



An International Medical Corps staff member raises awareness about COVID-19 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As of today, the world has endured more than 238 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 4.8 million confirmed deaths. Globally, more than 6.5 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered. Though the large number of administered vaccines is encouraging, the weekly vaccination rate has shown a downward trajectory over the past two months. In addition, lack of equity in vaccine distribution, as well as misinformation and vaccine hesitancy, continue to plague the global rollout.

After nearly two years, epidemiologists say that the pandemic is still not nearly over, with a high likelihood of continual peaks and valleys in cases until almost the entire world has either been vaccinated or infected. The worst-case scenario, in which a new vaccine-resistant variant emerges, is still possible as the virus spreads unchecked throughout large sections of the world.¹ Massive and equitable vaccine distribution across the globe is the only feasible way to prevent new variants—but this appears to be unlikely in the near future.

Moderna, the company behind the most effective COVID-19 vaccine on the market, has been accused of prioritizing profits instead of protecting the most vulnerable from the virus. The company recently said that it expects to make \$20 billion in profits this year, which would make its vaccine one of the most lucrative medical products in history. Also, two of Moderna's founders recently were added to *Forbes* magazine's list of the 400 wealthiest people in the United States. Finally, these profits are being made in a context where Moderna is charging higher prices to low-income countries—some countries are paying roughly twice as much per vaccine as the amount paid by the United States. As a result, many countries have opted for the Pfizer vaccine, which is less effective against the Delta variant and is more challenging to transport and store than the Moderna vaccine. Thus far, only about 1 million doses of Moderna have gone to low-income countries.²

FAST FACTS

- According to the Johns Hopkins University tracker, which consolidates data from a range of sources, as of October 13, there have been 238,871,505 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported worldwide.
- In the US, we are supporting 43 hospitals across the country—including in California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Puerto Rico and Texas—with a range of services and equipment, including emergency medical field units, supplies and volunteer staff.
- We have screened more than 7.5 million people for COVID-19 at our global missions and have distributed more than 29.6 million pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention and control (IPC) items to supported health facilities.
- We have trained more than 26,080 frontline healthcare professionals on COVID-19 prevention and control measures.

¹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2021-09-12/6-month-covid-outlook-2021>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/09/business/moderna-covid-vaccine.html>

In the United States, vaccine boosters have been approved for those over the age of 65 or those at high risk who have received the Pfizer vaccine. This approval came after a lengthy debate over whether every American who received the Pfizer vaccine should receive a booster.³ The added vaccine supply needed for boosters will tighten the bottleneck limiting the distribution of vaccines to low-income nations, and is occurring in a context of 15 million vaccine doses going to waste in the US since March.⁴






Though vaccines remain the best way to fight the pandemic, new medicines are likely to soon become available to fight the virus. For example, Merck is seeking authorization for a new antiviral pill that showed the ability to cut hospitalizations in half for high-risk individuals treated early with the five-day, 40-pill regimen.⁵ Several other competing pill-based treatments likely will follow Merck's antiviral treatment. These antiviral pills are much easier to administer than monoclonal antibodies, and should thus allow for more accessible treatment in both lower- and higher-income countries.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps continues to provide essential medical assistance and training in the more than 30 countries where we operate. Highlights from our global response include the following.

United States Response

In the US, International Medical Corps has responded to COVID-19 by partnering with hospitals, clinics and nursing homes in Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Puerto Rico, South Carolina and Texas. To date, we have distributed more than 6.6 million items of PPE, including 1.7 million KN95 masks, 1.8 million surgical masks, nearly 900,000 surgical gowns, more than 900,000 N95 masks, 131,000 face shields and 100,000 cloth face masks. We have provided support to 43 hospitals, 21 primary health centers, 56 long-term care facilities and five community centers. In addition to procuring and donating PPE, International Medical Corps has provided emergency medical field units to help hospitals expand critical-care services, and has provided surge-staffing support to ensure continuity of care for COVID-19 patients. In addition, we so far have deployed more than 140 clinical volunteers, more than 60 of whom have supported vaccination efforts since March.

