



*International Medical Corps' volunteers prepare vaccines in Corpus Christi, Texas.*

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the world has confirmed about 226 million cases of COVID-19, along with more than 4.6 million documented deaths. Across the globe, more than 5.7 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered, with more than 29% of the world fully vaccinated and another 12% partially vaccinated. More than 30 million doses are being administered daily on average, and 41% of the world population has some level of vaccine-derived immunity, signifying a great success. Still, as many have predicted, vaccine equity is proving to be a massive challenge. Many countries and regions are being left behind in vaccine distribution. For example, in Africa, many countries have vaccinated well below 5% of their citizens.

This vaccine inequity comes in the context of the Delta variant, which is far more contagious than the original strain of COVID-19 and is one of the most infectious respiratory diseases ever seen by scientists, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.<sup>1</sup> There also is evidence that the Delta variant may cause more severe illness than the original strain of the virus, with two studies showing a higher hospitalization rate in those infected with the variant.<sup>2</sup> Still, vaccines have proven to be highly effective at preventing severe disease from the variant. New studies show that unvaccinated individuals are 10 times more likely to be hospitalized and 11 times more likely to die from the virus.<sup>3</sup>

In light of the more-transmissible Delta variant, there has been much discussion about booster doses of vaccines for immunocompromised individuals and even for the general public. The case for booster doses for immunocompromised is settled, with the FDA authorizing boosters for those with weakened immune systems, such as HIV and cancer patients.<sup>4</sup> Boosters for the general public, on the other hand, are more controversial. This week, an expert review was published in *The Lancet* stating that that boosters are not yet appropriate for the general public. The study, which included input from high-level FDA and WHO officials, noted that though there is waning protection from mild disease, the vaccines are still providing protection from severe illness.<sup>5</sup> Nonetheless, the United States appears poised to begin offering boosters to qualifying individuals on September 20.<sup>6</sup> The prospect of even more

## FAST FACTS

- According to the Johns Hopkins University tracker, which consolidates data from a range of sources, as of September 15, there have been 225,934,549 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 7.2 million people for COVID-19 at our global missions and have distributed more than 28.7 million pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention and control (IPC) items to supported health facilities.
- We have trained more than 28,400 frontline healthcare professionals on COVID-19 prevention and control measures.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/22/delta-variant-is-one-of-the-most-infectious-respiratory-diseases-known-cdc-director-says-htm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/09/10/moderna-most-effective-covid-vaccine-studies/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/13/covid-booster-shots-fda-permits-third-dose-for-the-immune-deficient.html>

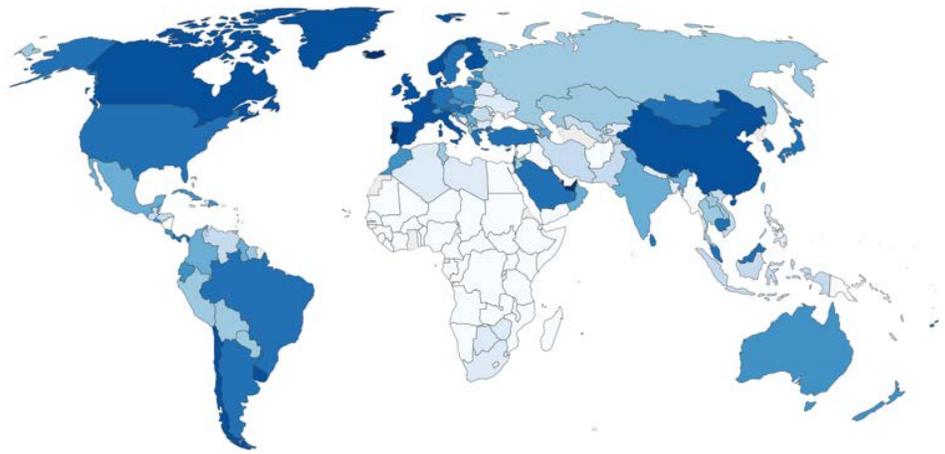
<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/13/covid-booster-shots-data-shows-third-shots-not-appropriate-at-this-time-scientists-conclude.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0818-covid-19-booster-shots.html>

vaccine supply going to high-income countries—especially doses that may not be necessary—will have a dire impact on the availability of vaccines in vulnerable, lower-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,

*The percentage of the population in each country that have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccines. [Source](#)*

