

Novartis commitment to the Coronavirus pandemic

In the face of the global pandemic, Novartis has quickly mobilized R&D capabilities, medicines, clinical trials expertise and an access portfolio to address the coronavirus pandemic.



How we are supporting our people

We commit to the health and safety of our colleagues and families. We contribute to the strength of our economy and we are not resorting to state funding or technical unemployment. For associates in research and manufacturing, we provide additional protective measures and equipment. Our flexibility policy empowers all office-based associates to choose how, where and when they work within their country of employment.



Business continuity

The Novartis risk management framework ensures business continuity and recovery planning measures. This planning includes safety stocks, pandemic preparedness plans and dual sourcing strategies. Novartis continues to deliver its medicines to patients and healthcare providers around the world and does not anticipate major supply chain disruptions. We continue to monitor the situation closely and will adapt our measures as the situation evolves.

In July, Sandoz, our generics and biosimilars division, announced plans for joint investment to help strengthen future of antibiotics manufacturing in Europe. Sandoz committed to related penicillin API production in Europe for the next 10 years.



Sandoz pricing commitment and COVID-19 access portfolio

Sandoz, committed in March to maintain prices on a basket of essential medicines that may help in the treatment of COVID-19. A portfolio of 15 generic medicines has been identified to address urgent unmet needs of low- and lower-middle-income countries to treat patients with COVID-19 symptoms. This portfolio will be sold at zero-profit to 79 eligible countries until a vaccine or curative treatment is available. Novartis is currently collaborating with the African Medical Supplies Platform to facilitate the supply and ensure rapid access to affordable COVID-19 related medicines.



Research & Development

We are assessing whether Novartis medicines could be effective in treating patients with COVID-19. We established several Phase III clinical trials to determine if they can help patients with certain COVID-19 related symptoms. We are also providing medicines to investigator-initiated trials (IITs) and managed access programs upon request. There are in total over 15 Novartis medicines being studied in 35 IITs around the world.

Additionally, we are partnering with several multi-stakeholder external consortia, including the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator, coordinated by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust and MasterCard, as well as the ACTIV partnership with the NIH. We are also a member of the COVID-19 direct partnership organized by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) and of the R&D Leaders Consortium.



Community Fund

The Novartis COVID-19 Response Fund provides EUR 35 million to support communities around the world most impacted by the pandemic, including more than 80 projects in 60 countries. In May, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) announced a EUR 0.8 million contribution by Novartis in Uganda, Kenya and Somalia, to help mitigate the COVID-19 spread among some of East Africa's most vulnerable communities.