

To: Interested Parties
Fr: Celinda Lake, Alysia Snell, and Cate Gormley
Re: New poll shows strong support for US investment in a worldwide vaccine manufacturing and distribution program
Date: August 6, 2021

A new poll from Public Citizen of likely 2022 voters nationwide shows that voters favor the US government investing in a worldwide vaccine manufacturing program.ⁱ

1

An overwhelming majority of voters believe it is important that countries around the world have access to the vaccines so they can vaccinate their citizens quickly and efficiently.

Over half (57%) rate as 10 or very important, and four-in-five (81%) rate as 6-10 or important that countries around the world have access to the vaccines so they can vaccinate their citizens quickly and efficiently.

2

In an engaged debate, a plurality sees a role for the federal government in global vaccine distribution.

Forty-two percent say the US should play an active role in the global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and provide funding to ensure access while 20% say the US should let the rest of the world take care of themselves and focus on ensuring all American have access to COVID-19 vaccines, and 29% say both statements are close to their views.

3

A solid majority of voters favor the US government investing in a worldwide vaccine manufacturing program which would increase production of vaccines in the United States and also in manufacturing centers across the globe.

Over two-thirds (69%) favor this investment by the US government, and half (50%) of voters strongly favor it.

Favorability for the US government investing in a worldwide vaccine manufacturing program crosses all the demographic and attitudinal divides we typically see in surveys, including crossing partisan, racial, and gender lines.

4

- More than four-in-five Democrats (86% favor to 7% oppose) favor this investment, as do solid majorities of Independents (61% to 21%) and Republicans (54% to 32%).
- Over two-thirds of Black voters (71%), Latinx voters (71%), and white voters (69%) favor the US government investing in a worldwide vaccine manufacturing program.
- Men (74%) and women (65%) favor this investment by wide margins.

Context

- Voters are concerned about countries experiencing unequal access to vaccines. Over three-quarters (78%) are concerned about people who live in less wealthy countries not being able to get vaccinated, 18% are not concerned.
 - Nearly universally, Democrats are concerned (93%), and about two-thirds of Independents (69%) and Republicans (66%) are concerned about people who live in less wealthy countries not being able to get vaccinated.
- A solid majority of voters (70%) are fully vaccinated and about a fifth (21%) have not received a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Only 6% respond that they are partially vaccinated at the time of being surveyed.
- A majority (63%) say their eligible family members have received a dose and 29% say their eligible family members have not received a dose.

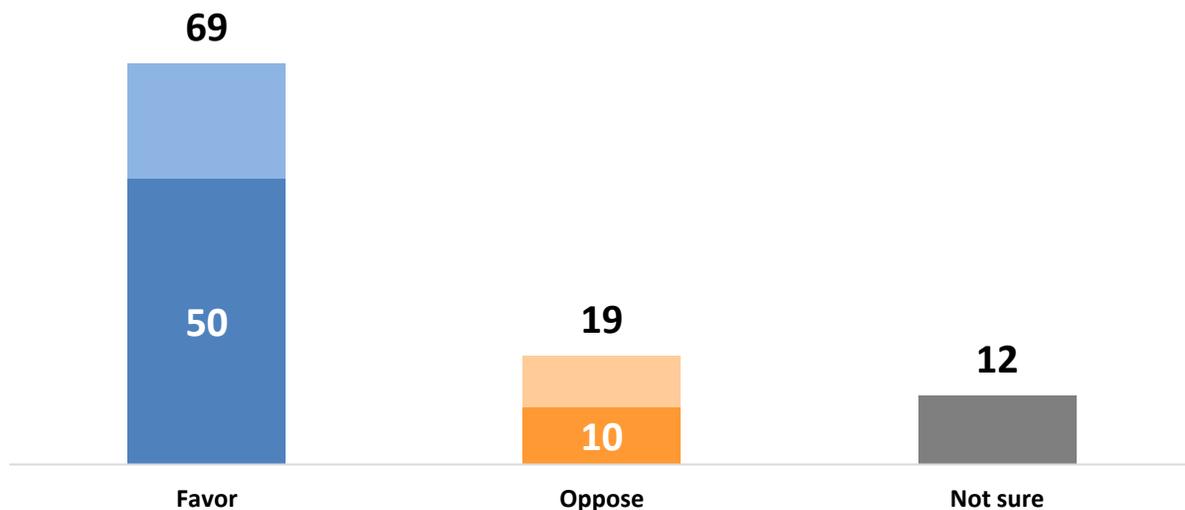
Role of Government in Global Vaccine Distribution