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				
 <b>Locations</b>	States/Territories: 10	Hospitals: 43	Health Clinics: 21	Nursing homes: 56
 <b>Volunteers</b>	MDs: 25	Nurses: 84	EMTs: 6	Paramedics: 10
 <b>Infrastructure</b>	Field Units: 70	HVACs: 66	Generators: 5	Trailers: 4 Containers: 2
 <b>Equipment</b>	Beds: 150	Ventilators: 22	Ultrasounds: 34	Patient monitors: 143
	Pulse oximeters: 269	Suctions: 9	Defibrillators: 51	Medical consumables: 65,000
 <b>PPE</b>	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 engaged in robust vaccine efforts 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 196,000 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 organization to provide more than 9,500 vaccine doses. Additionally, the team on the ground has provided health education to 255

community leaders on how to counter vaccine misinformation, share information about vaccine efficacy and share personal experiences of being vaccinated. Lastly, International Medical Corps has reached 24,000 people through social media messaging that promoted 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. The team of three doctors, six nurses and two support staff supported the region's main vaccination site in Nueces County, and provided 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 the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gaza and Yemen, as shown on the map above.*

- The COVID-19 vaccine rollout in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, launched in April, has been hampered by the circulation of rumors and misinformation about COVID-19 and the vaccines. To support vaccination efforts, our team in the DRC has helped train 35 risk-communication and community-engagement workers at COVID-19 vaccination sites in South Kivu province. In North and South Kivu, we also briefed 132 community leaders and volunteers on COVID-19 vaccination, enabling them to better engage with their communities and peers. In addition, our team conducted 30 community information sessions through home visits, educational talks, community meetings and presentations at places of worship. Since the resumption of the vaccination campaign in August, following the restocking of vaccine supplies, more than 83,000 people have received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine. So far, more than 10,500 people have come back for their second dose. Since the beginning of the pandemic, International Medical Corps has helped the DRC's Ministry of Health curb the spread of the virus by enabling COVID-19 screening for almost 2.1 million people and training more than 4,300 frontline staff and community health workers on COVID-19 case management and IPC. We have reached more than 1.2 million community members through both traditional means of communication, such as awareness-raising activities, as well as remote measures, such as COVID-19 prevention messages disseminated through SMS and radio. The DRC mission also has distributed almost 300,000 hygiene and PPE items.
- With a ceasefire is now in place in **Gaza**, COVID-19 mitigation and prevention measures are more important than ever. Our team is screening individuals and referring suspected cases for COVID-19 testing. So far, eight International Medical Corps-supported facilities have screened more than 13,650 people for COVID-19 symptoms, and the team has reached 157,205 people with COVID-19 awareness messaging. Using our mobile medical units, including through two hospitals, we also are distributing hygiene kits and raising awareness about how to prevent and mitigate spread of the disease. We are providing PPE and IPC supplies to partner organizations. In addition, we are conducting a vaccine hesitancy survey and developing educational materials about COVID prevention.
- In **Yemen**, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Population, our healthcare team is sharing COVID-19 case management and education guidelines with health facility staff. We have trained 531 frontline health workers, community health volunteers and staff on COVID-19 case management and prevention methods. We also have provided 43 health facilities with cleaning materials—including gloves, waterproof overalls and soap—to strengthen infection protection and control. Also in collaboration with the ministry, we have trained community health volunteers (CHVs) on how to prevent and treat COVID-19, providing them with related materials to distribute within in their communities, reaching 9,761 residents, as well as to health facilities that we support in Sana'a. Despite the global shortage of protective equipment, our team in Yemen has been able to source and distribute 981,597 PPE and IPC items to health facilities, health workers and other staff members. In addition, we donated 16,000 N95 masks to an NGO that runs treatment centers for those diagnosed with moderate to severe cases of COVID-19, which had been in danger of shutting down operations due to the lack of PPE. We are helping another NGO, the Danish Refugee Council, implement an innovative concept called

[community shielding](#), to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in crowded camp conditions. All International Medical Corps-supported health facilities continue to provide care, so far screening 360,618 people for COVID-19 and referring 30,469 patients suspected to have the disease. Five mobile units and two ambulances we have deployed in the south of the country are providing primary health and nutrition services, as well as COVID-19 referrals. In addition, we have reached 8,822 people with COVID-19 information through our Child Nutrition in Emergencies program. We also are raising awareness about COVID-19 in hard-to-reach areas, and in households without radio or television, by using vehicles equipped with speakers. We continue to raise awareness about COVID-19 through a variety of means, including in-person discussions, radio and print media, so far reaching 80,744 people through our CHVs, as well as radio and TV coverage.

International Medical Corps' Impact at a Glance				
Number of Supported Facilities Provided with COVID-19 Activities	<b>1,273</b> Primary Health Facilities	<b>196</b> Hospitals	<b>35</b> COVID-19 Treatment Centers	<b>75</b> Mobile Medical Clinics
Community Members Reached Through COVID-19 Awareness-Raising Activities	 <b>5.5M</b> Traditional	 <b>3.0M</b> Remote		
PPE and IPC Items Distributed	 <b>27.7M</b> PPE	 <b>1M</b> IPC		