

Geachte Minister President/Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you in relation to a vaccine for COVID-19 in general and the vaccination trial that is being run by the [Jenner Institute](#) and [Oxford Vaccine Group](#), in particular. 5.1.2e referred to this project yesterday and we promised to send you the details.

It is believed that Oxford has a highly competitive COVID19 vaccine development programme, which may be the first to reach the point of licensure & multi-million dose availability. They have very encouraging animal data, started clinical trials last week, and are aiming for large-scale availability of vaccine for high-risk groups in the autumn. Obviously there are no guarantees, but the signs are encouraging so far.

They think one of the strengths of their vaccine is the fact that the manufacturing process is relatively simple and very productive (many doses of vaccine from a small volume of cell culture). Manufacturing of any vaccine does however take a few months – mostly time spent preparing for the manufacturing, and then testing the product. Given the likely enormous demand for whichever vaccine is successful in clinical trials, it is highly likely that quantities of manufactured product will be limiting for some months after a positive clinical trial result. To avoid significant delay there is no real alternative other than to scale up manufacturing capacity now, *in advance* of the trial results.

They have assembled a consortium of contract manufacturers to scale up production over the coming months. Alongside UK companies, this includes Halix, a company in Leiden. Based upon their current estimates, Halix' existing equipment could produce approximately 2m doses of vaccine per month. They think there is scope to increase this to approximately 10m doses / month, maybe more, with some quite modest capital investment – probably less than 10 million Euro. It seems relatively unlikely that this would be funded by the UK government, which is funding much of the rest of their work.

I have spoken to 5.1.2e, who is leading on the vaccine manufacturing scale-up project. They are wondering whether there may be Dutch government interest in supporting this. This could be a huge win for the Netherlands for a relatively small investment especially if the vaccine is ready before a possible second wave this autumn and it has the co-benefit that stimulates the Dutch pharmaceutical industry. An important component would be to ensure that the vaccine is available to whoever needs it most, and that a proportion of the production is dedicated to a global pool that is accessible to all countries. I.e. the vaccine does not go to the highest bidder and poor countries are not the last ones to receive it. This is consistent with your excellent OpEd in the Financial Times. In doing so you guarantee a true global public good.

Please find attached a presentation with a proposal for the distribution of vaccines and, if helpful, I can connect you with 5.1.2e at the 5.1.2e. He was the former 5.1.2e at 5.1.2e that you so generously supported, and the equitable distribution of vaccines.

The next step is to call the 5.1.2e of Halix, 5.1.2e to open a channel of communication.

I hope this is helpful and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or if I can support you in any way.

Very best wishes,

5.1.2e