

Committee: Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA2)

Issue: The distribution of vaccines and public health policies as a means of new age imposition

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PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Greetings Delegates,

We the Chairs of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee welcome you to the 7th ATSMUN 2021. To start off, with your journey as a diplomat in the Model United Nations and to begin your beautiful endeavor to educate yourself and enhance your skills as a delegate we have written a comprehensive Study Guide.

Throughout the guide you will be educated about the various intricacies of the topic and be given additional information about its place in the global sphere. We hope that it will help expand your knowledge and enhance your preparation for the upcoming conference. However, even with this guide, we would still recommend that you research more in depth about the topic and from your country's political, social, and economic points of view, since the guide will not delve into individual foreign policies.

For beginners and experienced delegates alike, we would advise not to worry a lot and enjoy the process. Everyone has a first time, and everyone can always learn a lot, as such, we assure you that in this ATSMUN you will have a fabulous experience and surely take back a lot from this conference.

We are always open to all questions be it very simple or not. And we would be more than happy to help anyone who wishes to clarify their doubts; wants to learn more about the topic; or even otherwise. You can always contact us for any doubts and queries via email:

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Yours Sincerely,

President/ Deputy-President of the GA2: Ameer / Diamantenia

INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

Planet earth has faced many health crises such as the plague, Ebola and many other diseases which have had a great impact both on the world's economy, civilization and the health policies that have been developed through the years. This is a critical time for our world; for the past two years the world has been hit by a devastating pandemic known to all of us as COVID-19 or coronavirus. Millions of people have been infected and affected by the novel virus worldwide and many have lost their lives or their friends and family due to the devastating effect it has on the health of the infected people.

At this difficult time healthcare systems globally have been striving to protect as many people as possible from COVID-19 and help those who have been infected heal faster and less painfully. Throughout this worldwide effort to combat COVID-19 doctors and science experts have been trying to develop an effective vaccine which would not only reduce the number of the infected people but would also prevent the patients from dying. After the difficult task of creating this life-saving vaccine the world had the obligation to distribute it equally to every state and country throughout the globe. This brings us to our debate topic which is "the distribution of vaccines and public health policies as a means of new age imposition".

Considering the second half of the topic labelling health policies 'imposing'; people have been opposed to some of them, claiming that they perpetuate basic human rights -including their freedom- and damage the economy. After this brief and general introduction to the topic, the guide will continue to elaborate more on each aspect of the topic both separately and in combination with each other since they are linked in many ways.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Vaccine¹

A vaccine is a substance containing a weakened or dead form of the disease-causing organism (virus or bacterium) which is not harmful to the person that takes it into their body in order to prevent them from being affected by the disease that the organism causes in the future.

Public health policy

Public health policies are mainly a set of formal acts such as laws, rules and resolutions as well as actions of the public and the community in order to ensure health, eliminate diseases and outbreaks and promote healthy behaviors across the world. Public health policies aim to establish health and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals concerning peoples' health and well-being.

Pandemic²

A pandemic is an epidemic of an infectious disease which has escalated in a large region or worldwide, affecting a great amount of people. For a disease to be considered a pandemic it should be very contagious as well as infectious and it is not only based on the number of the infected patients.

Imposition³

The word imposition has many different meanings depending on the context of the sentence it is used in. In connection with the topic the word imposition means the introduction or the establishment of a new law, rule or system which needs to be obeyed by the community.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment is equipment designed to eliminate exposure to dangers in the workplace that can cause injuries or diseases. These injuries may be caused by contact with chemicals or other coworkers and by radiological or mechanical problems. That is why PPE includes tools such as gloves, safety glasses, protective masks, special shoes, coveralls, and full body suits. We can consider PPE as a health policy concerning the danger doctors and

¹ "Vaccine." *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/vaccine>.

² "Pandemic." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 31 July 2021, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemic>.

³ "Imposition." *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/imposition>.

health experts are exposed to when working on new technologies, vaccines, medication, and physical danger in health centers.

Vaccine Diplomacy⁴

Vaccine Diplomacy refers to the act of using Vaccines to improve a country's International relations or influence. Which could be used as leverage for other areas of cooperation between the nations or otherwise

Infodemic

An overwhelming volume of inaccurate information about an issue that spreads quickly and makes finding a solution more difficult. In this case it would refer to the COVID-19 pandemic and the farrago of misinformation surrounding the solutions of curing the disease.

Variants

Any alteration in a cell's DNA sequence. Variants can arise because of errors made during cell division or through exposure to DNA-damaging chemicals in the environment. In this guide variants refer to the different mutations of the COVID-19 virus.

ACRONYMS

- **IGO:** Inter-Governmental Organization
- **NGO:** Non-Governmental Organization
- **WHO:** World Health Organization
- **COVID-19:** Coronavirus Disease 19
- **SDG:** Sustainable Development Goals
- **UNDP:** United Nations Development Program

⁴ "NCI Dictionary of Cancer TERMS." *National Cancer Institute*, www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/variant.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

With fear, anxiety, and social isolation that a pandemic induces, people heavily rely on the government for public health policies to restore prosperity and ensure the end of such crises. However, due to dire circumstances, public confidence in the government and the abidance to these very impositions of “Public Health Policies” differs a lot, due to many factors along with the rise of misinformation.

While governments across the globe rush to research and acquire vaccines, public confidence in the very health instruments and policies matters a lot. Consequently, to the current global pandemic people have been introduced to a new era of public health policies that have been mandatory in comparison with the general public health initiatives that ensure public health. As the pandemic unfolds, vaccines allow for some hope of recovery. Yet their inequitable distribution underscores how deeply the legacies of colonialism and inequality impact global health today.

