

**Research Briefing**

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## UK and G7 commitments to donate Covid-19 vaccines

In June 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson called upon G7 leaders [to set a goal for the world to be fully vaccinated against coronavirus](#) by the end of 2022.

The purchasing and administrating of Covid-19 vaccines has been unequal globally. As of 3 February 2022, only [10% of people in low-income countries](#) (having a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita below US \$1,045) have received at least one vaccine dose. In high-income states (GNI per capita above US\$ 12,696), it was 78%.

At the G7 summit, hosted by the UK in June, leaders pledged to drive an [“intensified international effort”](#) to vaccinate the world. The leaders collectively pledged to donate 1 billion vaccines to Covax, the international vaccine-sharing initiative, and other countries over the next year. This was enough to vaccinate around [5% of the populations of lower-income countries](#) by the end of 2021, according to the NGO ONE.

The G7 includes the UK, US, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada, and the EU.

The [United Nations](#) and [World Health Organization](#) welcomed the G7 pledge, but urged the doses to be donated during 2021, rather than in 2022. The pace of vaccine donations by high-income countries to Covax and to lower income countries has been criticised, including by the [World Bank](#).

This briefing sets out the pledges made by G7 leaders, and progress made against them. For information on the Covax initiative, which aims to ensure fair access to Covid-19 vaccines worldwide, see the Library paper, [Covax and global access to Covid-19 vaccines](#).

To promote greater global manufacture of vaccines, G7 leaders have also been urged to support a waiver of intellectual property rights on Covid-19 vaccines. The Library briefing, [Waiving Intellectual property rights for Covid-19 vaccines](#) (CBP 9417), provides more detail.

# 1 Richer economies are likely to have purchased surplus doses

Analysis by the Duke Global Innovation Center suggests that 11 countries and the EU have arrangements to potentially procure enough doses to offer each person at least four Covid-19 vaccines. The UK, for example, has agreements to administer eight doses per person, or four “full courses” of the vaccine (excluding booster jabs).

Russia and China have not published information on their vaccine procurement.

Number of doses procured per person At 3 January 2022	
Canada	11.4
Australia	9.2
UK	8.2
New Zealand	7.6
EU	7.5
Switzerland	6.2
USA	5.6
Japan	5.4
Peru	5.2
Chile	5.1
South Korea	5.0
Israel	4.5

Notes: Does not include donations. Jansen and CanSino Biologics are counted as double shots. Data does not include any unknown contracts, those under negotiation, or potential deals. Figures include vaccines not yet approved. Population based on World Bank 2019 estimates.

Source: Duke Global Innovation Centre, [Vaccine purchases](#), accessed 6 January 2022 and [Data Notes](#), 11 December 2020.

Caution should be applied when interpreting these figures. These agreements include vaccines where effectiveness has not yet been proved or those yet to

receive regulatory approval. The number of vaccines required to protect against the coronavirus has also changed overtime, with booster campaigns launched in many countries in the second half of 2021, and a greater number of age groups becoming eligible for vaccination.

## 2

## G7 vaccine pledges from June 2021

At the G7 summit hosted by the UK in June 2021, G7 leaders, which include those from the EU, US, UK, Japan and Canada, [pledged to share 1 billion doses](#) with the world over the following year.<sup>1</sup>

Around [870 million of these would be shared via Covax](#), the international vaccine sharing initiative, with the aim to deliver half by the end of 2021.<sup>2</sup> The remainder would be shared bilaterally with countries in need.

In addition to the pledged doses, G7 leaders said their financial contributions to Covax up to June 2021 [allowed 1 billion doses to be purchased](#) for the scheme.<sup>3</sup>

The [United Nations](#) and [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) welcomed the G7 pledge, but urged for the doses to be donated during 2021, rather than 2022.<sup>4</sup>

The following section sets out the pledges made by G7 states. Section three describes progress against these pledges.

### What is Covax?

Established in 2020 by the World Health Organization, Gavi, the vaccine alliance, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Covax is an international scheme intending to ensure fair distribution of Covid-19 vaccines worldwide.

For 92 eligible low-income economies, including Ethiopia, Sudan, and Nepal, Covax will purchase (or receive as donations) sufficient doses to fully vaccinate around 30% of their populations in 2021 and 2022. The scheme also supports countries to develop their own national vaccination plans and to identify populations most in need of vaccination.

<sup>1</sup> G7 Summit 2021, [Our shared agenda for global action to build back better](#), 13 June 2021, accessed 8 December 2021

<sup>2</sup> Gavi, [G7 announces pledges of 870 million Covid-19 vaccine doses \[...\]](#), 13 June 2021, accessed 8 December 2021

<sup>3</sup> G7 Summit, [Carbis Bay Summit Communiqué](#), 12 July 2021, section 1.2, 4, accessed 8 December 2021

<sup>4</sup> UN, [Landmark G7 agreement \[...\]](#), 13 June 2021; WHO, [G7 announces pledges of 870 million Covid-19 vaccines \[...\]](#), 13 June 2021, both accessed 9 December 2021

In 2021, Covax was criticised for being slow to deliver vaccines. On 15 January 2022, it announced it had [delivered 1.1 billion vaccines to 144 countries](#).

