



EUROPEAN VACCINE MANUFACTURERS PROVIDE UNPRECEDENTED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIGHT AGAINST H1N1 PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

BRUSSELS, Belgium – 22 October 2009 – Members of the European Vaccine Manufacturers group (EVM) today reaffirmed their commitment to assist public health authorities, in Europe and around the world, in combating H1N1 pandemic influenza. As part of this commitment, the vaccine industry has provided unprecedented contributions to pandemic preparations, both during the years prior to the current H1N1 influenza pandemic and in recent months following its outbreak. As a result of these contributions, and the preparedness activities of international organizations and national governments, the world is better placed than ever to address an influenza pandemic.

- **Industry invested over \$4 billion to pandemic preparedness before the emergence of H1N1 influenza.** This significant investment was made by members of the international influenza vaccine industry group (IFPMA IVS: www.ifpma.org/influenza), of which EVM members comprise the largest manufacturers. The funds covered a range of important preparedness activities that have contributed to the recent rapid response to H1N1 influenza. These include pandemic vaccine R&D, clinical studies, modification of production facilities for pandemic vaccine production and the expansion of manufacturing capacity.
- **Vaccine producers developed prototype vaccines prior to the recent pandemic outbreak.** By undertaking the development and testing of prototypes during the years prior to the current pandemic, manufacturers could use these preparations to move rapidly to full-scale vaccine production (EMEA: <http://www.emea.europa.eu/htms/human/pandemicinfluenza/vaccines.htm>). Producers undertook this preliminary extensive work although it was unclear when, or even if, these new vaccines would be required.
- **Manufacturers expanded production capacity.** Producers have made major investments in the expansion of manufacturing facilities and the development of new technologies that can greatly reduce the vaccine dose required to offer protection. As a result, industry's manufacturing capacity has increased in recent years, and manufacturers can now produce greater quantities of pandemic influenza vaccines. Consulting firm Oliver Wyman estimated using H5N1 vaccine data that global production capacity increased 300% from 2007 – 2009: while this figure does not relate directly to H1N1 vaccine capacity it does demonstrate recent advances.
- **Based on these preparations industry has moved quickly to develop and supply H1N1 vaccines.** Manufacturers have worked closely with regulatory authorities to ensure that pandemic H1N1 vaccines were developed, tested and produced as quickly as possible. As a result, the first vaccines have now been approved in Europe and deliveries have commenced.
- **Manufacturers are donating 150 million doses of H1N1 vaccines to WHO for use in developing countries.** These donations, committed by individual EVM members, are part of a comprehensive range of contributions made by individual manufacturers to enhance global access to pandemic vaccines.

EVM member companies are major suppliers of vaccines worldwide, producing the majority of vaccine doses in Europe. EVM members are: Baxter, Crucell, GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, MedImmune, Novartis Vaccines, sanofi pasteur, sanofi pasteur MSD, Solvay Biologicals, and Wyeth Vaccines.



- **Producers are reserving H1N1 vaccine manufacturing capacity for developing country supply.** As part of individual producers' measures to further enhance vaccine access, a number of manufacturers have announced that they are reserving a portion of production output for supply to developing nations.
- **Industry is working with developing countries to provide H1N1 vaccines at tiered prices.** EVM members believe that this concept can help increase vaccine access, and a number of individual producers are working with governments around the world to provide H1N1 vaccines in this way to low- and middle-income countries.

European vaccine manufacturers take their responsibility to help address pandemic influenza seriously. The vaccine industry has been committed to influenza pandemic preparedness for many years, both prior to the recent outbreak of H1N1 influenza and subsequently. As a result of the preparations and investments made by industry, health authorities and international organizations, the world is better placed than ever to combat an influenza pandemic, and as a consequence the current response is the most comprehensive ever mounted.

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