

Health Committee

Issue: The Covid-19 vaccine and the responsibilities of affluent countries towards poorer countries

Background information

The concerns are real, and the task of vaccinating the poorest of the poor requires a massive global effort by rich and poor countries alike. First and foremost, it is a moral argument. Given that the vaccine itself already exists—albeit with different levels of effectiveness—every day that goes on results in preventable deaths that must be avoided.

Covid Vaccines and the WHO (World Health Organisation)

The World Health Organization has launched the Strategy to Achieve Global Covid-19 Vaccination by mid-2022 (the Strategy) to help bring an end to what has become a two-track pandemic: people in poorer countries continue to be at risk while those in richer countries with high vaccination rates enjoy much greater protection.

WHO had set a target to vaccinate 10% of every country, economy and territory by the end of September but by that date 56 countries had not been able to do so, the vast majority of these are countries in Africa and the Middle East.

Reasons for support:

COVID 19-vaccines are effective. They can keep you from getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.

Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Countries and percentage of vaccination rates for the Covid vaccine

49.3% of the world population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

7 billion doses have been administered globally, and 24.08 million are now administered each day.

Only 3.5% of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose.

Points to consider

When You've Been Fully Vaccinated... <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

Useful links

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-55795297>

<https://www.economist.com/international/2021/09/04/as-a-rich-world-covid-vaccine-glut-looms-poor-countries-miss-out>