



Viatrix' Role in the Fight Against COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge patients, health systems and governments worldwide in unprecedented ways. While negatively impacting many of the factors that determine a person's ability to achieve good health, the pandemic has also underlined the critical linkage between good health and human, societal and economic development. As a leading healthcare company, we are committed to doing our part to support public health needs amid the pandemic. Our priorities remain protecting the health and safety of our workforce, producing critically needed medicines, deploying our resources and expertise through potential prevention and treatment efforts and supporting the communities in which we operate.

Employee Health and Safety

Every day, in countries around the world, thousands of dedicated Viatrix employees work to confront the pandemic. Many of our colleagues work in manufacturing facilities and have continued to travel to work to make the medicines that patients need. Others

have traded their desks for kitchen tables and home offices, while also managing the unique family or personal challenges that COVID has brought to their daily lives.

We recognize and thank them for their efforts and sacrifices and are committed to protecting their health and safety by following government directives and the advice of relevant international, national and local health authorities at every Viatrix facility around the world. We have implemented social distancing measures, daily health assessments and split shifts where feasible for in-person work. For our remote workforce, we have invested in new collaboration technologies and regularly offer advice and support to ensure communication and connectivity continues.

Deploying Resources and Expertise

In addition to protecting the safety and health of our essential workers, we also mobilized our resources and expertise in the battle against COVID-19 – our disease-fighting products, our manufacturing capabilities and our global reach. In Italy



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and France, for example, we launched COVID-19 antibody and nasopharyngeal antigen quick tests for professional use or self-testing to help take quick precautionary isolation measures in order to reduce the spread of the virus. In Emerging Market countries, we provided access to SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Test (Lateral Flow Method), which helped increase the number of tests being conducted across the region and helped governments to closely monitor the progress of the virus.

Donated products for 2 of 3 WHO SOLIDARITY Trials

We were on the frontlines of the search for an effective treatment through participation in the World Health Organization's (WHO) SOLIDARITY trial, an unprecedented global effort to investigate potential remedies. We donated products for two of three trials. And working with other pharmaceutical companies and public health institutions, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, we remain committed to supporting these efforts with our global R&D, regulatory and manufacturing expertise and capacity.

Ensuring Supply Readiness

Maintaining a reliable supply of pharmaceutical products is always critical, but even more so – and often more challenging – in the midst of a pandemic. As an essential business, we have taken action to avoid supply chain disruptions for critical medicines ranging from maintenance treatments for chronic conditions to intensive care unit (ICU) drugs or anti-infectives in short supply due

"Our supply chain and manufacturing network are purpose-fit, with a global network of sites that allow us to cater to local needs. Our broad reach is important. It allows us to better serve our customers and patients and be nimble and flexible to meet their needs through high quality and low cost. Our efforts to build a responsive global network have helped us maintain customer service levels at approximately 95% despite the COVID-19 disruptions in 2020. We also have made conscious efforts to de-risk all our critical products and markets and ensure supply continuity."



– Sinead Griffiths, Head of Global Supply Chain, Viatris

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE AMID COVID-19

Patients are at the center of everything we do. The more we can understand the patient experience, the better we can meet their needs through innovative thinking and solutions. In 2020, the pandemic highlighted the fragility of healthcare systems around the world and put a spotlight on patient needs. While attention is primarily focused on those affected by COVID-19, the risk of insufficient access to care for patients with chronic illness is real, with potential dramatic and long-term consequences.

To help us learn more about this impact, we set out to measure in real time how COVID-19 was affecting access to healthcare and quality-of-life for patients with chronic illnesses such as cancer and cardiovascular, respiratory, mental health and other diseases. In partnership with Carenity, a leading digital patient platform with 400,000 patients and caregivers worldwide, we surveyed patients in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the U.K. and the U.S. about their access to physicians, treatment and information about the pandemic.

Early results indicate that the patient care pathway has been strongly impacted during the pandemic. During lockdown, 54% of the initial 2,489 respondents said they had changed the frequency of their visits to the doctor, 30% said it was difficult to find an available doctor, and 52% said they have had an appointment postponed or canceled because of the pandemic. Half of the patients surveyed said they experienced a worsening of their condition during lockdown.

These results and a second wave of data in 2021 will help inform our efforts to empower patients to live healthier, regardless of their circumstance. We look forward to advancing this study as a tool to help us in our work to reduce the burden of disease.



to increased demand. We continue to maintain operations at facilities around the world and communicate with customers – all with the goal of meeting patient needs.

More details about our work to mitigate supply shortages is provided on p. 74-75.

