

Novartis frequently asked questions on COVID-19

March 24, 2020

What actions is Novartis taking to help address the pandemic?

- Donating up to 130 million doses of generic hydroxychloroquine to support the global COVID-19 pandemic response, including current stock of 50 million doses. Hydroxychloroquine and a related drug, chloroquine, are currently under evaluation in clinical trials for the treatment of COVID-19. Novartis is supporting ongoing clinical trial efforts.
- Novartis COVID-19 Response Fund will provide \$20 million in grants to support public health initiatives designed to help communities manage challenges posed by the pandemic.
- Sandoz committed to maintain stable prices on a basket of essential medicines that may help in the treatment of COVID-19.
- Established Novartis COVID-19 R&D Task Force - 4 key working groups:
 - Discovery Science - Lead, partner, or support identification of therapeutic candidates against COVID-19. This includes supplying direct acting antiviral compounds for screening for SARS-CoV-2 activity.
 - Clinical Investigation - Facilitate rapid access to Novartis medicines for approved clinical requests, and support clinical evaluation of Novartis and non-Novartis medicines for COVID-19. Potential brands could include: Jakavi, Gilenya, Cosentyx, Ilaris and Extavia.
 - Consortium Engagement - Joined collaborative R&D efforts with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome, Mastercard as well as a COVID-19 directed partnership organized by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI).
 - Community Support - Provide critical resources (including diagnostic support) for local and regional communities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Impact on Novartis Supply Chain?

- Novartis continues to deliver its medicines to patients and healthcare providers around the world and does not anticipate supply chain disruption for the majority of its portfolio at this time given strong mitigation measures and inventory levels.
- Novartis has sufficient stock levels of at least 3 months for Sandoz and 6 months in Innovative Medicines. All key suppliers are also producing and delivering at this time.
- Supply Chain impact from China?
 - Chinese suppliers have resumed operations and are providing supply reliably.
 - Overall very low risk for our worldwide supply chain.
 - The Innovative Medicines Division has no major dependency and 7-12 months stock on relevant molecules imported from China.
 - Sandoz has a small exposure if supply would be suspended for more than 3 months. For the majority of the molecules we source from China, existing stock is sufficient to cover production needs for the next three months.
 - In China, we have two production sites that are following the requirements and guidance of the relevant local authorities and working closely with them. Each of the Novartis sites in Beijing and in Zhongshan respectively are operational and continue to manufacture products. Production operations were paused for a short time at the start of the outbreak following local authorities' guidance, but resumed operations in early and mid-February respectively.
- Supply Chain impact from Italy, South Korea and India?
 - In Italy, we have one commercial production site located in Torre Annunziata, that is following the requirements and guidance of the relevant local authorities and, as of today, remains fully operational.
 - We do not have any Novartis manufacturing sites in South Korea.

- Novartis operates one site at Kalwe, India, which is not affected by the government restriction on exports of specific APIs and formulations announced on March 3, 2020.

Impact on Employees and HCP interactions?

- Novartis associates within Europe, US and Canada are requested to work from home, with the exception of those working in laboratories, manufacturing sites and in the field.
- Sales force - Novartis has stepped up the utilization of digital engagement tools to support internal collaboration as well as outreach to healthcare professionals and customers. Novartis is benefiting from the strategy put in place two years ago to leverage data & digital much more for our launches – recent IQVIA data showed that launches with higher share of digital are more successful.
- Novartis is proactively distributing masks to all associates in our manufacturing and lab facilities.
- Novartis has implemented general travel restrictions.

Impact on Clinical Trials?

- At this time there is no change in the expected timings for our 500+ clinical trials.
- We have established a cross-functional team which is closely monitoring the situation globally. The SENSE technology implemented last year allows us to track in real time all of our clinical trials (500+) in 70+ countries at the level of individual patients and shift contingency plans rapidly as the situation evolves. With this information we can manage trial operations and implement contingencies in a coordinated way to ensure the welfare of all those involved in Novartis trials, maintaining patient safety and treatment regimens of participants.
- Novartis is using digital tools to follow up with patients and HCPs to mitigate impacts.

Impact on upcoming launches?

- At this time, we do not anticipate any delays to regulatory submissions.
- Upcoming launches of ofatumumab, capmatinib, inclisiran all filed with respective health authorities. Pre-launch activities continue as planned.
- Ofatumumab is manufactured in Switzerland, inclisiran is manufactured in Colorado and Italy, capmatinib is manufactured in Ireland and Germany.
- It is possible that regulatory site inspections may be delayed. It is also possible that regulators may pursue alternatives. We are closely watching for guidance from regulators.

For more information on COVID-19 visit our information center at the link below

<https://www.novartis.com/coronavirus>

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