

The Biopharmaceutical Industry's Commitment to Building a More Resilient Health Care System

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. Since the pandemic began, the United States has seen incredible progress in the fight against COVID-19. America's unique research and development (R&D) ecosystem provided the opportunity for the industry to quickly build on knowledge gained from decades of infectious disease research to develop and deliver numerous safe and effective vaccines and treatments for COVID-19 with unprecedented speed and efficiency.^{i,ii} But importantly, our nation's experience with COVID-19 and other emerging public health threats reinforces the need for a long-term vision and strategy to ensure a robust response to future public health emergencies.

I The biopharmaceutical industry remains committed to combatting public health threats.

America's biopharmaceutical companies have been working around the clock since the start of the pandemic to research, develop and deliver safe and effective therapeutics and vaccines to combat COVID-19. In pursuit of this goal, the industry has led and collaborated among and between manufacturers, and others in the health care system in unprecedented fashion in the U.S. and around the globe to address this global health crisis.

Relying on their carefully built global supply chains, America's biopharmaceutical companies have taken steps to safely and efficiently increase manufacturing capacity - even before therapeutics and vaccines were approved or authorized - in an effort to meet anticipated global demands of COVID-19. As new variants have continued to arrive, the industry has adapted by seeking new partnerships and licensing agreements, to boost manufacturing capacity and to meet unprecedented global vaccine needs. As of November 2022, more than 15 billion vaccines have been delivered globally.ⁱⁱⁱ Moving forward and as new public health threats continue to emerge, biopharmaceutical manufacturers remain committed to identifying manufacturing partners around the globe with the appropriate scientific, regulatory, quality control, and manufacturing expertise as well as facilities that can be adapted to meet global vaccine manufacturing needs.

I Policy solutions are needed to prepare for the next public health emergency.

None of the successes against COVID-19 would have been possible without our unique innovation ecosystem and our policy and regulatory environment which encourages the public and private sectors to play complementary roles in drug discovery, research and development. The United States competes with other countries that recognize the significant economic contributions of this R&D-intensive industry. These countries have continued to expand financial and other incentives during the pandemic to attract and grow a robust biopharmaceutical R&D and manufacturing presence.

Public policies are needed to continue to enhance U.S. manufacturing as part of our preparedness arsenal. These policies should include tax and other targeted incentives and those that support investments in a 21st century workforce. Intellectual property protections that encourage public-private collaboration are also critically important as they foster continued investments in innovation and advanced manufacturing technologies and platforms in the U.S.

The pandemic has also demonstrated the importance of strengthening our public health infrastructure to ensure Americans are well positioned to address future public health emergencies and other crises. Numerous studies have highlighted the need to create a robust, long-term national preparedness strategy at the local, state and federal levels and strengthen policies that bolster the capabilities of the health care system to prevent and respond to outbreaks and pandemics.

In order to successfully achieve these goals, we must modernize our existing data and reporting infrastructure at the local, state and federal levels, to support the response to public health threats and to enhance our ability over the longer term to detect, identify, model, track and mitigate other emerging public health threats. To achieve this goal, we must also improve our existing infrastructure to allow for collection of more complete demographic information, including race and ethnicity, to help better understand and address ongoing inequities in access to care.

Preparing for the next public health crisis also means developing a clear long-term vision for the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), the country's national repository of antibiotics, vaccines, chemical antidotes, antitoxins and other critical medical supplies. Additionally, we need to continue to bolster supply chain continuity including through incentives for maintaining on-demand or surge manufacturing capacity, supporting maintenance of additional stockpiles of certain supplies by manufacturers, and tax and other incentives to support new manufacturing facilities as well as expansions to existing facilities in the U.S.

Finally, we cannot be prepared for the next public health emergency without addressing the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The progress we've made over the last decade in successfully treating infectious diseases and pathogens is threatened by AMR, which has been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Comprehensive policy solutions are needed to help ensure a sustainable pipeline for new treatments; including creating incentives to promote the development of new antimicrobial treatments through subscription contracts that would solve the market failure for antimicrobial development by ensuring a return on investment.

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America's biopharmaceutical industry is committed to building on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and working across health care system and with policymakers to advance public policies to further enhance the resilience of our health care system, to support the ongoing response to the current crisis, and ensure a robust preparedness infrastructure moving forward.

i FDA, [COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

ii FDA, [COVID-19 Drugs](#).

iii Unicef, [COVID-19 Market Dashboard](#).