Infectious Disease Leadership and COVID-19

People suffering from infectious diseases such as HIV or TB have weakened immune systems, which increases risk of complications from COVID-19. That is why the WHO's COVID-19 guidance includes advice that anyone taking antiretroviral (ARV) drugs to suppress HIV should maintain at least a 30-day supply of the medicine.² Moreover, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief are recommending that the programs they support use multi-month dispensing (MMD) to provide patients with three or six months of medications, to ensure treatment continuity even during measures limiting travel to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As a leading supplier of antiretroviral drugs by volume, we have made it a priority to ensure stable access to these drugs during the pandemic. In 2020, more than 11 million people were treated with our antiretrovirals.

Helping Communities

We are committed to supporting local giving strategies, empowering in-market business leaders to ensure the broadest impact is made toward the most pressing needs through in-kind donations or through financial support of local causes, such as food pantries or other relief efforts. In India, for example, we contributed to the Prime Minister's CARES fund established for COVID-19 and the Chief Ministers' relief funds of eight state governments with a total contribution of more than \$1.3 million.

Many of our efforts focused on mental health, including our sponsorship of 'Panacea' in India, a first-of-its-kind series of virtual sessions on yoga, stress management, nutrition and mental health to help patients overcome the post-COVID-19 anxiety, fear and mental trauma. Special sessions were conducted by renowned pulmonologists, neurologists and cardiologists.

Other efforts included donations to hospitals and towns for medical equipment and personal protective equipment like masks, hand sanitizers and body coveralls in India, Russia, Egypt and Turkey. We also supported more than 1,800 families in Egypt who lost income because of the pandemic and could not afford to pay for basic needs. Through donations to the Misr El Kheer Foundation and the Sona3 El Khair Foundation, families were given food, hygiene products and information to raise awareness about COVID-19.

LEVERAGING OUR UNIQUE GLOBAL PLATFORM TO EXPAND ACCESS TO REMDESIVIR IN INDIA

We have a long-standing history of partnering with Gilead Sciences to tackle key public health issues in India and around the world, beginning with expanding access to high-quality, affordable HIV/AIDS antiretrovirals. In 2020, we extended that partnership to COVID-19 treatments with the announcement of a global agreement with Gilead for the commercialization of Remdesivir in 127 low- and middle-income countries.

In July of 2020, we secured our first approval of the product for restricted emergency use in India as part of the Drug Controller General of India's (DCGI) accelerated approval process in response to the pandemic. The drug was launched under the brand name DESREM™ in India at a discount of more than 80% less than the branded product available to governments in middle- to high income countries. Additionally, to address urgent, unmet needs amid the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, Viatriis worked closely with government authorities in India to further reduce the cost of DESREM and ramp up production.

In parallel to our manufacturing efforts, we launched a customer helpline in India to provide information about the drug's availability to hospitals, doctors and patients. An average of more than 1,500 healthcare practitioners were able to access information through this channel each day. We sponsored a series of webinars, educating more than 20,000 healthcare professionals about the usage and efficacy of using DESREM, and supported local hospital studies of patients on treatment; the clinical data was later published in the MedRxiv journal. We provided access to the treatment to patients across 24 licensed markets in India, including places with limited connectivity, to help in the global fight against COVID-19.

Developing DESREM and bringing it to patients in India with such unprecedented speed is a testament to the strength of our global operations and scientific capabilities and our commitment to serving patients who continue to rely on us during this critical time. The drug is approved in India for the treatment of suspected or laboratory confirmed incidences of COVID-19 in adults and children hospitalized with severe presentations of the disease.

Remdesivir is the tenth medicine licensed to us by Gilead, who signed its first agreement with us in 2006 for the HIV medicine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate.



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HELPING FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS COPE DURING COVID-19

Viatrix and Sesame Workshop collaborated to create resources to support the social and emotional needs of families across generations and around the world during the COVID-19 pandemic. This suite of resources was designed to help young children identify and talk through big feelings like stress or fear, encourage positive caregiving strategies and routines, and help families find ways to celebrate together when far apart.

The resources, which include animations and activities, have launched in the U.S., India, South Africa and Latin America, with select content also available in Europe and Australia.

"We know children and families everywhere are struggling as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Together with Viatrix, we are offering families strategies to cope with today's challenges and foster emotional well-being long into the future."

– Sherrie Westin, President, Sesame Workshop



SESAME WORKSHOP™



Looking Ahead

As we look beyond the pandemic, we are more committed than ever to continuing our efforts to ensure access to affordable, high-quality medicines for patients around the world. We will continue to partner with others to maintain resilient diverse and global supply chains and help build sustainable healthcare systems where resources are unlocked to help balance growing healthcare needs with global budget restraints. In doing so, we will work toward a future where everyone has access to good health.

For more details, please see our [full sustainability report](#).

Related Sources

-  [¹CDC: What to Know About HIV and COVID-19](#)
-  [²Coronavirus Disease: HIV and Antiretrovirals](#)
-  [³WHO Tuberculosis Fact Sheet](#)
-  [⁴Updated WHO Information Note: Ensuring continuity of TB services during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)



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