



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

# UK Vaccine Taskforce 2020 Achievements and Future Strategy

End of year report



December 2020

## 2020 VTF Goals and Achievements

The Prime Minister asked the Vaccine Taskforce to deliver three objectives: first to secure access to promising COVID-19 vaccine/s for the UK population as quickly as possible, secondly, to make provision for international distribution of vaccines and thirdly, to support the UK's industrial strategy by establishing a long-term vaccine strategy and to prepare the UK for future pandemics.

The VTF has sought to protect the UK population from the health, social and economic impact of COVID-19 as quickly as possible since the Office for Business Responsibility's central forecast<sup>5</sup> shows a drop in UK GDP of 12.4% in 2020, compared to 2019 – equating to a £250bn cost of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and a monthly cost of £20.8bn. So the sooner we can ease restrictions by widespread vaccination, the sooner we will return to a normal level of productivity.

The achievements of the VTF against the three goals defined by the Prime Minister in May are described below.

### Goal 1: Secure access to promising COVID-19 vaccine/s for the UK population as quickly as possible

In six months, the VTF has built a portfolio that includes established vaccine platforms with proven safety profiles (including those able to elicit immune responses in the elderly) namely GSK/Sanofi, Novavax and Valneva and newer but clinically advanced platforms, including Oxford/AstraZeneca, Pfizer/BioNTech, Janssen and Moderna. VTF's strategy to build a balanced portfolio with different proven and unproven vaccine types allowed the VTF to engage broadly with the industry and academic community, generating new opportunities and maximising the chances of success.

The UK has struck agreements to access seven different vaccines across four different formats, with a total of 357 million doses of different vaccines. In addition, the VTF has entered into a provisional agreement for doses of the engineered antibody cocktail developed by AstraZeneca for the short-term passive protection of immunosuppressed patients and those who need immediate protection. The VTF's focus has been to secure access to the most promising vaccines likely to be safe and effective with the highest confidence of early approval and delivery to the UK to help protect the population as soon as practicable.

The speed with which the VTF has acted has benefited the UK positively by giving the greatest possible time for the NHS and other teams responsible for deployment to plan and secure the necessary equipment to manage the cold chains and complex vaccination programme.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://obr.uk/coronavirus-analysis/>