

## Viewpoint: COVID vaccine rights waiver would allow developing countries access to formulas and manufacturing details, jeopardizing America's biotech race with China

With support from the U.S, the World Trade Organization in 2022 waived global intellectual property protections for COVID-19 vaccines — a measure originally proposed by India and South Africa. The WTO has since debated expanding the waiver to COVID-19 therapeutics and diagnostics, but no final decision has been made.

It's time for the Biden administration to nix this misguided IP waiver once and for all. While some U.S. policymakers depict it as a humanitarian measure that would expand access to COVID-19 tests and treatments in poorer countries, there's no need for such an effort today. The "emergency" phase of the pandemic is over. The White House, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization have all said as much.

In reality, the waiver is a Trojan horse that would jeopardize U.S. manufacturing and research competitiveness, even as China and other rivals are working overtime to surpass us in the life sciences. That would work directly against the Biden administration's efforts to strengthen U.S. biotech innovation.

Follow the latest news and policy debates on sustainable agriculture, biomedicine, and other 'disruptive' innovations. Subscribe to our newsletter.

[SIGN UP](#)

Simply put, IP protections weren't precluding countries from distributing vaccines. Organizational issues and persistent vaccine hesitancy were the real culprits.

Similarly, as a recent report from the U.S. International Trade Commission confirms, global IP rights aren't to blame for low uptake of tests and treatments in the developing world.

[\*\*This is an excerpt. Read the original post here\*\*](#)