



Duke



COVID
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Media Advisory: High-Level Global Health Leaders Briefing

Wednesday, September 7, 9:00 a.m. EDT

10-Country Project Providing COVID Antivirals and Testing Capacity for High-Risk Patients in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia

As new subvariants of COVID-19 continue to emerge, a new consortium will announce details of an initiative to support Ministries of Health in 10 low- and middle-income countries to provide rapid testing and oral antiviral treatments immediately for high-risk patients and scale up wider access through 2023 as the government programs move from launch to scale.

The COVID Treatment Quick Start Consortium brings together Duke University, the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), COVID Collaborative, and AmeriCares as implementing partners, with support from the Open Society Foundations, Pfizer and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. The consortium will support governments to introduce and scale up access to new and effective COVID-19 oral antiviral therapies in high-risk populations. Partner countries include Ghana, Kenya, Laos, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

WHO:

- Krishna Udayakumar, Founding Director, Duke Global Health Innovation Center, Duke University
- Gary Edson, President, COVID Collaborative
- Professor Claude Mambo Muvunyi, Director General, Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC)
- Neil Buddy Shah, Chief Executive Officer, and Sean Regan, Director COVID Treatment Access, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)
- Christine Squires, President and CEO, AmeriCares
- Professor Lloyd B. Mulenga, Director of Infectious Diseases for the Ministry of Health, Zambia
- Caroline Roan, Senior Vice President, Global Health & Social Impact, and Chief Sustainability Officer, Pfizer

WHAT: Launch of new COVID Treatment Quick Start Consortium

WHEN: Wednesday, September 7, at 9:00 a.m. EDT

Media are required to RSVP. To RSVP or submit questions in advance, write to aschryer-roy@burness.com or ewilson@burness.com. Submit questions by 5:00 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, September 6.

This effort to close gaps in access to new COVID-19 medicines comes as a new subvariant, Omicron BA.5, has become the primary source of COVID-19 infections over this summer, according to the World Health Organization. The virus has remained a Public Health Emergency of International Concern since January 20, 2020.

Over the past two and a half years, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed significant global inequities in access to therapeutics, vaccines, and other medical interventions.

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