The Library briefing, [Covax and global access to Covid-19 vaccines](#) provides more on the scheme and the challenges of vaccine delivery and administration globally. This includes a full list of low-income economies eligible for free doses.

Donations of vaccines are only one potential way G7 states can support vaccination worldwide. The G7 has been urged to support a proposal from India and South Africa to waive intellectual property protections of vaccines, which supporters argue will help scale up global vaccine production. The US supports the waiver, in principle, while the EU and UK remain opposed. The Library briefing, [Waiving Intellectual property rights for Covid-19 vaccines](#) (CBP 9417) covers the debate.

## United States promised 1.1 billion doses

President Biden has backed the WHO's call for countries to [help vaccinate 70% of the global population](#) by September 2022.<sup>5</sup>

At the June 2021 G7 meeting, the Biden Administration pledged to share [500 million doses by June 2022](#), with around 200 million to be delivered by the end of 2021.<sup>6</sup> USAID says the 200 million target [was achieved in October](#).<sup>7</sup>

The US intends to share some doses bilaterally to support neighbouring countries, and in areas with rapidly rising case numbers. Recipients include countries in the Americas, parts of Asia, and Africa.

In September, the Biden Administration said it would [purchase an additional 500 million vaccines to donate](#), bringing the promised US total to 1.1 billion.<sup>8</sup>

To 2 February 2022, the US Government said it had [shared 400 million vaccines](#) with 112 countries.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> White House, [Targets for global Covid-19 summit](#), 22 September 2021, accessed 6 January 2022

<sup>6</sup> White House, [Biden-Harris administration unveils strategy for global vaccine sharing \[...\]](#), 3 June 2021, accessed 8 December 2021

<sup>7</sup> USAID, [Commemorating 200 million US-donated covid-19 vaccines successfully delivered](#), 21 October 2021, accessed 6 January 2022

<sup>8</sup> NPR, [The US is donating more Covid vaccines and wants other rich nations to pitch in](#), 22 September 2021, accessed 8 December 2021. The US [donated 80 million vaccines prior to June 2021](#).

<sup>9</sup> White House, [The Biden Administration's commitment to global health](#), 2 February 2022, accessed 8 February 2022

## United Kingdom pledges 100 million doses

In February 2021, the Prime Minister pledged that the UK will “share the majority” of its future surplus vaccines with other countries.<sup>10</sup> No estimate of the surplus was provided.<sup>11</sup>

At the G7 summit in June 2021, the Government said it would [share 100 million doses](#) over the year to June 2022 and that 80% will be shared via Covax. The remainder will be shared bilaterally with countries in need.<sup>12</sup>

The Commons Foreign Affairs committee criticised the 100 million figure for [falling “well short” of what is needed](#) to meet the challenge of the pandemic.<sup>13</sup>

For the 20 million doses the UK intends to share bilaterally, [the Government has signed bilateral agreements](#) with: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cambodia, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Thailand, and Vietnam.<sup>14</sup>

The Government said it will “always strive” to [donate vaccines that have at least two months until expiry](#), and work with national governments in advance to ensure they have the capacity to rollout donated doses.<sup>15</sup>

## EU pledges 500 million doses

“Team Europe,” including France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, and non-EU states such as Norway have collectively pledged to donate 500 million doses by mid-2022, including 250 million of this by the end of 2021.<sup>16</sup> This includes the following pledges (this is not an exhaustive list of contributions by Member States)

- **Germany:** 175 million.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Ten Downing Street, [PM announces 100-day target to create new vaccines](#), 19 February 2021, accessed 8 December 2021

<sup>11</sup> PQ 10132 [[Coronavirus: Vaccination](#)], 9 June 2021

<sup>12</sup> Ten Downing Street, [UK to donate 100 million coronavirus vaccine doses](#), 15 June 2021, accessed 8 December 2021

<sup>13</sup> Foreign Affairs Committee, [Global health security](#), 30 September 2021, para 29

<sup>14</sup> Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), [UK begins donating millions of Covid-19 vaccines abroad](#), 28 July 2021, accessed 8 December 2021; PQ 62810 [[Coronavirus: Vaccinations](#)], 28 October 2021

<sup>15</sup> PQ 62810 [[Coronavirus: Vaccinations](#)], 28 October 2021

<sup>16</sup> Gavi, [Team Europe doses sharing](#), 29 November 2021; European Commission, [Global response to coronavirus](#), both accessed 8 December 2021

<sup>17</sup> Federal Foreign Office, [Fighting Covid-19 together in a spirit of solidarity: Germany donates vaccines](#), accessed 8 December 2021

- **France:** 120 million by mid-2022.<sup>18</sup>
- **Spain:** 50 million doses by March 2022.<sup>19</sup>
- **Italy:** 47 million.<sup>20</sup>

The European Commission said that “Team Europe” had [shared 380 million doses](#) by the end of 2021, mostly through Covax.<sup>21</sup>

## Japan pledges 60 million doses

Japan said it will share 60 million doses with Covax and other countries. It has also pledged US\$ 1 billion in funding to the scheme.<sup>22</sup>

## Canada commits to at least 13 million doses

In June 2021, Canada committed to donate 13 million doses.<sup>23</sup> At the G20 summit in October 2021, the Canadian Prime Minister said Canada would [donate the “equivalent of” at least 200 million doses to Covax](#) by the end of 2022.<sup>24</sup> It is uncertain how this will break down between donated doses and financial donations to Covax. One estimate is that Canada will donate 51 million doses (see table below).

