

Global Position Statement on Pandemic Preparedness

Key Takeaway Messages

- The COVID-19 pandemic has reaffirmed the value of science and the importance of a robust innovation ecosystem that drives scientific advances to the benefit of patients and society.
- At BMS, we aim to contribute to a world that is better prepared to prevent and respond to pandemics, minimizing loss of life and livelihoods for communities globally. We are committed to working with governments and all stakeholders, including patients and healthcare professionals, to help ensure that equitable preparedness and response systems are put in place and maintained to be better prepared for the next public health emergency.
- BMS supports pandemic preparedness that encourages a thriving innovation environment made possible thanks to unimpeded and swift access to emerging pathogens and a research and development (R&D) ecosystem supported by a tried and tested intellectual property framework.
- BMS believes that to better respond to future health emergencies, we must address ongoing inequalities in access to care and invest in efforts to strengthen healthcare systems. BMS supports policy solutions that prepare for the next public health emergency.

Bristol Myers Squibb Position

At BMS, we aim to contribute to a world that is better prepared to prevent and respond to pandemics, minimizing loss of life and livelihoods for communities globally.

- BMS believes pandemic preparedness is essential work across sectors, including with governments and regulatory bodies, patient organizations, bi-lateral institutions, payers, companies, and industry associations to address current crises and to prepare for future crises.
- In times of global health emergencies, BMS is committed to utilizing our appropriate scientific, regulatory, quality control, and manufacturing expertise to meet global manufacturing needs.
- BMS believes that diverse, global supply chains are essential to preventing interruptions in the manufacturing and distribution of medicines. It is essential that manufacturers maintain autonomy and flexibility in crafting supply chains to better respond to supply chain issues resulting from pandemics or other emergencies.

BMS supports pandemic preparedness that encourages a thriving innovation environment made possible by a tried and tested intellectual property framework.

- Strong intellectual property (IP) protections incentivize forward-thinking research, development, and manufacturing of cutting-edge technologies. Without robust IP protection, modern medical innovation would be stagnated and ultimately patients would suffer.
- BMS supports a strong IP framework to ensure access to innovative medicines during global health crises. Policies that undermine IP protections, such as government seizure of patents to let competitors use that patented invention displaces the incentive to develop new treatments and cures.
- The Pandemic Accord also proposes the creation of the “WHO Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing System” with a transactional approach to equity.^{vi} This proposal created hurdles to R&D and increases the legal uncertainty for companies operating in this field. BMS is leveraging our trade associations to monitor and engage in discussions around pathogen access.

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- BMS supports elements of the international agreements being formed around pandemic preparedness but reinforce the need to consider the incentive structure required to ensure new medicines will be developed rapidly in the next global health emergency.
- BMS believes that to better respond to future health emergencies, we must address ongoing inequalities in access to care. Health equity plays a key role in ensuring everyone has access to the medicines they need, even more so in times of pandemics and other health emergencies. BMS is deeply invested in programs to enhance health and social equity globally and locally. In August of 2020, Bristol Myers Squibb established a set of inclusion, diversity, and health equity goals that it reports progress on annually. The company set goals against four priority areas: 1) addressing health disparities 2) clinical trial diversity, 3) supplier diversity, 4) workforce representation.
 - This commitment includes a \$150 million, five-year investment to help address disparities in healthcare, increase diversity in clinical trials, expand the supply chain to include more diverse suppliers, increase the diversity of our own workforce in the US at the executive level. We have made measurable progress against its goal to award \$150 million. Since 2020, nearly \$100 million in distributed corporate giving funding has reached more than 10 million people through programs and services. Our support has enabled patient advocacy organizations, community organizations, academic institutions, and other organizations to accelerate disease awareness and education, improve equitable access to quality care, and advance health equity policies for underserved communities.
- A core tenet of BMS’s approach to strengthening health system capabilities is through mechanisms like healthcare professional training and patient and community education. This includes partnering with stakeholders at the local, regional, and global levels to both advance practical structures and shape policy.

BMS supports policy solutions that prepare for the next public health emergency.

- BMS is committed to building on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and to working with health care systems, advocates, and policymakers to advance public policies to further enhance the resilience of health care systems globally and ensure a robust and inclusive preparedness infrastructure moving forward.
- BMS supports long-term national preparedness strategies in countries around the world to ensure they are building the capabilities they need for their health care system to prevent and respond to health emergencies.

ⁱ <https://covid19.who.int/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9923118/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.who.int/news/item/01-12-2021-world-health-assembly-agrees-to-launch-process-to-develop-historic-global-accord-on-pandemic-prevention-preparedness-and-response>

^{iv} https://www.who.int/health-topics/international-health-regulations#tab=tab_3 ^v <https://phrma.org/policy-issues/International/TRIPS-Waiver>

^{vi} https://apps.who.int/gb/inb/pdf_files/inb4/A_INB4_3-en.pdf (see page 17)