

Ramping up vaccine production: taking stock of industrial capacity and bottlenecks

The European Commission created a Taskforce on Vaccine Industrial Capacity led by Commissioner Breton in cooperation with Commissioner Kyriakides. Its main objectives is to eliminate bottlenecks in current Covid-19 vaccine production and find ways to adjust vaccine production to various variants.

The European Commission gathers information on:

- the **industrial capacity** available to produce Covid-19 vaccines,
- companies' willingness to **make capacities available to the producers of approved vaccines** and/or vaccine which are likely to receive an EU marketing Authorisation in the near future,
- the possibility of the **production capacity to be repurposed** for Covid-19 vaccines,
- on potential regulatory, technological and financial **bottlenecks to ramp up Covid-19** vaccine production.

Find below the list of questions as a basis to reach out to the national authorities such as health and economy ministries and relevant national associations:

- Are the authorities aware of **any concrete bottlenecks in your MS (Member State/country) related to the Covid-19 vaccine production** and/or rollout (including the administration) of COVID-19 vaccines?
- **What kind of bottlenecks to ramp up the production of Covid-19 vaccines related components** (e.g. chemical ingredients, vials, syringes, needles) do you identify in your MS?
- Have domestic or international **companies or entities approached MS authorities to offer solutions to the bottlenecks** related to COVID-19?
- Are the **authorities aware of any concrete assistance companies on its territory may require** to enable them to address the current bottlenecks associated with COVID-19 vaccines production?
- In which of the **vaccine production stages** could entities operate in your country offer capacities/facilities/support?
 1. Raw materials for vaccines
 2. Manufacturing, Coupling & Formulation
 3. Production of syringes and vials
 4. Filling
 5. Packaging
 6. Storage
 7. Shipment & Distribution
- Have MS authorities **mapped actors which can be involved in the domestic production of Covid-19 vaccine** and related goods and services, taking into account the specifics of the different types of vaccines?
- If so, **has this mapping also covered potential production sites** (e.g. for veterinary vaccines production sites, enzyme producers, biotech companies, entities with limited production capacity like research/biotech incubators, etc.) which could be used for the production of COVID-19 vaccines or essential items necessary for the production (e.g. lipid nanoparticles) or successful roll-out of the vaccination campaign (e.g. special needles and syringes).

- What are **already available COVID-19 production capacities** in your MS, i.e. number of doses produced per month, preferably specified for the different types of vaccines?
- **Have MS taken steps to make available, increase and/or repurpose production capacities** to address the current shortages in the availability of COVID-19 vaccines?
- Are there **significant investments in progress** to increase vaccines' production and when will they lead to increased vaccines supplies?
- What **assistance is provided to companies** willing to produce Covid-19 vaccines? What are **initiatives at a national level** to make available, increase or repurpose production capacities of COVID-19 vaccines?
- **Have the authorities in your MS launched a programme to mobilise companies to expand the production of components** necessary for the production, delivery, and administration of COVID-19 vaccines (e.g. chemical ingredients, vials, syringes, needles)?
- Have **the rightsholders of the COVID-19 vaccines approached MS authorities** to find/build vaccine production capacities?
- If yes, is your host **MS engaged in concrete talks/negotiation with the rightsholders of the COVID-19 vaccines** already available in the EU, or potential future Marketing Authorisation applicants?
- If so, have the potential partners and authorities in your MS already inquired **the time needed to make these facilities operational** for the COVID-19 vaccines production?
- Are you aware of companies producing or being able to **produce lipid nanoparticles** in your territory?

The information we ask you to obtain may be in the public domain and from sources in possession of privileged information which is not deemed to be made available to the public (e.g. MS, associations, or even individual companies) Hence we would like you to flag to us the source of the information and their nature (public or confidential).