Public Health Policies

Usually Public Health Policies are implemented and framed as laws and legislations and even considered norms after intensive research by various organizations and governments all across the globe.⁵ Many viruses that have public health policies implemented on them are already intensively studied throughout a very long time period and are discovered very early on such as Cholera (studied first as early as 4th Century BC⁶) or Influenza (studied first in 1933⁷). However, seeing as the COVID-19 virus is still a very newly discovered variant as compared to the viruses that already exist, this makes it much harder to implement public health policies specifically for the virus due to its recent discovery, which still needs a lot of research. Furthermore, the virus is still developing in its new variants that are yet to be researched intensively; hundreds of scientists across the globe are continuously researching

⁵ “Public Health Policy: Definition, Examples, and More.” *Search the Website*, 6 May 2021, www.publichealth.columbia.edu/public-health-now/news/public-health-policy-definition-examples-and-more.

⁶ History.com Editors. “Cholera.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 12 Sept. 2017, www.history.com/topics/inventions/history-of-cholera. [h](#)

⁷ K., Shimizu. “[History of Influenza Epidemics and Discovery of Influenza Virus].” *Nihon Rinsho. Japanese Journal of Clinical Medicine*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/9360364>.

on the very new emerging variants.⁸ Although scientists nowadays are operating with technologically advanced methods, resources are still lacking in some cases, especially considering their imminent need when producing so many vaccines on a global scale.⁹

During this stage, multilateralism has a major global impact in solving the crisis; although nations need to deploy more resources than they already are in mitigating and permanently ceasing the pandemic.

Keeping that in mind, the statement that the world's response to COVID-19 is effective is very debatable. Many argue that countries vouch for their economy rather than caring for public safety or the spread of the virus. Various health experts argue that the response to the virus on a global scale could have been much better. However, the past is unchangeable; world leaders and diplomats now have to convene and find the most effective solution moving forward in recommending public health policies to look out for the economy as well as public health with the least compromise possible.

New age imposition

With the rise of social media and the ease of accessibility to all forms of media and information online, a major aspect to consider is the misinformation and lies spreading all across the internet. Many social media companies have already considered fact checking all COVID-19 sources and are vetting through false information. However, much more needs to be done to curb the spread of misinformation.

At its most extreme, the World Health Organization has coined the word "infodemic," which refers to an overflow of information — some correct, some not — those spreads alongside a disease outbreak.¹⁰ False information ranges from denying the threat of COVID-19 to spreading conspiracy theories about vaccinations altering human DNA.

⁸ "Sars-Cov-2 Variant Classifications and Definitions." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant-info.html.

⁹ Schmidt, Charles. "New Covid Vaccines Need Absurd Amounts of Material and Labor." *Scientific American*, Scientific American, 4 Jan. 2021, www.scientificamerican.com/article/new-covid-vaccines-need-absurd-amounts-of-material-and-labor1/.

¹⁰ "Fighting Misinformation in the Time OF COVID-19, One Click at a Time." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/fighting-misinformation-in-the-time-of-covid-19-one-click-at-a-time.

Infodemics aren't new, but they're spreading like wildfire in our digital era. They create an environment where ambiguity thrives. Uncertainty breeds skepticism and suspicion, creating the ideal atmosphere for dread, anxiety, finger-pointing, stigma, violent aggression, and the denial of established public health interventions, all of which can result in death.

For example, in a study conducted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology false news stories are 70 percent more likely to be retweeted than true stories. While true stories take six times more time to reach 1,500 people than false stories.¹¹ This clearly highlights that the global community needs to put in more than six times the effort to actually curb the spread of misinformation to reach out to people and actually impose public health policies successfully.

Governments and the global community may need to also adapt to the new age to reach out to people and educate them in the right way about the pandemic to actually help make change.

Equal Immunization

Immunization is a global health and development success story, saving millions of lives every year. We now have vaccines to prevent more than 20 life-threatening diseases, helping people of all ages live longer, healthier lives. Immunization is the foundation of the primary health care system and an indisputable human right. It's also one of the best health investments money can buy. Yet despite tremendous progress, far too many people around the world – including nearly 20 million infants each year – have insufficient access to vaccines. In some countries, progress has stalled or even reversed, and there is a real risk that complacency will undermine past achievements.

Immunization is playing a critical role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It reaches more people than any other health and social service, making it the foundation of primary health care systems and a key driver toward universal health coverage. This makes immunization critical to SDG 3 – to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Because health is fundamental to development. While the importance of SDG 3 is now

¹¹ Peter Dizikes | MIT News Office. "Study: On Twitter, False News Travels Faster than True Stories." *MIT News | Massachusetts Institute of Technology*, <https://news.mit.edu/2018/study-twitter-false-news-travels-faster-true-stories-0308>.

more important than ever before, the world is rushing to find solutions and is implementing many programs.

However, the biggest obstacle in front of humanity lies in equality. In February 2021 on a virtual address, the Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres exclaimed that the goal of providing vaccines to all as “the biggest moral test before the global community”, underlining that everyone, everywhere must be included. Additionally he also said that “Defeating COVID-19, now that we have begun to have the scientific capacity to do so, is more important than ever”

While also exclaiming “Yet progress on vaccinations has been wildly uneven and unfair. Just 10 countries have administered 75 per cent of all COVID-19 vaccines. Meanwhile, more than 130 countries have not received a single dose. Those affected by conflict and insecurity are at particular risk of being left behind”.¹²

Although the U.N. has taken many initiatives, a lot of support from member states is needed to further strengthen global responses especially when considering developing nations which specifically lie in pre-existing dire situations. As such, multilateral acts of friendship and help or vaccine diplomacy could help benefit developing countries a lot more.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

United States of America

Being one of the most hard-hit countries by the pandemic, the United States of America with its recent transitional administration and global headlines has developed and set national vaccine distribution plans. After 3 months of lagging in production shortages and distribution,¹³ President Biden set a goal to get 70% adults vaccinated by July 4th 2021.

