

The fight against COVID-19

How the major pharmaceutical companies are responding

May 2020

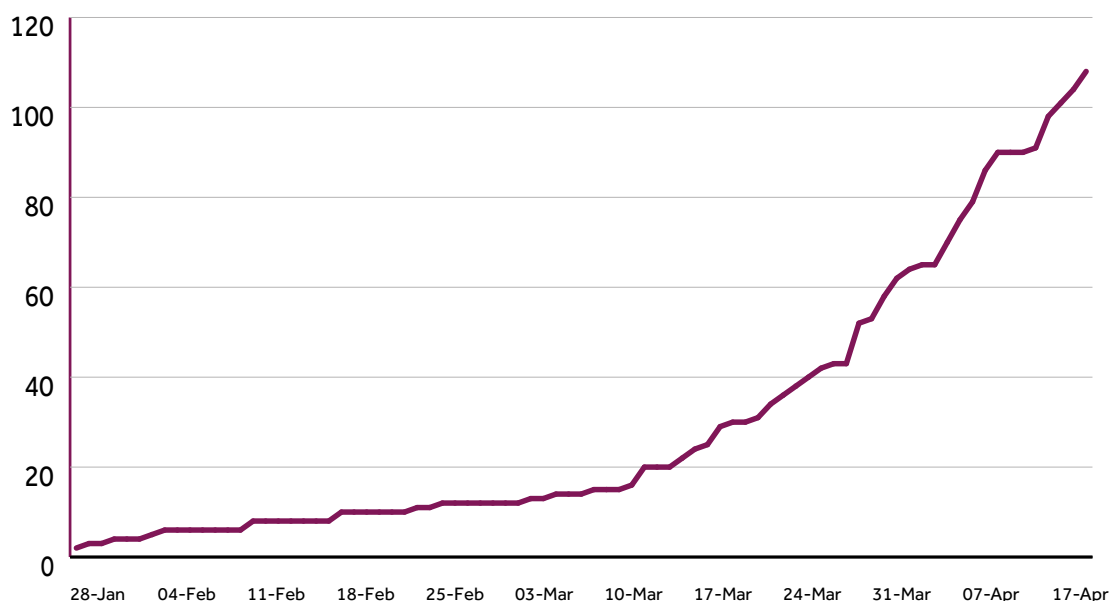
Pharma companies are contributing to the fight against COVID-19 on multiple fronts

COVID-19 has thrust the global life sciences industry centre stage. The sector is playing a key role, through its science, resources and scale, and dedicating huge efforts to develop diagnostics, treatments and vaccines. Around the globe, there are currently around 1,500 industry and academic clinical trials into COVID-19, of which more than 800 are treatment interventions¹.

Actions of the 20 largest pharma companies

Each of the 20 largest global pharma companies by revenue are **contributing to the fight against COVID-19 in one or more ways**. Since the beginning of the year, these companies have released 109 announcements about their ongoing responses to the outbreak². Eighty-six percent of the announcements were made after 11 March when the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Most of the announcements (80%) focused on a single issue with the remainder bundling several topics into one announcement..

Cummulative number of COVID-19 announcements among 20 largest pharma companies globally



¹ Treatment interventions comprised of: Drugs, ATMP, Drug+Other Therapy, Traditional Medicine

Source: The DataLab and The Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM) COVID-19 Trials Tracker - <http://covid19.trialstracker.net/about.html> (accessed 30 April 2020)

² Source: Company announcements between 1 January 2020 and 20 April 2020



R&D response

Fifty percent of the 20 largest pharma companies are **working on a vaccine**, 85% on a **treatment** and 55% on **diagnostics** both for COVID-19 and antibody testing. Sixty-five percent of companies have already **commenced clinical trials or have initiated plans to begin trials within months**.

Who pharma is working with

As part of efforts to accelerate research and development of potential vaccines, treatments and diagnostic solutions, 35% of the 20 largest pharma companies have **formed partnerships with industry peers or biotech firms**.

Eighty-five percent of the largest pharma companies are **collaborating with partners beyond the private sector in the fight against COVID-19**. They are co-funding or jointly researching, developing and trialling vaccines and treatments with medical departments of leading universities, national and state level public health departments and charitable foundations. Sixty-five percent are participating in the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) public-private partnership, while 55% have joined a cross-industry collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate the development, manufacturing and delivery of vaccines, diagnostics and treatments for COVID-19.

Philanthropic response

Nearly all the companies (95%) have **made philanthropic contributions to support the global fight against the pandemic**. Medical and charitable cash donations worth a total of US\$237m have been pledged by 14 pharma companies. The recipients include local non-profit groups supporting the relief effort, including patient support groups that are providing aid to vulnerable populations. Donations have also been made to international organizations and causes, such as the United Nations Foundation's COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund and the Red Cross.

Other philanthropic contributions include **donating PPE and medical equipment to frontline medical and healthcare workers**. Thirty-five percent of pharma companies are donating existing medicines, totalling millions of doses, to hospitals and health authorities seeking to use them as treatments for patients with COVID-19. Most companies are allowing employees with medical or laboratory expertise to volunteer their skills to help their local healthcare organizations, while maintaining their base pay and full benefits.

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