# 3 What progress had been made towards the G7 pledge?

The Covid-19 taskforce, constituted of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, WHO and World Trade Organization, publishes data on Covid-19 vaccine donations, including how many have been pledged to and distributed by Covax.

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<sup>18</sup> Ministère de L'europe et Affaires Etrangères, [France, a major player in vaccine solidarity](#), accessed 8 December 2021

<sup>19</sup> The Local ES, [Spain vows to donate 20 million more Covid vaccine doses](#), 31 October 2021, accessed 8 December 2021

<sup>20</sup> Covid-19 Taskforce, [Public dose donations pledged and shipped \(in millions\)](#), as of 17 January 2022, accessed 8 February 2022; Reuters, [Italy triples pledge to provide other nations with Covid-19 vaccines](#), 22 September 2021, accessed 8 December 2021

<sup>21</sup> European Commission, [Statement by President von der Leyen on vaccine sharing in 2021 and targets for 2022](#), 6 January 2022, accessed 7 January 2022

<sup>22</sup> Gavi, [World leaders unite to commit to global equitable access for Covid-19 vaccines](#), 2 June 2021; Japan Times, [Japan to provide 30 million additional Covid-19 vaccine doses](#), 23 September 2021

<sup>23</sup> PQ 45902 [[Developing countries: Coronavirus](#)], 15 September 2021

<sup>24</sup> Government of Canada, [Canada's international vaccine donations](#), accessed 8 December 2021

Up to 17 January 2022, 30% of the doses pledged to Covax by G7 states had been shipped to recipient countries.

Coronavirus vaccines pledged and donated to Covax by G7 members Data as of 17 January 2022				
	Total pledged	Formally offered to Covax	Shipped by Covax	% Delivered
United States	857.5m	513.0m	193.5m	23%
United Kingdom	100.0m	25.8m	17.8m	18%
Japan	60.0m	24.7m	15.4m	26%
Canada	51.0m	24.4m	11.9m	23%
"Team Europe"	472.4m	319.3m	226.8m	48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,540.9m</b>	<b>907.2m</b>	<b>465.4m</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Breakdown of "Team Europe:"</b>				
Germany	175.0m	93.6m	77.2m	44%
France	120.0m	64.7m	44.3m	37%
Spain	50.0m	46.5m	25.7m	51%
Italy	47.0m	47.0m	31.5m	67%
Netherlands	27.0m	16.9m	13.8m	51%
Belgium	8.8m	8.8m	7.8m	89%
Sweden	8.5m	8.5m	5.7m	67%
Denmark	7.2m	7.2m	4.8m	67%
Norway	6.2m	6.2m	3.3m	53%
Greece	4.3m	4.3m	2.1m	49%
Finland	3.7m	3.3m	0.7m	19%
Portugal	3.2m	2.4m	2.4m	75%
Ireland	2.6m	2.6m	1.0m	38%
Czech Republic	1.9m	1.5m	1.4m	74%
Slovakia	1.3m	1.1m	1.1m	85%
Slovenia	1.2m	1.1m	0.7m	58%
Others	4.5m	3.6m	3.3m	73%

Notes: Based on publicly available data only. Includes both offers to Covax Advance Market Commitment (AMC) countries, which are low and middle-income countries being provided doses primarily for free, and self-financing participants, that pay for doses. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

"Others" includes Iceland, Estonia, Luxembourg, Croatia, Austria, and Lithuania

Source: Covid-19 Taskforce, [Public dose donations pledged and shipped \(in millions\)](#), as of 17 January 2022, accessed 8 February 2022.

In December 2021, the UK Government said it [met its pledge to share 30 million doses](#) by the end of the year.<sup>25</sup>

As of 5 January 2022, the UK [had delivered 23.3 million doses to countries in need](#): 5.5 million were delivered directly, and 17.8 million were via Covax. A

<sup>25</sup> FCDO and DHSC, [New support to help vulnerable countries tackle omicron](#), 30 December 2021, accessed 6 January 2022; PQ 27285 [[Coronavirus: Vaccination](#)], 8 July 2021

further 7.5 million had been received by Covax and were expected to be delivered shortly. All donated doses have been Oxford-AstraZeneca.<sup>26</sup>

In 2022, the Government intends [for all 20 million Janssen vaccines to be donated](#), as well as “most of the remainder” of the UK’s supply of Oxford-AstraZeneca (an estimated 20 million doses).<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> PQ 94280 [[Coronavirus: Vaccination](#)], 6 January 2022

<sup>27</sup> PQ 80434 [[Coronavirus: Vaccination](#)], 29 November 2021

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