¹² “COVID-19 Vaccination 'Wildly Uneven and Unfair': Un Secretary-General | | UN NEWS.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1084962>.

¹³ Lafraniere, Sharon, and Noah Weiland. “Biden Announces a Strategy Change as the Pace of VACCINATION Slows.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 4 May 2021, www.nytimes.com/2021/05/04/us/biden-covid-vaccine-strategy.html.

However, later he recognized that the country needs additional time. As of July 30, 2021, 69.6% of adults have received their first vaccination dose.¹⁴

The USA reportedly went wrong in its initial response when former President Trump and his officials severely downplayed the virus at several occasions.¹⁵ This trend towards downplaying the virus while uplifting the economy still stays a priority within many Republican Senate members who had recently protested against the mask mandate imposed on the country's oldest senate.¹⁶ However, due actions are being taken by the federal government and various organizations within such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention inform the public, whereas American companies such as Facebook are also continuously monitoring the internet for fake news and misinformation.¹⁷

United Kingdom and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom at one point was the epicenter of the Alpha variant which was discovered within the country. The nation had a hard time throughout the pandemic and had to go through multiple lockdowns. The government was quick to vaccinate the country; in Wales and Scotland, 90 percent of individuals aged 18 and up have received at least one dose of the vaccine, while England has reached 88 percent and Northern Ireland has reached 83 percent (as of 30 July 2021).¹⁸

¹⁴ The New York Times. "See How Vaccinations Are Going in Your County and State." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 17 Dec. 2020, www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/covid-19-vaccine-doses.html.

¹⁵ Lewis, Tanya. "How the U.s. Pandemic Response Went Wrong-and What Went RIGHT-DURING a Year of COVID." *Scientific American*, Scientific American, 11 Mar. 2021, www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-the-u-s-pandemic-response-went-wrong-and-what-went-right-during-a-year-of-covid/.

¹⁶ Stieb, Matt. "GOP Reps Flail against House Mask Mandate By Barging into the Senate." *Intelligencer*, Intelligencer, 29 July 2021, <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2021/07/gop-reps-protest-house-mask-mandate-by-barging-into-senate.html>

¹⁷ "Health Laws USA." *Health-Laws/Countries/Usa-En.pdf?Ua=1*, 2021, www.who.int/health-laws/countries/usa-en.pdf?ua=1.

¹⁸ The Visual and Data Journalism Team. "Covid Vaccine: How Many People in the UK Have Been Vaccinated so Far?" *BBC News*, BBC, 30 July 2021, www.bbc.com/news/health-55274833.

The United Kingdom has also partnered with various global social media giants to stop misinformation.¹⁹ Furthermore, the government has also partnered with the World Health Organization and plans to lead the Global Response to beat the Infodemic with the G7 presidency.²⁰

People's Republic of China

Where the first COVID-19 case was reported and the country which is the origin of this pandemic. Although in its early days China was in lockdown due to the virus's origin in Wuhan, which had heavily impacted the economy. However, for the first quarter of 2021, China's economy grew 18.3%.²¹ Already being a global superpower and economic giant, China also has various vaccines originating from national labs. As such, China's vaccine campaign is going so well that it successfully accounts for 60% of COVID-19 doses given worldwide.²² China also has provided 350 million vaccines to more than 75 countries and plans to produce over 3 Billion vaccines in 2021 and up to 5 Billion in 2022.²³ Notably the Chinese government relies solely on state media and specific national platforms to spread information which otherwise is strongly vetted by Chinese officials.²⁴ Apart from that, the nation has also been criticized for spreading misinformation regarding the origins of the virus and launching a campaign against western vaccines, all of which the nation has denied despite various reports.²⁵

¹⁹ Department for Digital, Culture. "Social Media Giants Agree Package of Measures with UK Government to TACKLE Vaccine Disinformation." *GOV.UK*, GOV.UK, 8 Nov. 2020, www.gov.uk/government/news/social-media-giants-agree-package-of-measures-with-uk-government-to-tackle-vaccine-disinformation.

²⁰ "Fighting Misinformation in the Time OF COVID-19, One Click at a Time." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/fighting-misinformation-in-the-time-of-covid-19-one-click-at-a-time.

²¹ "China's Economy GROWS 18.3% IN Post-Covid Comeback." *BBC News*, BBC, 16 Apr. 2021, www.bbc.com/news/business-56768663.

²² Mallapaty, Smriti. "China Is Vaccinating a Staggering 20 Million People a Day." *Nature News*, Nature Publishing Group, 9 June 2021, www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01545-3.

²³ *ibid.*, 22.

²⁴ Name. "China's Shiny New Press Card Means Total State Control of Media: Journalists." *Radio Free Asia*, 21 Nov. 2020, www.rfa.org/english/news/china/press-11112020092314.html.

²⁵ Emmott, Robin. "Russia, China Sow Disinformation to Undermine Trust in WESTERN Vaccines: EU." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 28 Apr. 2021, www.reuters.com/world/china/russia-china-sow-disinformation-undermine-trust-western-vaccines-eu-report-says-2021-04-28/.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation was the first country in the world to develop a vaccine against the COVID-19 pandemic. Although its staggering achievement was a global feat, the country still lies much behind in vaccination rates across the globe. Reportedly, only 23% of the population have administered a dose of COVID-19.²⁶ Even Though, Russia has 3 vaccines originating from the country and domestic vaccine availability is high, many say that the people's trust in the doses given by the government are very low.²⁷ As such, the government continues with their mass vaccination campaigns and trust building.

