

Thinking on Development – Resource List

Vaccine Equity: How will the poorest get the vaccine? | Episode 2

These reading materials and discussion questions are designed for colleagues who would like to explore development related issues in the classroom. These resources have been collated to accompany the IGD's podcast series, Thinking on Development.

Episode Overview

The Director-General of the World Health Organisation has called vaccine equity the *challenge of our time*. Calls for sharing resources to encourage equity in administering COVID-19 vaccines have been made as currently more vaccines are being distributed to high and middle income countries globally. In this episode of Thinking on Development, David Sanderson is joined by Dr Anshu Sharma ([SEEDS India](#)), Professor Raina McIntyre ([UNSW](#)) and Dr Ronak Patel ([Harvard Humanitarian Initiative](#)) to discuss equity challenges associated with vaccine rollouts.

How will poorer and more vulnerable people get the vaccine? This question frames the conversations of this module, and the episode explores the realities of the vaccine rollout across the world. Great disparities in both access and availability of the vaccine are evident within and across countries, with vaccine hesitancy also being a significant challenge for governments and community leadership. The need for understanding and effectively addressing the complex myriad of issues with vaccine administering and roll outs is highlighted in this episode.

It is suggested that students listen to this podcast prior to the lesson and come to class with 1- 2 reflections or questions about the content to discuss. The podcast can be accessed on [Soundcloud](#) or [Spotify](#). Please note the episode was originally published on May 26, 2021.

Suggested Reading and Extra Resources

These resources supplement some of the issues raised in Episode 2 and students are encouraged to read and reflect widely to support their learning.

Academic Articles

Jean-Jacques M & Bauchner H 2021, 'Vaccine Distribution—Equity Left Behind?', *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, vol. 325, no. 9, pp. 829–830.

Martin, EG, Birkhead, GS & Holtgrave, DR 2021, 'Maintaining a Focus on Health Equity During the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout', *Journal of public health management and practice*, vol. 27, no. 3, pp. 226–228.

Mathieu, E, Ritchie, H, Ortiz-Ospina, E, Roser, M, Hasell, J, Appel, C, Giattino, C & Rodés-Guirao, L 2021, 'A global database of COVID-19 vaccinations', *Nature Human Behaviour*, vol. 5, pp. 947–953.

*The authors' database can be found at: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>

O'Leary, P & Tsui, M 2021, 'All people matter – Global vaccine equity and human rights: An urgent macro social work challenge', *International Social Work*, vol. 64, no. 3, pp. 311–313.

Torres, I, Lopez-Cevallos, D, Artaza, O, Profeta, B, Kang, JH & Machado CV 2021, 'Vaccine scarcity in LMICs is a failure of global solidarity and multilateral instruments', *The Lancet*, vol. 397, no. 10287, p. 1804. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)00893-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00893-X)

The Lancet Infectious Diseases, 'COVID-19 vaccine equity and booster doses', vol. 21, no. 9, p. 1193. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(21\)00486-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(21)00486-2)

Additional Reading and Listening

- American Medical Association (AMA) Journal of Ethics, 'Equity and Intellectual Property Protection of COVID-19 Vaccines', video interview with Professor Ana Santos Rutschman of Saint Louis University, School of Law, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0bMFzduqpE>
- Barr, PN 2021, 'Australia should scale up its vaccine diplomacy', *The interpreter*, 17 August 2021, <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/australia-should-scale-its-vaccine-diplomacy>
- Doherty Institute Podcast, Infection and Immunity – Evidence Explained: *Global vaccine equity* <https://www.doherty.edu.au/news-events/podcast>
- Guzman, J & Yadav, P 2021, 'To Increase Vaccine Manufacturing in LMICs, We Also Need to Strengthen Regulatory Capacity', *Centre for Global Development*, 25 May 2021, available at <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/increased-vaccine-manufacturing-lmics-we-also-need-strengthen-regulatory-capacity>
- Knight, K & Kashyap, A 2021, 'Global Covid-19 Vaccine Equity Should Get a 'Booster' Too', *Human Rights Watch*, 19 August 2021, available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/19/global-covid-19-vaccine-equity-should-get-booster-too>
- United Nations Development Programme – Global Dashboard for Vaccine Equity <https://data.undp.org/vaccine-equity/>

Discussion Questions

The following questions have been developed to explore some of the issues from the episode and the extra resources provided. They can be utilised to facilitate classroom discussions, case studies and tutorial activities.

- People who are the most vulnerable face the highest risk of COVID death and complication. As Professor McIntyre suggests, Australia's initial slow vaccine rollout and lack of consideration for the aged care and disability sector has highlighted the *differing values we have placed on different lives* throughout the pandemic. What are your thoughts on this situation?
- According to the Lancet's Infectious Disease article, "No one is safe until everyone is safe" and this has become the mantra of the COVID-19 pandemic. What factors do you think contribute to reaching this goal? How might partnerships between private sector, government and community organisations support this?
- Less than two percent of people in low-income countries have received even a single dose of any vaccine (Knight & Kashyap 2021). What implications are there when higher income residents are vaccinated repeatedly to be protected against new variants, but lower income nations struggle to administer basic protection to its populations?
- What should Australia's responsibility to support vaccine supply and rollouts look like for our regional neighbours? How should we approach this given vaccine inequity within our own populations?
- Public health challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have not been completely new or unheard of. However, communities across the world are experiencing disproportionate health burdens. What are your thoughts on what we could do differently to ensure equitable access?
- How can we avoid siloed, vertical public health planning that fails to consider the full canvas of issues in regards to vaccine hesitancy? How can community concerns be addressed through inter-connected and multidisciplinary approaches?

