



REVOLVING
DOOR
PROJECT



July 26, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

The U.S. Army's Walter Reed Institute of Research is now developing a pan-coronavirus vaccine. If successful, it could fight not only the virus that causes Covid-19 but new coronaviruses.

The undersigned organizations urge you to maintain public control of the Walter Reed vaccine and share its benefits and technology openly with the world.

The public investments in coronavirus research, dating back nearly two decades and including the period after the origin of Covid-19, helped spur amazing inventions that have saved millions of lives. However, private, monopoly control over those vaccines contributed to shortages, rationing and excessive prices.

It is crucial that we learn from earlier mistakes in managing publicly funded vaccine technology. To date, development of the Walter Reed vaccine has been a triumph of government investment in public health. We ask for it to remain that way as the Army seeks partners for further trials and mass production.

We urge you to:

- Openly license the vaccine to qualified manufacturers on conditions ensuring fair pricing and equitable access.
- Share vaccine technology, data and know-how with the World Health Organization, including through the Covid-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).
- Prepare to invest in government-owned production facilities.

If the Walter Reed vaccine proves effective against Covid-19 and its variants in further tests, it will be a vaccine wholly created by a public institution through use of public funds. Every aspect of the vaccine production process should be widely and freely shared to ensure globally distributed manufacturing. Widespread, equitable availability of effective vaccines at truly affordable prices would go a long way in achieving your stated goal of vaccinating the world. There is no compelling reason to offer this technology on a monopoly basis to a corporation, and a profoundly compelling reason to make the technology as open and readily accessible as possible across the globe.

Sincerely,

American Friends Service Committee

Be A Hero

Campaign to End COVID Now

Center for Economic Policy and Research's Revolving Door Project

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

Demand Progress Education Fund

Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi)

Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR)

Health GAP

Initiative for Medicines, Access & Knowledge (I-MAK)

Islamic Relief USA

Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society

Justice Is Global

Knowledge Ecology International

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Oregonizers

Oxfam America

Physicians for Human Rights

PrEP4All

Public Citizen

R2H Action [Right to Health]

RESULTS

Rethink Trade

Sojourners

The Borgen Project

The Democracy Collaborative

The Freedom BLOC

Treatment Action Group