United States Response				
 Locations	States/Territories: 10	Hospitals: 43	Health Clinics: 21	Nursing homes: 56
 Volunteers	MDs: 27	Nurses: 90	EMTs: 6	Paramedics: 10
 Infrastructure	Field Units: 70	HVACs: 66	Generators: 5	Trailers: 4 Containers: 2
 Equipment	Beds: 150	Ventilators: 22	Ultrasounds: 34	Patient monitors: 143
	Pulse oximeters: 269	Suctions: 9	Defibrillators: 51	Medical consumables: 65,000
 PPE	K95 masks: 1,730,460	Surgical masks: 1,882,300	Surgical gowns: 882,460	
	N95 masks: 907,399	Face shields: 131,860	Nitrile gloves: 1,100,000	

We also have helped to supply and lead robust vaccine campaigns in Los Angeles, Texas and Puerto Rico. In Los Angeles, International Medical Corps provided volunteers, equipment and systems that supported the administration of more than 200,000 vaccine doses. In Puerto Rico, International Medical Corps has supported the Ponce Health Sciences University vaccination clinic with 10 surge positions. This surge staff—along with other support—has enabled the

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/22/us/politics/pfizer-boosters-fda-authorize.html>

⁴ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/america-has-wasted-least-15-million-covid-vaccine-doses-march-n1278211>

⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/01/business/covid-antiviral-pill-merck.html>

organization to provide more than 9,500 vaccine doses. The team there also has provided health education to 255 community leaders on how to counter vaccine misinformation, on how to share information about vaccine efficacy and on how to share personal experiences of being vaccinated, and has reached 24,000 people through social media messaging promoting COVID-19 vaccination. Most recently, we deployed a team to Corpus Christi, Texas, where the public health department has been overwhelmed with a massive COVID-19 outbreak. Our team of three doctors, six nurses and two support staff supported the region's main vaccination site in Nueces County, providing more than 5,000 vaccine doses over two weeks.

Global Response

International Medical Corps is focused on ensuring continuity of operations in existing programming in the more than 30 countries where we currently operate, while taking decisive action to respond to COVID-19 cases. We are continuing to distribute PPE and IPC items to our supported healthcare facilities, while providing training and support to frontline healthcare workers on the proper use of such equipment and the epidemiology of COVID-19. Additionally, our facilities are continuing to screen patients for COVID-19 and raising awareness—through traditional and remote activities—throughout communities. International Medical Corps also is participating with global, regional and local coordination bodies to support their COVID-19 responses. Highlights from our response this week include activities in the following countries.







Among other countries, we are responding to COVID-19 in Jordan, Lebanon and Pakistan, as shown on the map above.

- International Medical Corps' team in **Jordan** is playing a central role in coordinating vaccination efforts now underway in Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps, including vaccinations, registration, medical pre-screening and transportation, as well as raising awareness about the vaccine among refugee communities. Since the rollout, International Medical Corps has helped 25,279 refugees in the camps get their first dose of the vaccine. Within the same camps, International Medical Corps also has carried out 112,238 PCR tests for COVID. All other health services in Azraq and Zaatari, as well as in Irbid, remain ongoing, with non-lifesaving services—including outpatient sexual and reproductive health—resumed to full capacity. International Medical Corps also is providing a range of COVID-19-related services to an estimated 40,000 Azraq Refugee Camp residents. Since March 2020, we have screened 358,997 people the camp's entry and exit points for signs of the disease, have distributed 2,290,478 PPE and IPC items to staff and the people we serve at International Medical Corps facilities. Within Azraq, International Medical Corps has established a 50-patient isolation area and has created an area where immediate treatment can be provided to suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases. In addition, our health team in the camp continues to provide awareness sessions on COVID-19 to residents, reaching more than 148,010 community residents as well as NGO and security staff. Working with the Ministry of Health and the Jordanian Psychiatrist Society, our mental health team has established a 24/7 psychosocial support hotline in Jordan to respond to growing mental health needs caused by COVID-19. As curfew restrictions now have been lifted in the country, our team in Jordan has resumed in-person mental health consultations, as well as child protection and nutrition services for refugees and vulnerable Jordanians. However, we continue to conduct all group psychosocial-support activities remotely, in accordance with government regulations.
- In the wake of the August 2020 [Beirut port explosion](#), the International Medical Corps' team in **Lebanon** distributed 488,940 PPE items to primary health clinics, hospitals and mobile medical units in the Beirut area. We delivered masks, gloves and gowns to 62 healthcare facilities, as well as other medical supplies to 54 of these. We also delivered PPE to more than 4,000 volunteers working to remove debris and repair damaged homes. Before the blast, our team had developed a COVID-19 contingency plan to address disruptions caused by the outbreak and related restrictions on movement. This involved procuring additional PPE and IPC supplies—including hand sanitizer, sterilization alcohol, gloves, masks and soap—to protect frontline health workers. The team also has raised awareness about COVID-19 among community residents and provided psychological first-aid training to frontline workers. We are collaborating closely with the government and partner NGOs, participating in sub-working groups of national COVID-19 taskforces. So far, 89 facilities that we support have screened 934,352 people for COVID-19 symptoms. In total, we have distributed more than 5.3 million PPE and IPC items to International Medical Corps-supported centers and safe spaces for women and girls. Furthermore, we have organized COVID-19 awareness-raising training sessions, reaching 109,720 community residents. In Tripoli and Akkar, we are the health lead for rapid response teams in both cities, an initiative coordinated by UNHCR that works to mitigate the spread and damage caused by the virus in refugee communities. Our team also is providing home-based medical assistance to people with certain conditions—including terminal illnesses and COVID-19—who are shielding at home due to the pandemic. In addition, we are developing activities and guidance for mental