Domestically to boost Russia's vaccination campaign, the president has repeatedly urged people to get the COVID-19 vaccine²⁸ and mayors in various cities such as Moscow have also implemented laws for businesses to ensure that 60% of their workers are vaccinated.²⁹ Furthermore, there is reported International outrage over late delivery of vaccine orders placed for the Sputnik V vaccine by many nations. With many nations only receiving a fraction of the doses that they had paid.³⁰ As such, Russia had deals to deliver 630 million vaccines to 60 countries, out of which only 15 million have been delivered (as of May 2021)³¹.

²⁶ Elagina, D. "COVID-19 Vaccination Rate in Russia 2021." *Statista*, 22 July 2021, www.statista.com/statistics/1239299/covid-19-vaccination-rate-in-russia/.

²⁷ Chistikova, Tatyana, and Rachel Elbaum. "Russia Registered the First Covid Vaccine. Now It's Struggling to Vaccinate Its Population." *NBCNews.com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 28 June 2021, www.nbcnews.com/news/world/russia-registered-first-covid-vaccine-now-it-s-struggling-vaccinate-n1272092.

²⁸ Rfe/rl. "Moscow Starts Booster Vaccine CAMPAIGN Amid Surge in Cases." *RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty*, Moscow Starts Booster Vaccine Campaign Amid Surge In Cases, 1 July 2021, www.rferl.org/a/russia-covid-delta-variant-revaccination-campaign/31335476.html.

²⁹ Dixon, Robyn. "Want to Skip the Vaccine in RUSSIA? You Could Be Suspended from Work." *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 28 July 2021, www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/russia-vaccine-rules-putin/2021/07/27/640ea8b6-ebff-11eb-a2ba-3be31d349258_story.html.

³⁰ "Covid: Stalled Russian Vaccines Cause Global Anger." *BBCNews*, BBC, 29 July 2021, www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-58003893.

³¹ Kantchev, Georgi. "Russia Struggles to Meet Demand for Its Covid-19 Vaccine." *The Wall Street Journal*, Dow Jones & Company, 14 May 2021, www.wsj.com/articles/russia-struggles-to-meet-demand-for-its-covid-19-vaccine-11620993601

Italy

At one point, Italy was devastated by COVID-19 implications; with major shutdowns and deaths reported across the country. However as of the 31st July 2021, Italy has reportedly vaccinated 56% of its citizens³² With growing commitments to vaccines as the government introduced a policy of green cards, wherein the population would only be allowed to enter certain public places if they are vaccinated, while the government is also continuously making deals to administer and order more vaccines. As such, the government predicts that the country will be fully vaccinated by the of September³³

There were many obstacles amidst the imposition of public health policies; with major anti-lockdown protests all across the country.³⁴ Italy was also hit by a farrago of fake news³⁵ and scams rooting from political agendas and extremists' groups which are now being mitigated and curbed by the police and government.³⁶

Brazil

Brazil is a country in South America that had one of the highest death rates from the COVID-19 virus at one point in time. As of July 31st 2021, Brazil has vaccinated 33.2% of its population. The low vaccination rates are due to various claims of the government's mishandling of the pandemic and the President even at times mocking the COVID-19 virus and the vaccines.³⁷ As

³² Bhatia, Gurman, et al. "Italy: The Latest CORONAVIRUS Counts, Charts and Maps." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 1 Aug. 2021, <https://graphics.reuters.com/world-coronavirus-tracker-and-maps/countries-and-territories/italy/>.

³³ *Covid-19-Italy-Says-Whole-Population-Will-Be-Vaccinated-by-End-of-September*, 2021, www.thelocal.it/20210729/covid-19-italy-says-whole-population-will-be-vaccinated-by-end-of-september/.

³⁴ "Covid: Protests Take Place across Italy over Anti-Virus MEASURES." *BBC News*, BBC, 27 Oct. 2020, www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54701042.

³⁵ Dominiononi, Irene. "Covid-19 Deniers Are Making Italy's Fight against the Pandemic All the More Difficult." *Forbes*, Forbes Magazine, 11 Nov. 2020, www.forbes.com/sites/iredominioni/2020/11/11/covid-19-deniers-are-making-italys-fight-against-the-pandemic-all-the-more-difficult/?sh=1d64e4a3255f.

³⁶ "Italy Breaks up FAKE Eu COVID Pass Schemes." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 3 July 2021, www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-breaks-up-fake-eu-covid-pass-schemes-2021-07-03/.

³⁷ BULLENS, Lara. "Brazilians Unite to Protest against Vaccine Scandal, BOLSONARO'S Covid-19 Response." *France 24*, France 24, 26 July 2021, www.france24.com/en/americas/20210726-brazilians-unite-to-protest-against-vaccine-scandal-bolsonaro-s-impeachment.

such, there have been massive supply shortages of vaccines in the country which led to protests in more than 500 cities across the country.³⁸

Although Brazil is known for its successful vaccination campaigns of the past to combat various other diseases, the country now struggles to handle COVID-19.³⁹ With misinformation campaigns and protests across the country, the government is trying hard to get back up and continue its legacies of the past. However, various Non-governmental Organizations and Intergovernmental Organizations such as UNICEF have stepped in to help in various ways like combating misinformation.⁴⁰ The country remains like many developing nations in dire need of vaccines and International aid.

Japan

Although the threat of the pandemic is still very much prevalent, Japan remains the host of the Olympic Games and is confident about carrying on with the sporting event. The country has vaccinated about 33.3% of its population as of 1st August 2021.⁴¹; which comparatively on a large scale seems to fall behind other nations. This was blamed on the slow delivery of the Pfizer vaccines⁴² and the additional domestic tests carried out by the government to build confidence.

However, the nation continues to have lesser infections and deaths compared to other countries due to the strict nature of the public health policies, lockdowns and strict compliance to other measures that help mitigate the pandemic.⁴³ The government has also

³⁸ idib., 28.

