

These COVID-19 Analytical Snapshots are designed to capture the latest research, information and analysis in a fast-moving environment. Topics will be repeated from time to time as analysis develops. If you have an item to include, please email us at research@iom.int.

New research & analysis on migrants and vaccine access

[To be effective, COVID-19 vaccination plans must include migrants](#)

by J Weekers

[Are asylum seekers, refugees and foreign migrants considered in the COVID-19 vaccine discourse?](#)

by FC Mukumbang

[Ensuring equitable access to vaccines for refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

by J. Bartovic et al.

[Taking stock of vaccine hesitancy among migrants: a scoping review protocol](#)

by AS Tankwanchi, A Jaca, HJ Larson, et al.

[Clinical Outcomes Of A COVID-19 Vaccine: Implementation Over Efficacy](#)

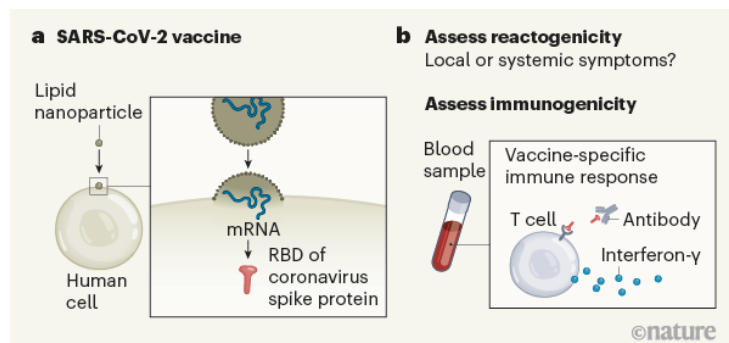
by AD Paltiel, JL Schwartz, A. Zheng et al.

“ It is the responsibility of governments to guarantee that all who are present in their territory, whether nationals or non-nationals, migrants irrespective of their legal status, have access to vaccines...in practical terms, the pandemic has shown us that nobody is safe till everyone is safe.

IOM Director General, [Antonio Vitorino](#), 18 December 2020

Migrants' access to vaccines

With much of 2020 spent enduring the COVID-19 pandemic, people around the world welcomed the [development and approval of effective coronavirus vaccines](#) as a hopeful conclusion to the year.



Source: [Nature, 2020](#).

Almost [immediately](#), the inequitable distribution of vaccines became apparent. During the [opening remarks](#) of a recent WHO Executive Board meeting, WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus emphasized that serious country-to-country [gaps in access to vaccines](#) endanger the global response to COVID-19. For migrants, vaccine access remains [uneven](#). In many cases, early eligibility for vaccination depends on factors including [place of residence](#) and [migration status](#) in addition to the criteria—age, health history, employment—typically assessed for citizens.

“ More than 39 million doses of vaccine have been administered in 49 high-income countries. Just 25 doses have been given in one lowest-income country. Not 25 million; not 25 thousand; 25.

—WHO DG, [Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus](#), 18 January 2021



Immunizations for frontline workers



As noted in snapshot [62](#), migrants have worked at the frontline in every aspect of addressing the COVID-19 crisis. Given that migrants make up a large share of [health-care labour force](#) in many countries, [migrant frontline health care workers](#) may receive prioritized access to vaccines. By contrast, access to the COVID-19 remains uncertain for many migrant [farm-](#) and [meatpacking workers](#). Calls by [IOM](#) have reiterated the need to prioritize vaccinations for migrants working in frontline industries.

Public health and the importance of vaccinating irregular migrants

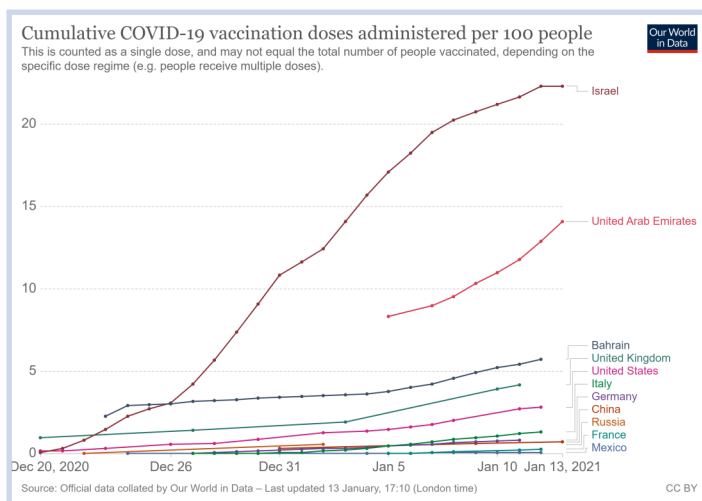
Public health officials and epidemiologists consistently emphasize the need to vaccinate the entire population within a jurisdiction.

“[S]mall clusters of non-vaccinators can have disproportionately adverse effects on herd immunity and epidemic spread.” —[Larson et al., 2016](#)

Impediments to vaccine access—including [visa status](#), [detention](#), [privacy concerns](#), and [distrust of government or health systems](#)—can reduce immunization rates among migrants and create “clusters” of under-vaccinated communities. When migrant populations are not offered access to immunizations, epidemiological forecasts suggest [negative effects](#) on the population at-large.

Data trackers on global vaccine coverage

- ⇒ Our World in Data: [“Coronavirus Vaccinations”](#)
- ⇒ The New York Times: [“Coronavirus Vaccine Tracker”](#)
- ⇒ The Financial Times: [“Covid Vaccine Tracker”](#)



Source: [Our World in Data](#), 2021.



Vaccination of refugees and asylum seekers

Some countries and organizations have prioritized vaccination of refugees and asylum-seekers. In Germany, asylum-seekers are [second-in-line](#) to receive the vaccine, behind only health care workers and people over 80.

UNHCR helped coordinate vaccination of [Iraqi refugees](#) living in Jordan, [the first country](#) to administer the vaccine to refugees.

This COVID-19 Analytical Snapshot has been produced by [IOM Research](#) (research@iom.int).

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