- An overwhelming majority of voters believe it is important that countries around the world have access to the vaccines so they can vaccinate their citizens quickly and efficiently (57% rate as 10, very important, 81% rate as 6-10, important).
 - Three-quarters or more of Democrats (88% rate as 6-10, important), Independents (79%), and Republicans (75%) find access to vaccines for countries around the world to be important.
- Three-quarters see global vaccination rates as having an impact on the safety of Americans (36% rate as 6-10, saying there is a great impact and 75% rate as 10, saying there is an impact overall).
 - Over four-in-five Democrats (85% rate as 6-10) and two-thirds of Independents (66%) and Republicans (66%) say vaccination rates in other parts of the world impact the safety of people here in the United States.
- A majority (61%) rate the job the Biden Administration is doing on rolling out the COVID-19 vaccines globally as excellent (32%) or good (30%), while 36% say the Administration is doing just fair (15%) or poor (22%).
- Similarly, a majority (55%) believe the Biden Administration is doing about the right amount to distribute COVID-19 vaccines globally. Sixteen percent say the Administration is doing too much and 20% say it is not doing enough.

Support for a Global Vaccine Manufacturing Program

- A solid majority of voters favor the US government investing in a worldwide vaccine manufacturing program which would increase production of vaccines in the United States and also in manufacturing centers across the globe (50% strongly favor, 69% total favor).

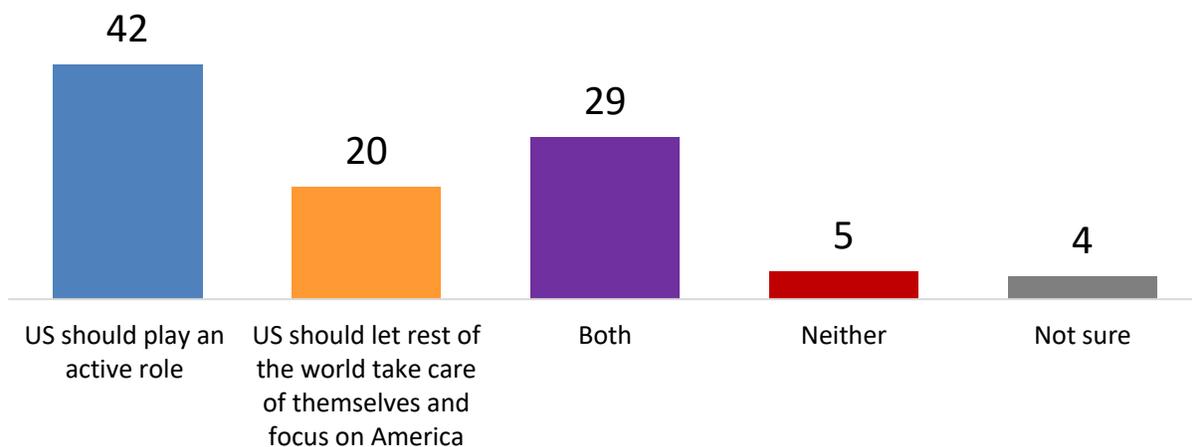
The US government has the ability to produce enough COVID-19 vaccines for low- and middle- income countries to vaccinate their people by investing in a worldwide vaccine manufacturing program, which would increase production of vaccines in the United States and also in manufacturing centers across the globe. Do you favor or oppose the US government investing in a worldwide vaccine manufacturing program, or are you not sure?