health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) support during the pandemic. And working alongside the Lebanon Ministry of Health, International Medical Corps is preparing to support vaccination efforts in the country, focusing on raising awareness among vulnerable groups about the vaccine. Our assistance will, among other things, focus on helping vulnerable residents register for the vaccine, transporting them to relevant vaccination centers, and providing hospitals and vaccination centers with relevant supplies, such as syringes. We have reached 51,504 community members through vaccine-awareness campaigns and have conducted a nationwide vaccine hesitancy survey covering 3,928 people and 99 primary health centers.

- Since March 2020 in **Pakistan**, International Medical Corps has provided information to 77,045 community residents in our areas of operation about the symptoms and treatment of COVID-19, as well as how to protect against infection. We also have screened 17,695 patients for COVID-19. Our female doctors and health workers continue to offer essential sexual and reproductive healthcare in five public healthcare facilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to women and girls needing urgent care, and our psychosocial counselors and gender-based violence (GBV) case managers located in Haripur, Lower Dir and Mansehra districts continue to provide both MHPSS and GBV case management and referral services to those in dire need, as cases of MHPSS and GBV have been increasing during the pandemic. We have provided support to 1,336 people through 2,062 counseling sessions, including psychological first aid (PFA) and telephone counseling. Working with a consortium of partners, International Medical Corps is implementing "Improving National Capacity to Respond to COVID-19 Pandemic in Pakistan (Cap-COVID)," under which we have conducted 53 training sessions on COVID-19 for healthcare providers, multi-disciplinary responders and staff from our partner organizations in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. We have conducted 15 sessions for healthcare providers, 15 sessions for outreach workers and 23 sessions focused on remote PFA, training 981 participants. In July, we provided four training sessions on remote PFA to staff of partner organizations of the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF). International Medical Corps is working with the Medical Emergency Resilience Foundation (MERF) to implement a new project to improve COVID-19 vaccination coverage in Peshawar district. In September, this project reached 4,012 people directly and 3,035 people indirectly. In addition, International Medical Corps distributed 7,200 medical equipment items (syringes and safety boxes) to support the government's COVID-19 vaccination efforts, and we have so far supported the administration of 7,047 vaccine doses.

International Medical Corps' Impact at a Glance				
Number of Supported Facilities Provided with COVID-19 Activities	1,271 Primary Health Facilities	200 Hospitals	35 COVID-19 Treatment Centers	77 Mobile Medical Clinics
Community Members Reached Through COVID-19 Awareness-Raising Activities	 5.7M Traditional		 2.7M Remote	
PPE and IPC Items Distributed	 28.6M PPE		 1M IPC	