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COVID TREATMENT QuickStart — CONSORTIUM —

QuickStart Blog

“ *This virus is here to stay. It is still killing, and it's still changing. The risk remains of new variants emerging that cause new surges in cases and deaths. The worst thing any country could do now is to... let down its guard, to dismantle the systems it has built, or to send the message to its people that COVID-19 is nothing to worry about.* ”

—World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,
May 5, 2023

While countries are juggling a number of pressing priorities, including other diseases such as HIV and TB, developing systems for managing COVID-19 alongside other respiratory infections is critical to protecting the most vulnerable and controlling outbreaks. Effective and decentralized test-and-treat capacity, integrated into primary care, contributes toward more prepared health systems that can respond to ongoing and future threats.

Our latest blog, [Oral Antiviral Access Critical to Saving Lives, Controlling COVID-19](#)

QuickStart Milestones

Active Test-and-Treat Programs



Ghana, Rwanda and Zambia are implementing test-and-treat programs for high-risk populations. Equitable access to vaccines to prevent serious illness, along with testing and oral treatments to help treat it, remains a challenge globally.

Kenya, Laos, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe will be launching their test-and-treat programs in the coming months.

Provider and data Collector Training

Nigeria and Malawi have initiated their clinical training and Ghana has conducted provider and data collector training. These trainings are part of our operational research with the objective to:

1. Describe the implementation process and challenges associated with deployment and administration of POC-Ag tests for each use case at the site;
 2. Measure the extent to which POC-Ag has been used to implement widespread testing for SARS-CoV-2 within overall testing landscape;
 3. Model under which use cases would an Ag-RDT led testing strategy have greater health impact than NAAT;
 4. Measure individual-level outcomes associated with each use case; and
 5. Assess health care worker and individual perspectives on feasibility and acceptability of POC-Ag testing for each use case.
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Last month, Laos hosted a COVID-19 treatment handover ceremony, chaired by the Minister of Health, Dr. Bounfeng Phoummalaysith, alongside Mr. Garrett Young, CHAI country director of Laos PDR. The minister emphasized the importance of this donation from QuickStart, which will help the country ensure a more equitable scale-up of test-and-treat programs with antiviral medicines.

Events

World Health Assembly - QuickStart Fireside Chat

Wednesday, May 24th at 4:45pm

Geneva, Switzerland and online everywhere

Dr. Krishna Udayakumar, Director of the [Duke Global Health Innovation Center](#) and implementing partner of QuickStart, will be speaking at the [Devex Checkup @ WHA](#).

In partnership with Open Society Foundations, Dr. Udayakumar will be joining leaders in global health to discuss the lingering pandemic emergency and long-term effects of COVID-19, preparations for the next global health threat, and the innovation necessary to move the needle on access to medicines and quality health care worldwide.

Speakers will take a closer look at the policy, partnerships, and funding strategy necessary to accelerate progress on global health goals. [Learn more](#) and [register](#) to join in-person or online.

Will you be attending? [Connect](#) with us.

Market News

CIDRAP: [Paxlovid slashed risk of COVID hospital stay in some patients amid Omicron, study suggests](#) (8 May 2023)

World Health Organization: [Statement on the fifteenth meeting of the IHR \(2005\) Emergency Committee on the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (5 May 2023)

Centers for Disease Control and Population: [End of the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \(PHE\) Declaration](#) (5 May 2023)

About Us

The COVID Treatment Quick Start Consortium brings together [Duke University](#), [Americares](#), the [Clinton Health Access Initiative](#) (CHAI), and [COVID Collaborative](#) as implementing partners, with support from the [Open Society Foundations](#), [Pfizer](#) and the [Conrad N. Hilton Foundation](#). The consortium supports governments to introduce and scale up access to new and effective COVID-19 oral antiviral therapies in high-risk populations. Learn more: covidquickstart.org.

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