³⁹ Langlois, Jill. "Why Vaccinations for Several Diseases Are Falling Sharply in Brazil." *Science*, National Geographic, 28 June 2021, www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/why-vaccinations-for-several-diseases-are-falling-sharply-in-brazil.

⁴⁰ "How Young Brazilian Volunteers Are Fighting Misinformation." *UNICEF*, 18 Feb. 2021, www.generationunlimited.org/stories/how-young-brazilian-volunteers-are-fighting-misinformation.

⁴¹ Bhatia, Gurman, et al. "Japan: The Latest CORONAVIRUS Counts, Charts and Maps." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 1 Aug. 2021, <https://graphics.reuters.com/world-coronavirus-tracker-and-maps/countries-and-territories/japan/>.

⁴² Yamaguchi, Mari. "EXPLAINER: Why Japan Has Been Slow to Roll out Vaccinations." *AP NEWS*, Associated Press, 14 May 2021, <https://apnews.com/article/japan-coronavirus-vaccine-coronavirus-pandemic-sports-business-04eaae220abeff6cb30ee4f0e0fc58f8>.

⁴³ idib., 44.

taken steps to combat misinformation by domestically drafting a code of conduct for international and domestic social media giants to curb the spread of misinformation.⁴⁴

Organizations

There are many governmental and non-governmental organizations whose purpose is to ensure health across the world. International health organizations are usually divided into three categories: multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Firstly, multilateral organizations whose funding comes from multiple governments and other non-governmental sources. Most of the world's multilateral organizations are part of the UN, such as the World Health Organization. Bilateral organizations are mostly governmental agencies in a certain country which provide aid to other developing countries, such as USAID. And lastly, non-governmental organizations, mostly known as NGOs, are nonprofit organizations which are founded by citizens and are not involved with the government.

Some of the most important international organizations, including the ones mentioned above, are listed below:

Multilateral:

World Health Organization (WHO)⁴⁵

The World Health Organization (WHO) was founded by the United Nations in 1948 and it was established to ensure that every person throughout the world gets a chance to have a healthy life. WHO supervises the world's major health emergencies and tries to eliminate them through science programs and health policies?

World Bank (WB)⁴⁶

The World Bank was founded in 1944 and its first aim was to financially support the effort to rebuild the countries ruined by World War II. The World Bank currently has 189 member countries and its objective is the funding and the support of developing countries in order to reduce poverty, achieve sustainable development and promote the world's welfare.

African Union

⁴⁴ Author, No. "Japan Plans to Take Steps against 'Fake NEWS' by June." *The Japan Times*, 15 Jan. 2019, www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/01/14/national/japan-plans-take-steps-fake-news-june/.

⁴⁵ "Home." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, www.who.int/.

⁴⁶ "World Bank Group - International Development, Poverty, & Sustainability." *World Bank*, www.worldbank.org/en/home.

The African Union (AU) is a continental organization made up of the 55 countries that make up the African continent.⁴⁷ The African Continent includes countries that are war torn and those who are in extreme poverty with very weak healthcare systems. It was a prediction that the continent would be the worst hit in terms of the pandemic. As such, The organization had drafted a continental strategy for the COVID-19 outbreak with 2 Major goals and 13 Major sub-goals that highlighted the essence of the plan of action.⁴⁸ It was safe to say that on a multilateral level and on the government's behalf of every nation, the continent did really well comparatively and exceeded expectations to curb the disease.

The continent had reported the least deaths and the governments of many nations were praised for taking swift action. This was further added on by public support and multilateral help from Intergovernmental organizations and the African Union itself.⁴⁹ However, it remains that the continent is experiencing extreme poverty and economic losses in the pandemic and due to the delta variant things may get worse. Keeping this in mind, the continent or specifically war-torn countries within may need additional help from countries all across the globe. Furthermore, Vaccines have been late to come to the developing countries of the continent and the aim to vaccinate 20% of the population by 2021 seems far off. As reportedly, only 14.5% of the population have been vaccinated as of 31st July 2021⁵⁰ and there remains a shortage of vaccines that other countries may want to attend to.⁵¹

European Union

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union made up of 27 member nations primarily in Europe.⁵² Europe was one of the worst hit continents by the

⁴⁷ "About the African Union." *About the African Union | African Union*, 29 July 2021, <https://au.int/en/overview>.

⁴⁸ "Doc-africa_joint_continental_strategy_for_covid-19_outbreak." *Africa Joint Strategy for COVID-19*, https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38264-doc-africa_joint_continental_strategy_for_covid-19_outbreak.pdf.

⁴⁹ Soy, Anne. "Coronavirus in AFRICA: Five Reasons Why Covid-19 Has Been Less Deadly than Elsewhere." *BBC News*, BBC, 7 Oct. 2020, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-54418613. [h](#)

⁵⁰ Ritchie, Hannah, et al. "Coronavirus (Covid-19) VACCINATIONS - Statistics and Research." *Our World in Data*, 5 Mar. 2020, <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>.

⁵¹ Dahir, Abdi Latif, and Josh Holder. "Africa's Covid Crisis Deepens, But Vaccines Are Still Far Off." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 16 July 2021, www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/07/16/world/africa/africa-vaccination-rollout.html.

⁵² Anonymous. "Official Website of the European Union." *European Union*, 5 Mar. 2021, https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en.

COVID-19 pandemic and still suffers the rise of the Delta Variant with much more to come on a strained and emergency healthcare system.⁵³

The European Union as such seems a model response to the pandemic as the organization has taken various steps to combat the pandemic all across the continent. Actions include: Economic stimulus of more than 2 000 Billion Euros; Coordinating travel measures and stopping the spread of the virus; Securing more than 2.6 Billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine; Supporting domestic healthcare systems; Ensuring European Solidarity among members; Supporting the hardest hit economic sectors; and supporting a global response.⁵⁴ This remains a model and a key base of action that the United Nations and other member states are already following or could certainly follow in the future.

