, treatments and technologies to fight coronavirus.

Notes to Editors

The countries supporting the WHO-led global pledge today include the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Malaysia and South South Africa.

To date the UK has contributed £744 million to the international fight against coronavirus. This includes support for UK and international research into treatments and technologies and £250 million to the Centre for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations which funding international research to find a vaccine.

The [Prime Minister announced the CEPI funding](#) on the 26 March virtual G20 leaders meeting, calling on other leaders to collaborate on international research into a vaccine and ensure it could be made available to all.

The UK is also the largest supporter of Gavi, the Global Vaccine Alliance, which has immunized 760 million children in the world's poorest countries, saving 13 million lives.

Earlier this week (21 April) Health Secretary Matt Hancock announced £20 million of Government support for clinical human trials into a vaccine run from Oxford University.

Earlier this month the UK government launched a new Vaccine Taskforce, led by Chief Scientific Adviser Sir Patrick Vallance and Deputy Chief Medical Officer Professor Jonathan van Tam, which will drive forward and co-ordinate efforts to research and produce a coronavirus vaccine, and make sure one is made available to the public as quickly as possible.

As well as supporting vaccine research in the UK, the Taskforce will build on the UK's research and development expertise to support international efforts to find a coronavirus vaccine.

[Staying Put grant: determination letter](#)

Published 30 June 2017

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1. 2 April 2022

Added the 'Staying Put grant: determination letter for 2022 to 2025'.

2. 26 March 2021

Added the attachment "Staying Put grant: determination letter for 2021

to 2022”.

3. 24 April 2020

Added ‘Staying Put grant: determination letter for 2020 to 2021’.

4. 22 March 2019

Added the grant determination letter for 2019 to 2020.

5. 28 February 2018

Staying Put grant determination letter for 2018 to 2019 added.

6. 30 June 2017

First published.

[Exchanging information during UK-US trade agreement negotiations](#)

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don’t have symptoms.

[Schools to benefit from education partnership with tech giants](#)

Thousands of schools will benefit from a ground-breaking partnership with tech giants to gain access to education platforms.

Expert technical support to access Google and Microsoft’s education platforms, along with free training on how to use the resources most effectively, will be available for schools immediately. This will include online resources, support getting set up, webinars and peer to peer support

between schools.

This follows the Government's pledge to provide laptops and tablets for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people across England.

The Government has committed over £100 million to boost remote education, including by providing devices and internet access for those who need it most, ensuring every school that wants it has access to free, expert technical support to get set up on Google for Education or Microsoft's Office 365 Education, and offering peer support from schools and colleges leading the way with the use of education technology.

Today (24 April), the Government has written to local authorities, trusts and other relevant organisations overseeing schools and children's social care outlining the process for ordering the devices. The Government has already placed a bulk order and organisations will be able to register to receive their allocation from today, while institutions that administer the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund will be able to apply for a top-up.

Schools Minister Nick Gibb said:

As schools, parents and children adapt to the changing environment we are all faced with, it is vital that we provide them with the right support so young people are able to continue their education.

Through close partnership with the education sector and two of the world's biggest tech companies, we are working to ensure that children can continue their studies while they are at home.

Laptops and tablets for vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils are on their way and will begin being distributed in weeks, enabling those most in need to access online resources.

To further support schools and colleges in delivering the best possible remote education, twenty institutions with outstanding technology practices have been awarded between £70,000 and £150,000 through the EdTech Demonstrators programme.

The programme was announced last year to boost peer-to-peer support on the effective use of technology and has now been tailored to help schools and colleges provide education remotely. The reach of this programme will be expanded over the coming weeks, and schools and colleges can register their interest in receiving support from today.

Guidance for schools on choosing the right education platform to meet their needs will be hosted by The Key, including best practice case studies and myth busting. The guidance will walk schools through the key assets of both Google and Microsoft's platforms and provide an option to register for Government-funded expert support in getting these platforms set up.

Liz Sproat, Head of Education, Google EMEA:

This is a challenging time for UK schools, educators, parents and students and this initiative by the Department for Education provides vital support to schools seeking to enable remote learning.

We are delighted that our suite of tools, resources and our partners can help schools maintain learning during these difficult times.

Cindy Rose, CEO Microsoft UK, said:

Schools across the UK are facing unprecedented challenges as their staff demonstrate incredible resilience, imagination and passion to ensure children are safe and able to keep learning while at home.

We're proudly working with the Department for Education to support the roll out of remote learning technology to those who need it. For some time now, Microsoft has offered Office 365 for Education free for schools and we continue working on a number of fronts to support the education community with the latest technology during this difficult time.

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