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## Editorial

### **Ambitious Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe will help make safe and effective pharmaceuticals more available and affordable**

Martin Seychell, Deputy Director General for Health and Food Safety, talks about the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe, which aims to help ensure Europe's supply of safe, efficacious and affordable medicines and support the European pharmaceutical industry to remain an innovator and world leader.

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## Key figures

### PHARMACEUTICAL STRATEGY FOR EUROPE



Learning from COVID-19, towards a crisis-resistant system



Ensuring accessibility and affordability of medicines



Supporting sustainable innovation, emerging science and digitalisation



Reducing medicines shortages and securing strategic autonomy

[#EUPharmaStrategy](#)



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## News from the EU

### **Watch President von der Leyen's video message about the new EU Vaccines Strategy**

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## **New videos: European Reference Networks support both rare disease professionals and patients**

Don't take our word for it – take theirs! Health professionals and patients talk about how the European Reference Networks have positively impacted their lives.

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## **Expert Panel asked for opinion on a new framework for the organisation of health and social care post COVID-19**

The Commission has asked the Expert Panel on Effective Ways for Investing in Health to deliver this Opinion not just to ensure the good quality and accessibility of health care provision in the EU during crises, but to transform health systems so that they are less vulnerable to similar shocks.

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## **WHO launches new kit for students to alert them to tobacco industry tactics**

The WHO wants students aged 13-17 to know they are being targeted by the tobacco industry, in order to hook them to addictive products. The tobacco industry invests more than USD 9 billion in advertising annually, increasingly, targeting young people.

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## Forthcoming events

### **Meeting of the MEP Alliance for Mental Health (15 July 2020)**

The virtual meeting, to be held from 12 noon to 13.30, will be on the topic of 'Learning from the impact of COVID-19 measures: finding the balance between physical and mental health.' Register and take part!

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### **World Hepatitis Day (28 July 2020)**

The WHO and partners mark World Hepatitis Day to increase awareness and understanding of viral hepatitis and the diseases that it causes. This date honours the birthday of Nobel Laureate Professor Baruch Samuel Blumberg, discoverer of the hepatitis B virus.

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## EU Press Releases

### **Coronavirus: Member States agree on an interoperability solution for mobile tracing and warning apps**

Member States, with the support of the Commission, have agreed on a set of technical specifications to ensure a safe exchange of information between national contact tracing apps based on a decentralised architecture.

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### **Coronavirus: Commission unveils EU Vaccines Strategy**

The Commission has presented a strategy to help protect people everywhere by accelerating the development, manufacturing and deployment of vaccines against COVID-19.

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### **Coronavirus Global Response: European Commission pledges €300 million to Gavi**

The European Commission had pledged €300 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for the period 2021–2025. It will help immunise 300 million children around the world and finance vaccine stockpiles to shield against outbreaks of infectious diseases.

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### **Health Commissioner Kyriakides thanks donors for helping to maintain overall blood supply despite the pandemic**

On World Blood Donor Day, 14 June, the Commissioner thanked blood donors for their solidarity. Each year in the EU, some 25 million blood transfusions are used in life-saving surgeries and around 8 million litres of donated blood plasma are used to make life-saving medicines.

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### **Guidance on simpler but safe hygiene rules for small retailers, also when donating food**

The Commission has published this guidance to support small businesses such as butchers, bakeries, groceries and ice-cream shops in their implementation of EU rules to ensure the safe production of food sold to the consumer.

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### **Coronavirus: European Commission backs international initiative to facilitate trade in healthcare products**

Following a first discussion among EU ministers, Commissioner for Trade Phil Hogan shared the European Commission's ideas for an international initiative to facilitate trade in healthcare products with a group of World Trade Organization partners.

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### **European Investment Bank debt instrument to support BioNTech's global development of BNT162 for prevention of COVID-19**

A €100 million debt financing agreement will support the development of BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine programme. It will also allow BioNTech to expand its manufacturing capacity in order to quickly supply the vaccine worldwide in response to the pandemic.

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### **Commission launches a website to safely resume travelling and tourism in the EU**

The 'Re-open EU' web platform provides real-time information on borders and available means of transport and tourism services in Member States and includes practical information provided by Member States on travel restrictions, public health and current safety measures.

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## New publications

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### **WHO Guidance on Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Nutrition and Health**

This report aims to support countries in the necessary transition toward healthier, more sustainable diets by integrating biodiversity in food-based interventions to support nutrition and health.

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## EU Health Policy Platform

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### **Health Policy Platform provides networking and hosts webinars**

In addition to providing the latest public health news, the Health Policy Platform keeps stakeholders connected through thematic networks and by hosting numerous webinars. Register to participate!

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## **Free training provided for people working with migrants and refugees!**

The training covers issues that are particularly relevant to working with these communities. Although geared toward health professionals, some modules were designed for law enforcement officers, social workers and others. Register on the Health Policy Platform to have access to these courses, presented in various EU languages.

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