

C-TAP

Enhancing global manufacturing capacity to address today's and tomorrow's pandemics

ABOUT C-TAP

The COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) provides a single platform for the developers of COVID-19 vaccines, tests, devices, and medicines to temporarily share their data, know-how and technologies with quality-assured manufacturers. The operational model is based on public health-oriented, transparent, voluntary and non-exclusive licenses, which could be issued through the Medicines Patent Pool, a C-TAP partner.

Such licenses granted through the C-TAP platform can boost the global supply of COVID-19 health products by providing qualified manufacturers with:

- The **legal rights** to manufacture and sell the products;
- The **technology and know-how** required to develop quality products effectively and efficiently;
- **Access to clinical data** needed to obtain regulatory approval for their products.

COVID-19 vaccines: While scaling up vaccine manufacturing will take some time, C-TAP can help in the mid- to long-term by facilitating vaccine manufacturing in all regions of the world, making low- and middle-income countries less dependent on multinational companies and foreign aid. If vaccine developers started contributing to C-TAP today, we could see greater availability of vaccines by the end of 2022.

Tests, medicines, oxygen, medical devices: In the shorter term, C-TAP could allow for increased manufacturing of other health technologies which are essential to test and care for the sick and protect health and frontline workers, thereby reducing deaths and the spread of the virus.

Several initiatives have emerged to address the low availability of health technologies to address the pandemic. What C-TAP offers is a voluntary mechanism that gives all stakeholders equal incentives:

- People in **low- and middle-income countries** will gain faster access to desperately needed COVID-19 health products.
- **Developers of COVID-19 vaccines and other health products** can use C-TAP to immediately access the untapped production capacity they need to manufacture more COVID-19 health products while collecting appropriate royalties for the use of their IP, know-how, and data.
- With support from the technical assistance provided through WHO and C-TAP, many more **manufacturers around the world** can begin producing lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines and other products that meet international standards of quality, safety, and efficacy.

WHY C-TAP IS A VIABLE SOLUTION

Alone or ideally in combination with other proposed solutions to current shortages of COVID-19 products, C-TAP holds particular promise because it:

- **Offers a solution within the current IP system.** C-TAP will increase the number of manufacturers producing COVID-19 health products on a voluntary basis.
- **Addresses IP barriers and promotes technology transfer to rapidly scale up production.** C-TAP will facilitate access not only to patents, but also broader technology, know-how and clinical trial data that producers need to manufacture products and secure regulatory approvals in a timely manner.
- **Gives companies a fair deal and support in the management of IP.** Originator companies that share their knowledge through C-TAP will be fairly compensated for their contributions through royalties. Companies will get support in the management of their IP with multiple manufacturers after the signature of agreements.
- **Ensures that products adhere to quality standards.** WHO has a rigorous assessment process for health products and has already prequalified hundreds of health technologies manufactured in middle-income countries. Technology transfer will be facilitated only for quality-assured manufacturers according to WHO standards.
- **Returns public investment to the public domain.** C-TAP will contribute to ensuring that taxpayers who have invested heavily in the development of COVID-19 vaccines and other health products can reap the health and economic benefits that only a full global recovery will provide.
- **Creates stronger, self-sustaining global manufacturing systems.** Sharing IP and manufacturing know-how will help establish new manufacturing bases, especially in low- and middle-income countries. This is essential to meet ongoing demand for COVID-19 booster shots and future vaccines and medicines, and for developing more sustainable solutions to address future public health emergencies.
- **Leverages a proven model and world-class technical expertise.** Companies and governments participating in C-TAP will benefit from technical assistance from WHO and experts from other UN Agencies and the knowledge of implementing partners like the Medicines Patent Pool, which has successfully scaled up manufacturing for HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis medicines now being used to treat hundreds of thousands of people worldwide.

HOW TO SUPPORT C-TAP

- **Governments and other research funders** can help fast-track the production of COVID-19 essential health products by encouraging originator companies to share their technologies in a voluntary, non-exclusive and transparent way with C-TAP.
- **Pharmaceutical companies and publicly funded research agencies that have developed COVID-19 products** can promote wider access to these lifesaving health products by voluntarily licensing their technologies to C-TAP, sharing relevant IP and facilitating technology transfer and data.
- **Pharmaceutical manufacturers**, particularly in low and middle-income countries, can announce their readiness to work with C-TAP to produce and increase the global supply of COVID-19 health products.
- **Civil society advocates and opinion leaders** can build support for C-TAP by spreading the word and encouraging public and private decision-makers to do their part.