

**AVAILABLE TO ALL,  
EVERYWHERE.**

[www.peoplesvaccine.ie](http://www.peoplesvaccine.ie)



**PEOPLE'S  
VACCINE  
ALLIANCE  
IRELAND**

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead, Anthropologist*

Calling up or emailing your TDs simply saying you're a constituent and voter and you care for vaccine equity across the world in your own words, makes such a difference.

### **Email or call your TD for A People's Vaccine**

Simple as it is, a well-crafted letter/email is the most commonly used and effective means of communicating with elected officials. TDs' offices are set up to receive, log, and respond to constituents' emails and phone calls.

*Here's How to Do It!*

1. Always make sure your communication is simple, concise, and to the point.
2. Always, always identify yourself as a constituent first. Letters/emails from constituents nearly always get some sort of reply.
3. It should be polite, and it should make your case in the most compelling way.

Major ingredients for an effective email/letter:

- Your name and address.
- Make your primary point up front (for vaccine equity and the TRIPS waiver)  
It is important to clearly indicate the issue that you are writing about and your position on the issue. This is what the TD /staff look for when they log in the email/letter. It's best to limit each letter to one issue or subject.
- Be clear about what you want them to do about it.
- Discuss how the issue impacts you as a voter. (For example; No one is safe until we all are safe. The science is clear: The fairest and most effective way to end this pandemic is to ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to COVID-19 vaccines. Global access to COVID-19 vaccines is also in our self-interest as ongoing outbreaks anywhere mean greater risk of new variants developing against which our vaccines may not be effective.
- Be straightforward and clear in your wording. Avoid using human rights or NGO lingo.
- Keep it short (one page). Remember everyone is pressed for time.
- Avoid long, convoluted arguments that keep the reader guessing what your final conclusion may be.

- Use facts to back up your opinions. (Attach supporting materials to your one page letter.) You can add a link to the People's vaccine alliance website for more information: <https://peoplesvaccine.ie>)
- Be tactful and polite- remember that you are asking for something from the reader.

**Call your TD:** speaking to someone about the vaccine equity and asking for their support is very effective.

If you get don't get through to your TD, ask their assistant to note your name, contact details and your message to your TD. If you don't get an answer, leave a voicemail stating the issue and asking for a call back.

Before your call write down your main points to help you during the call.

For example:

- Say that you want Ireland to be a leader in showing solidarity with people who do have access to COVID 19 vaccines this year.
- Say that you want a greater concern for global health and human rights over profit.
- Ask your TD to support the People's vaccine, As a constituent I would like to ask you to support the People's vaccine. We need **Ireland to use its voice within the EU to support the TRIPS waiver** - temporarily suspend intellectual property rights at the World Trade Organisation for COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and diagnostics. **Ireland must endorse the World Health Organisation (WHO) COVID Technology Access Pool (C-TAP)** to facilitate the sharing of know-how by Pharmaceutical companies to increase vaccine production.
- I am asking you to please write to Taoiseach Micheal Martin.

**Thank you emails and other follow-ups are also very useful.** They give an opportunity to reiterate your 'ask' and follow up on what kind of action was taken. Perhaps follow up in one week after your email or call.

**Important: Please tell us if you email or call your TD so we can ensure we log this with the appropriate body.**

Email: [info@peoplesvaccine.ie](mailto:info@peoplesvaccine.ie).

### **What is the TRIPs waiver and why it will work**

The TRIPS waiver would temporarily lift patents and copyright on COVID-19 treatments and vaccines that would allow production of vaccines and treatments to be radically increased. This is the long-term sustainable solution to this global crisis. We will need vaccines and treatments for several years to come and to respond to new variants as they arise.

Pharmaceutical companies currently have too much power and control of where COVID-19 vaccines are produced and at what price.

### **Profit made by vaccine companies**

Pharmaceutical profit is astronomical. At least nine new billionaires have been made. Projected profits of 130 billion dollars will be made by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna. It begs the question what's the cost/stain on humanity. Do we care more about profit than human lives? These billionaires and companies are benefiting hugely from this pandemic at the expense of human rights.

### **The impact of vaccine inequality**

Tens of thousands of people are still dying each week. COVID-19 patients still are getting severely sick. Billions of people are still unable to access a lifesaving Covid-19 vaccine. New variants are likely to undermine vaccination programmes and endanger us all. 3.7 million people have died since the solution of the TRIPS waiver was proposed. Between 100,000 and 225,000 lives can be saved for every 100 million doses delivered. More than 5 million people have died of COVID-19.

### **HIV/AIDS movement**

People living with HIV were priced out of treatments by pharmaceutical companies. These companies profited from selling their medicines in several rich countries, while millions of people also were unable to access lifesaving treatment. Leading pharma companies conceded to an incredible public movement and eventually allowed others to produce low-cost, 'generic' versions of HIV medicines.

We once again face a pivotal moment, this time with COVID-19, where millions of lives are on the line.

### **Some common arguments against the TRIPs waiver.**

- There is no additional COVID-19 vaccines manufacturing.

Rebuttals:

- There is manufacturing capacity all across the world. 100s of vaccine manufactures could be drafted in to make more vaccines.

We shouldn't have the situation like in Senegal, Bangladesh, Canada, South Africa, Denmark where manufacturing plants are unused for vaccine production. Every knock and cranny of capacity needs to be tapped into.

We need 11 billion vaccines and all available capacity should be looked into and used to manufacture vaccines to respond to this unprecedented health crisis.

- IP can't be waived because of the importance of intellectual property in the development of new medicines and vaccines.
  - When generic manufacturing for HIV products was allowed, innovation was far from hurt but provoked invention of new drugs and increased profits.

The TRIPs waiver is time-limited and restricted to COVID-19 related technologies and does not question the IP regime as a basic principle for other health products.

- COVID-19 vaccine development received massive public funding. This global pandemic needs a global response and it cannot be about who produced what. Vaccines are necessary for the right to health and are a public good for everyone.
- Governments around the world pumped taxpayer money into the R&D on these vaccines to remove the usual financial risk for companies in developing new products. The European Commission too dedicated several hundred million euros to COVID-19 vaccine development.