Bilateral:

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

USAID is the largest bilateral international organization. USAID mostly helps developing countries through other smaller private health organization which donate great amounts of money for the health care of people in need. USAID's activity concentrates in combating infectious diseases, controlling epidemics and preventing the death of people, especially child and maternal death.

Non-governmental organization (NGOs):

Médecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders⁵⁵

MSF was founded in 1971 in Paris by a group of doctors and journalists. MSF currently consists of approximately 65,000 volunteers, doctors, journalists, nurses, logisticians and administrative staff. MSF stands for equality in the health system regardless of people's nationality, gender, religion or beliefs. It is very important to mention that MSF supports that all people across the world should have access to medical assistance and that is why their main goal is to provide medical aid to people in need, people affected by poverty, war,

⁵³ *Bloomberg.com*, Bloomberg, www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-03-25/poland-tightens-restrictions-as-covid-infections-spike-to-record.

⁵⁴ "10 Things the EU Is Doing to Fight COVID-19 and Ensure Recovery." *Consilium*, 15 June 2021, www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/coronavirus/10-things-against-covid-19/.

⁵⁵ "Home." *Doctors Without Borders - USA*, www.doctorswithoutborders.org/

epidemics and racism. The work of Doctors Without Borders is supported by millions of individual donors who make private donations.

Global Health Corps (GHC)

In 2009 a group of young people, inspired by the work of the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)⁵⁶, started Global Health Corps in order to support the recognition of health as a fundamental human right. GHC's aim is to help the establishment of health equity and the well-being of all people, by organizing health projects, campaigns and donations. Since 2019, GHC has worked on combating COVID-19, by distributing PPE and medicines, encouraging vaccine equity and countering violence.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)⁵⁷

CDC was founded in 1946 in order to combat malaria which was widely spreading at that time. At the present-day CDC's aim is to eliminate various diseases and provide help to health centers around America. The department of the organization that focuses on surveying and combating illnesses is CDC's Center for Global Health. CDC's Center for Global Health is also working towards the production of new tools, strategies and technologies so as to achieve a more effective and innovative approach to the world's health crises. Considering vaccination, CDC's Center for Global Health provides an immunization schedule⁵⁸ that presents all the vaccines children, adolescents and adults must do to ensure a healthier life and eliminate the chances of them getting affected by serious illnesses, as well as an extensive guide stating the vaccination routine and some special aspects about each vaccine mentioned in the aforementioned schedule.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

⁵⁶ "Homepage." *UNAIDS*, 27 July 2021, www.unaids.org/en.

⁵⁷ "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/.

⁵⁸ "Adult Immunization Schedule by Vaccine and Age Group." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 12 Feb. 2021, www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult.html.

Date	Description of Event
14 May, 1796	Edward Jenner was the first to vaccinate a person, and more precisely an eight-year-old boy, against smallpox. That's why he is considered the inventor of vaccinology. ⁵⁹
1812	The Napoleon government supports the smallpox Vaccination with safety following positive results ⁶⁰
1879-1885	The French biologist Louis Pasteur researched and developed the vaccines against anthrax and rabies. ⁶¹
1914-1948	The development of the DTP vaccine which was a combination of three different vaccines, Pertussis, Diphtheria and Tetanus. ⁶²
1918	The avian-borne flu that resulted in 50 million deaths worldwide also known as the Spanish Flu ⁶³
1955-1969	Various vaccines were developed, such as the vaccines against Polio, Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR). ⁶⁴
1974	WHO launches Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) ⁶⁵
1977	Due to the vaccine's success and effectiveness Smallpox was considered eradicated and the vaccine was no longer needed. ⁶⁶

⁵⁹ History.com Editors. "Pandemics That Changed History." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 27 Feb. 2019, www.history.com/topics/middle-ages/pandemics-timeline.

⁶⁰ "Napoleon Gov Vaccines." *Revue-Napoleonica-La-Revue-2017*, 2017, www.cairn.info/revue-napoleonica-la-revue-2017-3-page-38.htm.

⁶¹ "Vaccine Development of Louis Pasteur." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/biography/Louis-Pasteur/Vaccine-development.

⁶² The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. "Developments by Year." *Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, 20 Nov. 2014, www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-history/developments-by-year.

⁶³ idib., 63.

⁶⁴ idib., 67.

⁶⁵ RH; Keja K; Chan C; Hayden G; Henderson. "Expanded Programme on Immunization." *World Health Statistics Quarterly. Rapport Trimestriel De Statistiques Sanitaires Mondiales*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/3176515/>.

⁶⁶ "Smallpox." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 12 July 2017, www.cdc.gov/smallpox/index.html.

1981-2001	Many important and life-changing vaccines were developed at the time, such as Hepatitis B, Chickenpox, Rotavirus, Hepatitis A and Pneumococcal. ⁶⁷
January, 2000	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) was founded to increase access to immunization in poor countries. ⁶⁸
May, 2012	The 194 member states of the World Health Assembly created GVAP which is a framework to prevent millions of deaths from vaccine-preventable diseases. ⁶⁹
December, 2019	The WHO's Country Office in the People's Republic of China picked up a media announcement on instances of "viral pneumonia" in Wuhan from the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission's website. ⁷⁰
January, 2020	Chinese officials have established that the outbreak is caused by a new coronavirus, according to the WHO. ⁷¹
March 11, 2020	The World Health Organization announced that the COVID-19 virus was officially a pandemic. ⁷²
August, 2020	Launch of the first officially registered COVID-19 Vaccine, Sputnik V ⁷³ .
December, 2020	The Delta Variant (B.1.617.2) causing the Coronavirus is discovered in India. ⁷⁴

⁶⁸ "About Our Alliance." *Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance*, www.gavi.org/our-alliance/about.

