



Duke



COVID
Collaborative

OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS



COVID Treatment Quick Start Consortium Quote Sheet

Implementing partners

Duke University:

“We have seen throughout the global COVID-19 response that new life-saving interventions like vaccines and treatments are not quickly reaching those most in need around the world,” said **Dr. Krishna Udayakumar, Founding Director of the Duke Global Health Innovation Center**. “The Quick Start Consortium is partnering with governments to bring urgently needed medicines to high-risk populations in countries that do not have easy access to such innovations.”

Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)

“The program will provide governments with catalytic access to the drugs and technical assistance needed to quickly scale up testing and treatment to reach those who need it most. CHAI and our Quick Start partners are deeply committed to correcting the injustice of essential, lifesaving COVID-19 tools disproportionately available to those lucky enough to live in high-income markets,” said **Dr. Neil Buddy Shah, Chief Executive Officer of CHAI**. “But this goal cannot be met by Quick Start alone, and we welcome additional partners to join our consortium’s efforts.”

COVID Collaborative

“In addition to identifying the most effective pathways for new product introduction and implementation of test-and-treat, our consortium will establish a learning network – open to all – across countries and sites,” said **Gary Edson, President of COVID Collaborative**. “By developing and sharing learnings in near-real time we hope to catalyze and inform additional country programs and population-level scale-up.”

Americares

“Over the past two and a half years, we have seen the COVID-19 pandemic impact the health of hundreds of millions of people and claim more than six million lives,” said **Christine Squires, President and CEO of Americares**, one of the world’s leading nonprofit providers of donated medicine and medical supplies. “By expanding access to testing and treatment in low- and middle-income countries, we will be taking a more equitable approach to reduce hospitalizations and severe disease and, ultimately, save lives.”

Country partners:

Rwanda

“We are eager to continue the fight against COVID-19 pandemic and make sure it does not become entrenched in our society,” said **Professor Claude Muvunyi, Director General, Rwanda Biomedical Center**. “The Quick Start Consortium will help us to continue to build and strengthen a resilient healthcare system, quickly find the patients who need treatment, and make sure they get needed medicines—regardless of socio-economic status. Like so many other diseases, COVID-19 won’t go away if you just ignore it.”

Zambia

“Having oral antivirals for COVID is something we have always looked forward to, and we are thus excited to be part of an initiative accelerating PAXLOVID™ for use for COVID management,” said **Professor Lloyd B. Mulenga, Director of Infectious Diseases for the Ministry of Health, Zambia**. “With this new milestone, we expect less admissions and also fewer COVID related deaths leading to a reduced burden on our health system.”

Sponsors

Open Society Foundations

“COVID-19 has exposed the massive inequities in our global health system of who can access vaccines, tests, and treatments,” said **Mark Malloch-Brown, President of the Open Society Foundations**. “The Open Society Foundations is proud to support the first program to address the urgent gap in test and treatment availability for COVID-19, and which aims to demonstrate that enhancing timely access to diagnostics and low-cost antivirals can be a viable long-term solution to help end this pandemic.”

Pfizer

“The pandemic has proven that supply is only one step towards enabling greater access of COVID-19 treatments and bringing an end to the pandemic for everyone everywhere,” said **Caroline Roan, Senior Vice President, Global Health & Social Impact, and Chief Sustainability Officer for Pfizer**. “Broad and sustainable systems for rapid testing and diagnosis must be in place to help ensure that treatment courses can reach high-risk patients in need. We are committed to working with the global health community to address barriers to access and are proud to provide our oral treatment and financial support to further the objectives of the consortium.”

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

“We are proud to join our partners in the COVID Treatment Quick Start Consortium to improve access to life-saving treatments in Africa,” said **Peter Laugharn, President & CEO of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**. “The Quick Start program will center the experiences of local communities to help save lives immediately. Looking ahead, this program will lay the groundwork for equitable access to COVID testing and treatment continent-wide.”