- More than four-in-five Democrats (86% favor to 7% oppose) favor this investment, as do solid majorities of Independents (61% to 21%) and Republicans (54% to 32%).
- Over two-thirds of Black voters (71%), Latinx voters (71%), and white voters (69%) favor the US government investing in a worldwide vaccine manufacturing program.
- Men (74%) and women (65%) favor this investment by wide margins.

- When given two choices, a plurality sees a role for the US government in global vaccine distribution. Forty-two percent say the US should play an active role in the global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and provide funding to ensure access while 20% say the US should let the rest of the world take care of themselves and focus on ensuring all Americans have access to COVID-19 vaccines, and 29% say both statements are close to their views.

The Role for the US in Global Vaccine Distribution



- The specific policies aimed at addressing global vaccine distribution attract significant support from voters. A solid majority favor every action that the Biden Administration is either taking or could take to facilitate global vaccine distribution to help ensure people around the world have access to COVID-19 vaccines.



Donating unused and surplus US vaccine doses to other countries in need.



Calling on pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer and Moderna to share technology needed for vaccine development with other countries around the world, in exchange for reasonable compensation.*



Investing in increased manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines in other countries and helping teach other countries to make safe and effective vaccines.



Increasing investment in manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines in the United States and then making the additional vaccine doses available to other countries in need.



Calling on pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer and Moderna to share knowledge on vaccine development with other countries around the world, in exchange for reasonable compensation.*



Supporting the waiving of intellectual property protections so other countries can produce vaccines.

*Statements are split sampled

Beliefs and Messages

- Voters are most likely to find statements around reducing the risk of variants, shortening the pandemic which would save lives and save trillions of dollars in the global economy, and getting the pandemic fully under control as very convincing to support the US investing in a worldwide vaccine manufacturing program.

Statement*	Very Convincing	Total Convincing
It would reduce the risk of new, vaccine-resistant variants emerging and spreading in the United States	49%	77%
It would shorten the length of the pandemic by years, saving countless lives and protecting other people from severe illness	48%	77%
It would help the world to get the pandemic fully under control	47%	76%
It would shorten the length of the pandemic by years, saving the global economy trillions of dollars	46%	75%
It would reduce the risk of new, vaccine-resistant variants emerging and spreading	45%	77%

*Statements are split sampled

- About half of voters are very concerned about all the potential consequences if a global COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing program is NOT developed and global vaccine manufacturing continues at its current rate. Voters are most concerned about mutations and variants shutting down the economy and impacting either young people specifically or people in general, even vaccinated people.

Potential Consequences	Very Concerning	Total Concerning
If COVID-19 is left unchecked around the world, strains will mutate and new variants will spread, continuing the pandemic and creating more severe consequences. This could cause the economy to shut down again - disrupting people's lives at work, increasing unemployment, and enhancing economic hardships for many Americans.	56%	82%
If the virus continues to spread around the world because people do not have access to COVID-19 vaccines, new variants will develop and spread that could be more dangerous and deadly for young people and children. *	55%	81%
If we do not end the COVID-19 pandemic and allow variants to spread, businesses could close again, causing their employees to lose wages or their jobs, and forcing some businesses to close permanently. *	53%	81%
If the virus continues to spread around the world because people do not have access to COVID-19 vaccines, new variants will develop and spread that could be more infectious, more deadly, and more resistant to existing vaccines. *	53%	79%

*Statements are split sampled

¹ Methodology: Lake Research Partners designed and administered these online surveys. The first survey fielded from July 7 to 12, 2021 nationwide and the 500 likely 2022 voters who completed this survey are included in the total base size. The second survey fielded from July 28 to August 1, 2021, and reached a total of 1,000 likely 2022 voters nationwide.

Survey respondents were drawn from an online panel of listed adults and screened to be likely 2022 voters. The base sample was weighted by race, race by gender, party identification, race by age, and urban city to reflect the actual proportion of likely 2022 voters nationwide.

The margin of error for likely voters is +/-2.5%.