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# Cooperation and competition

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## Equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination

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# Cooperation and competition in access to vaccination

- **Solidarity**

- Between countries



- Within countries

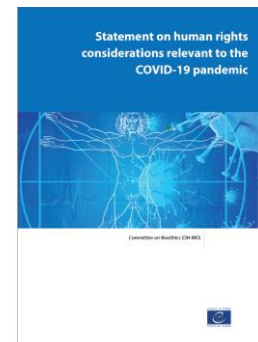


**Council of Europe**

- Equity between countries and international cooperation mechanisms: importance of the work done by WHO and other international bodies

# Council of Europe

- April 2020: DH-BIO [Statement on human rights considerations relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- September 2020: Secretary General of the Council of Europe [A Council of Europe contribution to support member states in addressing the present public health crisis and beyond](#)
- January 2021: DH-BIO [Statement on COVID-19 and vaccines – Ensuring \*\*equitable access to vaccination\*\* during the current and future pandemics](#)



# Equity of access to vaccination

- Right to life (Art. 2 ECHR)
  - Positive obligations of the states to protect people against deadly diseases and ensuing suffering
  - Particular attention to persons in vulnerable situation
- Right to protection of health (Art. 11, ESC)
- Principle of equitable access to health care of appropriate quality (Art. 3 Oviedo Convention)

*"Immunization is, and should be recognized as, a core component of the human right to health and an individual, community and governmental responsibility"* WHO, Global Vaccine Action Plan, 2013



## Statement on COVID-19 and vaccines

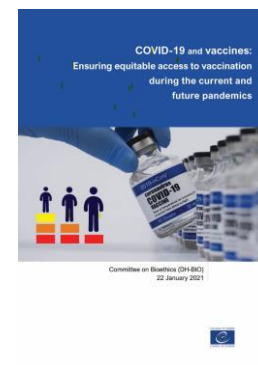
*« States, taking into account health needs and available resources, ...take appropriate measures with a view to providing, within their jurisdiction, equitable access to health care of appropriate quality. » Art. 3, Oviedo Convention*



- Special significance during a pandemic
- Challenges facing societies: demographic issues, scarcity of resources, budgetary restrictions
  - Everyone without discrimination to be offered fair opportunity to receive safe and effective vaccine
  - Scarcity → Prioritisation

# Statement on COVID-19 and vaccines

- Strategies for equitable access to vaccination
- Strengthening transparency, information and communication
- Ensuring appropriate quality of vaccination



# Statement on COVID-19 and vaccines

## Strategies for equitable access to vaccination

- **Non discriminatory** in design and impact
- No cost barrier
- Prevention of corruption, arbitrary exceptions, undue priority access, manipulations
- **Persons in vulnerable situations:** tailored access to services
- **Novel, flexible delivery strategies:** to reach out target groups
- Removal of administrative barriers
  - Provision of vaccines disconnected from immigration control
- Training of health professionals, including to vaccine safety, contraindications, adverse effects
- Data collected – **Monitoring – Reduction of inequities in vaccination uptake**

# Statement on COVID-19 and vaccines

## Strengthening transparency, information and communication

- Essential: **to build trust** – for informed consent process - for fair opportunity to access vaccination
- About vaccines and how to access them
- About criteria for prioritisation
- Content and distribution **adapted** to target groups
- **Educational** messages by trusted voices



# Statement on COVID-19 and vaccines

## Ensuring appropriate quality of vaccination

- Safety and effectiveness
- **Quality**: appropriate international standards
- **Independent control** of vaccines
- Combat counterfeit vaccines
- **Inclusive** vaccine's development and testing
- Monitoring of vaccination outcomes

## Equity: Current activities under Strategic Action Plan (2020-2025)

- Guide on the promotion of health literacy
- Guidelines on equity of access to treatment and equipment in a context of scarce resources



## « Vaccine pass »

- « Vaccine pass »: document containing information on vaccination and test results
- CoE Secretary General : [Protection of human rights and the “vaccine pass”](#)\_31 March 2021
- DH-BIO [Statement on human rights considerations relevant to vaccine pass and similar documents](#), 4 May 2021
- T-PD: [COVID-19 vaccination, attestations, and data protection](#) 4 May 2021



## « Vaccine pass »

- Not to lead to unjustified differences of treatment between people based on their health status: **risks of discrimination**.
  - Sensitive personal data: concerns about **privacy**
  - Reality of access to vaccine and remaining scientific uncertainties
  - Increased concerns when used for non medical purposes – e.g. exclusive access to services or areas.
  - Impact on social cohesion and solidarity: collective approach of risk v. individualised approach
- DH-BIO « calls for careful consideration upon these challenges and to ensure promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all individuals

# Conclusions

- **Cooperation and solidarity**
- **Vaccines** *"encompassing the **value of social solidarity**, the purpose of the duty being to protect the health of all members of society, particularly those who are especially vulnerable with respect to certain diseases"*, ECtHR, Case of [Vavříčka and others v. The Czech Republic](#)
- Essential to promote solidarity and cooperation **within and between states**
- Cooperation essential for **better preparedness**: lessons learnt
- Efforts to combat the pandemic must **not undermine** the **human rights values and principles**.
- Critical for the **sustainability** of the solutions we will develop to address future health crisis and to build **trust** in the measures taken by the states in such circumstances.



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## NEW COOPERATION PROJECT



- Multilateral and multidimensional
  - Cross sectoral and multidisciplinary: between judicial, health and law enforcement authorities
- To address health care issues and devise effective tailor-made solutions
- To fully employ CoE relevant instruments and mechanisms with a view to:
  - strengthening preparedness to protect human rights in public health crisis
  - developing more sustainable solutions and building trust in management
- Instrumental in enriching the Council of Europe standards setting activities in critical areas.