



trust in action:
**HOW THE COALITION IS
RESPONDING TO COVID-19**

ON COVID-19

As COVID-19 spreads rapidly across the world, it has tested the resilience of our health systems, our drug supply chains and our ability to provide patients the quality care they need.

Drug manufacturers have slowed production in the wake of the outbreak, leading some countries to respond with restrictions on exports of active pharmaceutical ingredients. Even as China's manufacturing bounces back to normal, it's likely that countries will continue to report shortages of common drugs in the short term.

As our supply chains are tested, we must remain vigilant about quality concerns:

- lower-quality pharmaceutical ingredients as manufacturers seek alternative options to keep up with demand;
- fraudulent treatments as patients desperately seek to protect themselves; and
- as legitimate treatments and vaccines are introduced, falsified versions in insufficiently regulated markets.

WHAT WE KNOW

Now more than ever, it's critical to rely on accurate and timely information from credible sources – such as the World Health Organization, ministries of health and national health institutes – to keep families and communities safe.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated the truly global nature of our pharmaceutical supply chain and the importance of collaboration, data sharing and transparency to better anticipate and address challenges in the future. The interconnected, diverse nature of our supply chain is an asset that has and will continue to help us to respond to future threats.

Once effective treatments and vaccines are confirmed, health systems, drug manufacturers and medicines regulatory agencies must be ready to produce enough quality-assured products to meet demand, as well as to detect and stop the spread of substandard, falsified and fraudulent products that might hit the market.

We have a responsibility to take precautions to protect patients from harm. Now more than ever we must demand access to safe, quality medicines for everyone, everywhere.

SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH WORKERS

Around the world – and around the clock – frontline health workers are treating patients affected by COVID-19. From Li Wenliang, who warned the world about the dangers of coronavirus, to the thousands of doctors and nurses who have fallen sick while caring for patients, the stress and sacrifices endured by our health workers cannot be under-estimated.

Doctors are having to make unthinkable choices as patients outnumber hospital beds and ventilators. Shortages of protective gear have forced health workers to ration supplies, leaving them exposed to the virus. As a result, many fear coming home and infecting their families.

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to health workers for their extraordinary efforts during this time. And we remind everyone to avoid gatherings and close contact with others – while still remaining socially connected – to ensure our health systems can adequately cope and care for patients in need.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Medicines We Can Trust campaign is committed to ensuring accurate and timely information is available for all coalition members. We'll continue to monitor how medicines quality is affected by the novel coronavirus and share updates from trusted sources on our [Twitter](#) and [website](#). Below is a sampling of trusted sources for information and the latest guidance on COVID-19:

- [**World Health Organization \(WHO\)**](#)
- [**European Center for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)**](#)
- [**US Centers for Disease Control \(US CDC\)**](#)
- [**African Centers for Disease Control \(African CDC\)**](#)
- [**Chinese Center for Disease Control \(Chinese CDC\)**](#)

For verified information, estimates and efforts to address COVID-19's impact on supply chains, medicines quality and disease elimination efforts, see:

- [**US Pharmacopeia**](#)

If you have any lessons or materials from your ongoing COVID-19 response, which may be helpful to coalition members who may be contemplating or beginning preparations, please share them with us over email or via our [**@MedsWeCanTrust**](#) Twitter handle. We'll be collating your responses and sharing them on our website and social channels.

Recent News

[ASOP Global Statement on Fake COVID-19 Claims Online \(20 March 2020\)](#)

[Devex: COVID-19 disruptions on health supply chains a challenge for aid orgs \(17 March 2020\)](#)

[STAT: As coronavirus pandemic worsens, health officials fear nationalization of drugs and supplies \(15 March 2020\)](#)

[NPR: How Coronavirus Is Affecting The U.S. Pharmaceutical Supply \(12 March 2020\)](#)

[New York Times: F.D.A. Halts Overseas Inspections of Drugs and Devices, Citing Coronavirus \(10 March 2020\)](#)

[Brookings: The coronavirus will reveal hidden vulnerabilities in complex global supply chains \(5 March 2020\)](#)

[Reuters: Global supplier India curbs drug exports as coronavirus fears grow \(3 March 2020\)](#)

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