

Almost a quarter of a million UK-donated COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Ghana

The vaccines were met at Kotoka International Airport by senior officials from the British High Commission to Ghana, including Chargé d'affaires, Dr Joseph Whittle and the UK Health Adviser to Ghana, Uzoamaka Gilpin. Honourable Deputy Minister Tina Mensah and representatives from Ghana's Ministry of Health also attended the arrival alongside UNICEF Representative in Ghana, Anne-Claire Dufay.

Today's shipment is part of a broader pledge made by the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, at the G7 meeting in June. The UK will share 100 million jobs with the rest of the world, of which 80% will be through COVAX. The UK has already donated around 5 million vaccine doses to COVAX and 3 million of these doses will be sent to countries across Africa. Nigeria, The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Ethiopia are among the countries to already receive vaccines.

Speaking at Kotoka International Airport, the Chargé d'affaires for the British High Commission to Ghana Dr Joseph Whittle, said:

Today's shipment signals another step forward in Ghana's vaccine programme. It means 249,600 front-line health workers, vulnerable people most at risk from COVID-19 and those in need of their vital second jab have access to vaccinations and better protection against COVID-19 variants.

Our shared commitment to overcome COVID-19 has only strengthened the UK-Ghana partnership, and this is reflected by the fact that Ghana is one of the first countries in the world receiving UK-donated vaccines.

The UK has been at the forefront of the global response to COVID-19, including through investing £90 million to support the development of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. More than half a billion doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine have been delivered at a non-profit price globally, with two-thirds going to lower and middle-income countries.

The UK kick-started efforts to establish COVAX in 2020, providing a total of £548 million to fund vaccines for lower income countries. The scheme has delivered more than 152 million vaccine doses to over 137 countries and territories, including in 83 lower-middle income countries. 65% of the initial vaccine doses have been Oxford-AstraZeneca. COVAX aims to deliver 1.8 billion vaccines to lower-income countries around the world by early 2022.

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, said:

Three million doses of UK-donated vaccines are now arriving in 11 countries across Africa, including Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, to help the fight against COVID-19.

This is the first batch of 80 million being donated via COVAX – because we know no one is safe until everyone is safe.

The UK continues to support Ghana's COVID-19 response: putting UK experts at the heart of Ghana's Health Service and the Ministry of health, supporting the Ministry of Health to expand quality COVID-19 treatment and testing in 40 underserved districts whilst ensuring continuation of essential health services for women and children.

Further information

- the following footage is available at this [WeTransfer link](#) – Wockhart facility in the UK: Vaccine vial production for AstraZeneca. AstraZeneca vaccines stored in refrigerated warehouse operated by Movianto in the UK
- the 9 million Oxford-AstraZeneca doses being donated are not needed for the domestic rollout. The doses will be UK-branded
- 5 million vaccines are being offered to COVAX, the global scheme to get COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, to be delivered to the most vulnerable countries. Further details will be announced in due course
- the vaccine doses being donated on a bilateral basis are being transported by Crown Agents
- the UK provided £90 million to support the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine: £25m on the initial research & development and £65m to scale up manufacturing
- these vaccines were developed by the University of Oxford, made by Oxford Biomedica in Oxford and packaged in North Wales
- the UK made it clear as part of that funding that the vaccine should be affordable around the world and consequently, AstraZeneca agreed to distribute it at a non-profit price during the pandemic
- the cost of this donation has been funded through UK Overseas Development Assistance and will come over and above the ODA spending target of 0.5% of GNI if needed
- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public-private partnership that helps vaccinate half the world's children against some of the world's deadliest diseases. Since its inception in 2000, Gavi has helped to immunise a whole generation – over 822 million children – and prevented more than 14 million deaths, helping to halve child mortality in 73 lower-income countries. Gavi also plays a key role in improving global health security by supporting health systems as well as funding global stockpiles for Ebola, cholera, meningitis and yellow fever vaccines. After two decades of progress, Gavi is now focused on protecting the next generation and reaching the unvaccinated children still being left behind, employing innovative finance and the latest technology – from

drones to biometrics – to save millions more lives, prevent outbreaks before they can spread and help countries on the road to self-sufficiency. Learn more at www.gavi.org and connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

- the Vaccine Alliance brings together developing country and donor governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the vaccine industry, technical agencies, civil society, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other private sector partners. View the full list of donor governments and other leading organizations that fund Gavi's work [here](#)
- COVAX, the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, is co-led by CEPI, Gavi and WHO – working in partnership with developed and developing country vaccine manufacturers, UNICEF, the World Bank, and others. It is the only global initiative that is working with governments and manufacturers to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are available worldwide to both high-income and lower-income countries.

[Confirmed cases of COVID-19 variants identified in UK](#)

Latest updates on SARS-CoV-2 variants detected in UK.

[Guidance: Poultry Health Scheme: how to register](#)

What the Poultry Health Scheme is and how to join.

[Nick Harris appointed Chief Executive at new-look 'National Highways'](#)

Nick Harris has been confirmed as the new Chief Executive of the Government company which builds and operates the country's motorways and major A-roads, Chair Dipesh Shah OBE announced today, Thursday 19 August.

Nick Harris appointed Chief Executive at new-look 'National Highways'

This comes as Highways England and the Department for Transport announced that Highways England will change its name to 'National Highways', heralding a new era for strategic roads. This reflects the new focus the company has on delivering the government's £27bn strategic roads investment programme, while also continuing to set highways standards for the whole UK.

The strategic road network plays a key role in levelling up by connecting England's regions, ports and international trade corridors.

Nick will lead the organisation as it delivers this significant investment, and looks towards the future opportunities offered by automation and digitisation as well as delivering the government's net zero target.

Highways England Chair, Dipesh J Shah OBE said:

I am delighted to appoint Nick as our CEO. Now, more than ever, our infrastructure schemes have an important and perhaps unique role to play in helping our economy to recover.

Nick's steady hand throughout the last few months has established a solid foundation to help us on our journey to transform how we work with our supply chain, how we deliver our net zero carbon and how we realise our digitalisation ambitions.

Nick joined Highways England in 2016 and has been Acting Chief Executive since February 2021. He has the proven track record needed to lead and transform a large and complex organisation. His experience in deploying large scale contracting and supply chain management coupled with extensive operational delivery expertise will take the company forward as it delivers on the £27bn investment into the strategic road network.

He will have a particular focus on continued road safety improvements and the transformation of National Highways as a global leader in road building and maintenance, as well as delivering world class health and safety. His permanent appointment is the conclusion of a broad and rigorous recruitment process.

Nick Harris said:

I am pleased to be taking up the reins at such an exciting time. We have achieved a great deal and there is still more to be done.

As we deliver the second roads investment strategy ensuring the safety of all road users, the delivery of our work and the benefits to our customers remains at the centre of our organisation.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

Nick will be an excellent CEO and I'm looking forward to continuing to work closely with him as we build back better across the country.

Nick will steer Highways England into an exciting new chapter, as it evolves into National Highways and delivers on our £27bn plan to improve our roads and make journeys safer, smoother and greener.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.