

Executive Summary

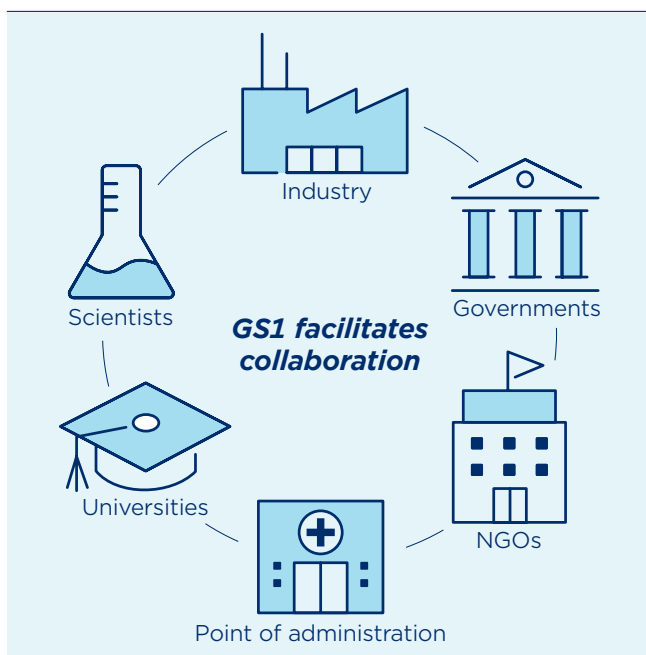
Securing trust in the global COVID-19 supply chain



Billions of vaccines are needed urgently across the world. *How can demand be met quickly, efficiently and securely?*

It is fundamental to the success of COVID-19 vaccination efforts that citizens trust the process and feel protected. According to a recent publication from Deloitte, concerted effort is necessary in four key areas to achieve efficiency, security, speed and public trust in vaccine delivery.

1. Advancing industry collaboration
2. Embracing global standards
3. Anticipating challenges for vaccine delivery
4. Using clear and transparent communications



1 Advancing industry collaboration

Vaccination on a global scale requires common effort between industry, scientists and international organisations. Pharmaceutical companies are not in competition with one another on the development of a vaccine; instead, they are working in collaboration with the world's top scientists to save lives. These partnerships, both in vaccine development and in clinical trials between industry and universities, create trust.

As the developer of global standards, GS1 has a long history of facilitating collaboration between stakeholders in a diverse and complex ecosystem.

“Our belief in a fast-moving pandemic is you’re not safe unless everyone is safe. What the COVAX Facility is trying to do is to get a vaccine out to all countries, rich and poor, at the same time.”

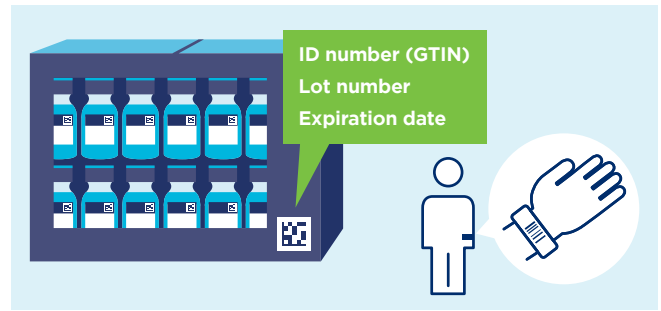
— Dr. Seth Berkley, Chief Executive Officer, Gavi

2

Embracing global standards for supply chain security

COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and associated medical devices and consumables present an urgent need for traceability built upon globally identified products. GS1's supply chain standards are the most widely utilised in the world; using these existing standards for harmonised implementation of vaccine packaging requirements will further patient safety goals, adding an element of trust at all levels of the supply chain.

Use of global GS1 standards means that every product, at every level of packaging, is uniquely identified. This identification information is captured in a standardised barcode, the GS1 DataMatrix, that can be read by all supply chain partners and is essential for healthcare providers to administer vaccines with confidence.



Following the WHO's recommendations, a GS1 DataMatrix should be applied on secondary packaging (carton boxes), and, if possible, also on primary packaging (vial or prefilled syringe).

3

Anticipating challenges for safe and efficacious delivery of vaccines

Globally unique identification and barcoding of vaccines will not only be critical for clinical trials and distribution, but for administration sites as well. It is important to identify and label the vaccines, capturing precisely which patient received which vaccine and when.

As this COVID-19 vaccination program is expected to be one of the most challenging and complex ever faced worldwide, leveraging current best practices (e.g., embracing global standards) and ensuring that all stakeholders are moving in the same direction will be critical.



Challenges to anticipate include capturing adverse events, falsified vaccines, cold chain requirements for administration sites, trust of vulnerable populations most impacted by the virus, and mixing and matching of vaccines depending on availability.

4

Using clear and transparent communications to build vaccine confidence

Vaccine uptake will need to be facilitated by clear, evidence-based and tested communications. It is critical that governments and the public and private sectors come together to build confidence and ensure that patients have trust in the newly developed vaccines—especially since vaccination may be voluntary in many parts of the world.

“As the world gears up for the largest deployment of vaccines in history, it is more important than ever that supply chains are up to the task of maintaining trust and ensuring effective, timely delivery. We need to be able to trace every vaccine dose—from shipping to delivery and finally administration—and we need better adoption of common standards.”

— Dr. Seth Berkley, Chief Executive Officer, Gavi



Everyone deserves to be safe. Meeting this challenge depends on all of us.

Global standards like GS1 help to ensure supply chain security, increase patient safety and provide trust in the vaccines, medicines and medical products distributed all around the world. Stakeholders who achieve a strong degree of public trust will have successfully conveyed their humanity and transparency, while meeting uncertainty head-on in the global COVID-19 supply chain.

For more information, please visit www.gs1.org/industries/healthcare/trust

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