

UK begins donating millions of COVID-19 vaccines to countries overseas including the Philippines

- Nine million vaccines to be donated bilaterally and offered to COVAX to help tackle Covid-19 abroad
- The vaccines are expected to start leaving the UK this week, with the Philippines among the countries set to receive doses
- The UK has pledged to donate 100 million vaccines overseas by June 2022, 80 million of which will go to COVAX

The UK will this week begin delivering nine million Covid-19 vaccines around the world, including to the Philippines, to help tackle the pandemic, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab announced today (Wednesday 28 July).

Five million doses are being offered to COVAX, the scheme to ensure equitable, global access to Covid-19 vaccines. COVAX will urgently distribute them to lower-income countries via an equitable allocation system, which prioritises delivering vaccines to people who most need them. Another four million doses will be shared directly with countries in need.

The UK is donating the University of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, made by Oxford Biomedica in Oxford and packaged in Wrexham, North Wales. The Philippines will receive 415,000 doses.

This is the first tranche of the 100 million vaccines the Prime Minister pledged the UK would share within the next year at last month's G7 in Cornwall, with 30 million due to be sent by the end of the year. At least 80 million of the 100 million doses will go to COVAX, with the rest going to countries directly. The donations follow the pledge that G7 leaders made to vaccinate the world and end the pandemic in 2022.

This week's deployment will help meet the urgent need for vaccines from countries around the world, including in Africa, South East Asia and the Caribbean. These regions are experiencing high levels of Covid-19 cases, hospitalisations and deaths.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

The UK is sending 415,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to the Philippines. This is part of the first batch of the 100 million doses we've pledged to get the poorest parts of the world vaccinated as a matter of urgency. We're doing this to help the

most vulnerable, but also because we know we won't be safe until everyone is safe.

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. Over 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 also kickstarted 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.

Health Secretary Sajid Javid said:

This is a global pandemic and Covid-19 vaccines are the best way to protect people and prevent the emergence of new variants. We want to make sure developing countries can build a wall of defence against the virus as we have in the UK through our vaccine rollout.

The UK is one of the largest donors to COVAX and this donation is part of our pledge to send 100 million vaccines to some of the world's poorest countries.

The government has secured enough doses for all UK residents, crown dependencies and overseas territories to support our ongoing vaccination programme and booster programme.

Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which is co-leading COVAX alongside the World Health Organization and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, said:

The UK has been a steadfast supporter of COVAX since its inception and this announcement comes at an important time.

Global vaccine demand is far outstripping supply, leaving millions of the most vulnerable unprotected, while higher vaccine coverage worldwide is one of our best shields against new variants.

In this pandemic nobody is safe until everyone is safe.

Sir Mene Pangalos, Executive Vice President BioPharmaceuticals R&D at AstraZeneca, said:

Each day we're making progress in our mission to change the course of this pandemic by providing broad and equitable access to AstraZeneca's vaccine. We are proud that over 80% of countries across the world have received doses of our vaccine, with two thirds supplied to lower middle income and low income countries.

The close collaboration between UK Government and our academic and industry partners is critical to ensure we deliver vaccines at speed and protect as many people as possible against this deadly virus.

Daniel Pruce, British Ambassador to the Philippines, said:

The UK is helping Covid-19 vaccines reach more countries. We're donating 415,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to the Philippines so that more people here can get vaccinated.

Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., Presidential Peace Adviser, Chief Implementer of the Philippines' National Task Force against COVID-19, and Vaccine Czar, said:

We are deeply grateful for this gesture of kindness and compassion from the UK government and your people. You are among the nations that are leading the global battle against COVID-19, as you have gone out of your way to protect as many people as possible through your humanitarian efforts. This generous donation of vaccine doses to the Philippines will boost the national government's capacity to provide the country's most vulnerable sectors with an added layer of protection, particularly our uniformed personnel who put their lives on the line to ensure the safety and welfare of the Filipino people across the country.

Notes to editors:

- The following footage is available at this WeTransfer link: <https://we.tl/t-aoTEEbCgml>: Wockhart facility in Wrexham: Vaccine vial production for Astra Zeneca. Astra Zeneca vaccines stored in refrigerated warehouse operated by Movianto in UK.

- The 9 million Oxford-AstraZeneca doses being donated are not needed for the domestic rollout. The doses will be UK-branded.
- Five 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 UK has also signed agreements with Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cambodia, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Thailand and Vietnam to receive up to four million doses.
- The vaccines doses being donated on a bilateral basis are being transported by Crown Agents.
- Details of future donations will be announced in due course. Around 80% of the total 100 million doses will go to COVAX, and the remainder will be shared bilaterally with countries in need.
- The UK provided £90 million to support the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine: £25m on the initial research & development, and £65m to scale up manufacturing.
- 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.