⁶⁹ "Global Vaccine Action Plan." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, www.who.int/teams/immunization-vaccines-and-biologicals/strategies/global-vaccine-action-plan.

⁷⁰ "Timeline: Who's Covid-19 Response." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/interactive-timeline.

⁷³ "The First Registered COVID-19 Vaccine." *Sputnik V - the First Registered Vaccine against COVID-19. Official Website Vaccine against Coronavirus Sputnik V.*, <https://sputnikvaccine.com/>.

⁷⁴ Katella, Kathy. "5 Things to Know about the Delta Variant." *Yale Medicine*, Yale Medicine, 30 July 2021, www.yalemedicine.org/news/5-things-to-know-delta-variant-covid.

July, 2021	Global Deaths from COVID-19 cross 4 million. ⁷⁵
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UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

S/RES/2532⁷⁶:

The Resolution adopted by the Security Council seeking for an immediate stoppage of hostilities and urged all parties to armed conflicts to engage in a 90-day humanitarian pause due to COVID-19: 1 July 2020

S/RES/2565⁷⁷:

The Resolution adopted by the Security Council wherein the Council's demand for a general and urgent suspension of hostilities in all situations on its agenda to battle the COVID-19 pandemic was reaffirmed in this resolution, which called for humanitarian pauses to supply vaccinations: 26 February 2021

A/HRC/46/L.25/Rev.1⁷⁸:

The Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council In response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, ensuring equitable, cheap, timely, and universal access to vaccinations for all countries.

S/PRST/2021/10⁷⁹:

⁷⁵ YenNee_Lee. "Global Covid Death Toll Exceeds 4 Million, Hopkins Data Show." *CNBC*, CNBC, 8 July 2021, www.cnbc.com/2021/07/08/global-covid-death-toll-exceeds-4-million.html.

⁷⁶ *S/Res/2532(2020) - e - s/Res/2532(2020) -Desktop*, [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2532\(2020\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2532(2020)).

⁷⁷ *Security Council Resolution S/RES/2565*. 2021, www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2565.pdf.

⁷⁸ *A/Hrc/46/L.25/Rev.1 - e - a/Hrc/46/L.25/Rev.1 -Desktop*, <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/L.25/Rev.1>.

⁷⁹ *Statement by the President of the Security Council: S/PRST/2021/10*. 2021, www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_prst_2021_10.pdf

The Statement by the President of the Security Council stating that Despite suffering some of the greatest socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 epidemic, Africa has only gotten 2% of vaccine doses manufactured globally. The Council emphasized the need of ensuring that everyone, particularly the most vulnerable, has access to high-quality, safe, effective, and affordable COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments, medications, and vaccinations: 19 May 2021.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Initiative

The UN has implemented the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access also abbreviated as the COVAX initiative. It aims to provide equitable access to vaccines to one and all, especially in developing countries where the reach of these vaccines would be the slowest, wherein deaths are also exacerbated by the poor healthcare systems. ⁸⁰

COVAX is co-led by CEPI, Gavi and WHO, alongside key delivery partner UNICEF. In the Americas, the PAHO Revolving Fund is the



recognized procurement agent for COVAX. Source: UN⁸¹

Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI)

The Expanded Program of Immunization was established by WHO in May of 1974 in order to promote and improve immunization programmes worldwide. In 1977, EPI set a new goal, to ensure children's protection from serious diseases, such as tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and measles and to provide women vaccines against tetanus so as to protect them and their infants. Despite EPI's problems with lack of equipment, management, vaccine handling skills and the public's and government's unawareness of the danger of the aforementioned diseases, EPI managed to achieve the protection of 80% of the world's

⁸⁰ "COVAX Facility." *Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance*, www.gavi.org/covax-facility.

⁸¹ "Covax." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax.

children through vaccination by 1990. EPI's actions have been of great importance considering that millions of cases of the EPI's diseases have been prevented and vaccine coverage in developing countries has been increased significantly. Today, EPI continues to add to its programmes vaccines against new diseases and tries to promote immunization efforts.⁸²

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)

During the late 1900s, despite the significant effort and progress of EPI to ensure the full immunization of all children in developing countries, there were still 30 million children who were not completely immunized against dangerous and life-threatening diseases. At the time, except for the vaccines provided to children against the diseases combated by EPI, new very efficient vaccines were developed but due to their high prices developing countries could not afford most of them. In light of these events, in January 2000 the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization was created with the financial help of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation encouraged vaccine manufacturers to lower vaccine prices for developing countries in exchange for long-term demand of vaccines from those countries. GAVI cooperates with UN agencies such as WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, governments, private sector and donors, foundations, NGOs, health institutes in order to achieve its main goal to continue ensuring equal access to vaccines for every child in developing countries and provide them with vaccines against new diseases.

GAVI has had a massive impact on children's and global health throughout the years. Since its creation GAVI has achieved an increase in immunization which has led to the decrease of deaths and deadly diseases. With the help of GAVI many developing countries have improved their health systems and as a result the prevention of disease outbreaks is easier and the people in these countries and around the world are more protected and safer.⁸³

The Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP)

⁸² RH;, Keja K;Chan C;Hayden G;Henderson. "Expanded Programme on Immunization." *World Health Statistics Quarterly. Rapport Trimestriel De Statistiques Sanitaires Mondiales*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/3176515/>.

⁸³ "Why Africa Needs to Manufacture Its Own Vaccines." *Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance*, www.gavi.org/.

The Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) supported by the 194 member states of WHO's World Health Assembly in May 2012 was a framework whose aim was to eliminate and prevent millions of deaths by 2020 by ensuring access to vaccines for all people worldwide. WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, governments, health experts, the private sector and society are trying to achieve the goals of GVAP which are vaccination coverage around the world, elimination of poliomyelitis and to achieve the Millennium Development Goal 4, reduce child mortality?⁸⁴

WHO's Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030)⁸⁵

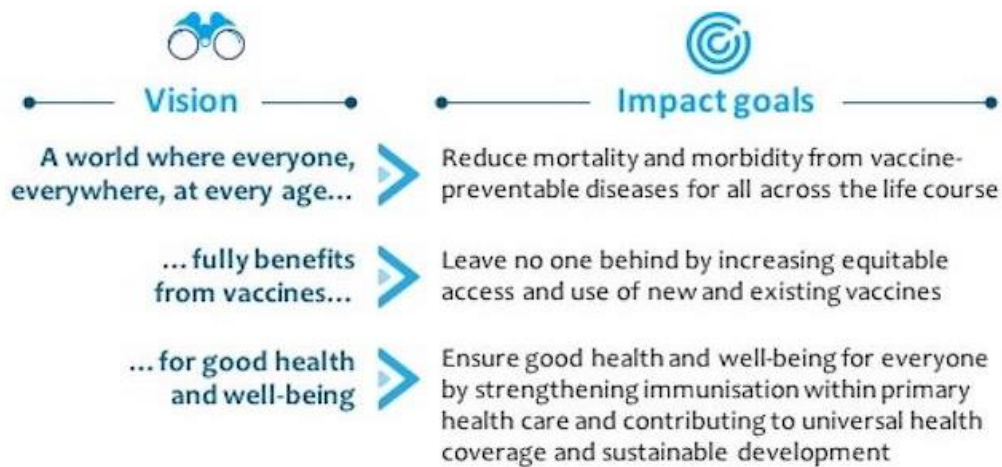
The World Health Assembly has endorsed the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) which is a global program that supports equity in vaccination and aims to improve people's health. IA2030 also works on the protection of people from COVID-19 by strengthening immunization systems and tries to achieve a full recovery from COVID-19 aftermath.

To combat inequality, the Immunization Agenda 2030 implemented by the World Health Assembly aims to leave no one behind in immunization ⁸⁶against diseases.

⁸⁴ "Global Vaccine Action Plan." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, www.who.int/teams/immunization-vaccines-and-biologicals/strategies/global-vaccine-action-plan.h

⁸⁵ "Immunization Agenda 2030." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, www.who.int/teams/immunization-vaccines-and-biologicals/strategies/ia2030.

⁸⁶ *idib.*, 97.



World Health Organization's Immunization Agenda 2030 Vision and Goals.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

In times of crisis the biggest role is played by each country's government. Due to the power that the government and its executives possess it is very important that they act with the intention of saving life's and promoting public health. Although, in places with weak governance and in such crises, it is also looked upon by the International community and diplomacy to help solve such issues.

There could be various ways to solve the pandemic and majorly some ways of doing so are listed below which could be individually dwelled deeper into and explored for concrete solutions.

Human Rights and the Imposition of Public Health Policies

Essentially, reminding people that by following the proposed health initiatives their life, economy and society will go back to normal sooner. Governments need to especially keep in mind Human Rights and how public policies may violate them. Although there needs to be plans which protect human rights and help governments implement certain policies without violating them.

Most importantly, governments and tech companies need to Ensure that people won't be misled by the media and the internet concerning the vaccine risks presented as some type of propaganda although still maintain the freedom of expression.

Consumption, Production and Distribution of Vaccines

In this regard, the UN is involved in every serious issue the world is facing and its purpose is to try to eliminate and tackle all these problems in order to ensure a safe, peaceful and healthy living environment for everyone all across the world. With that being said, the UN in cooperation with all its member states could support the correct distribution of vaccines and the proper recognition of health initiatives.

As such, the world needs to ensure the equity in the distribution of vaccines worldwide and this can be done through more programs than those that already exist, as every second is vital in countries where the healthcare system is under pressure.

There should also be a responsible consumption of vaccines by every country World-wide to ensure Equitable access and distribution. This could be done through plans and efforts by the International community and vaccine distributors.

Apart from already taken measures it is very important that with vaccine distribution nations also Emphasize the positive results of the vaccines in the health of the vaccinated people as well as noting their side effects. Taking out campaigns and adverts to promote vaccines may only just be one way of doing so.

After equitable vaccine distribution it is also necessary that it is equally given to everyone being a human right. This could be via encouraging the simplification of registration procedures to vaccine platforms. More specifically, registration should not require the internet or other electronic devices that people may not have, it should be accessible to all people regardless of their nationality, social class, language or education. Lastly, registration should be open to everyone including immigrants and homeless people who can't afford any other type of health insurance,

Multilateralism

Within times of such a crisis it is also very important that developed countries help the developing countries by allowing the flow of vaccines and helping with other humanitarian supplies on the already poor healthcare system.

Education

Another rather essential solution to assure public health is the promotion of vaccination and the education about public health policies in schools. Young people are the citizens of the future, so it is very important that children and teenagers are informed about the benefits and the importance of vaccination on everyone's health and life and learn to respect and follow the measures, health policies, presented by the government and health system so as to ensure public health and a safe living environment for everyone.

Non-Governmental Organizations

When it comes to NGOs it is also crucial that they organize campaigns, programmes and projects in order to raise awareness about the importance of public health and the actions people have to take so as to achieve a safe living environment.

Technology and the new age

Lastly, as technology is evolving at incredibly high rates and people spend more time using their mobile phones, computers or watching television, a very effective way of informing them about vaccination and public health policies is through the media and mostly through the internet. Especially during this time that the world is battling a global pandemic it is crucial that governments and science experts constantly inform people about the measures, health policies, that should be taken in order to eliminate the virus and about the results these measures have in combination with the vaccines.

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