



5.1.2e

PO Box 20350  
2500 EJ The Hague  
Netherlands

27 March 2020

RE: Communication from GARDP regarding the COVID-19 pandemic

Dear

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As the world confronts the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to update you on our response, and ensure open channels of communication during such turbulent times, when clarity and timeliness are of critical importance. First and foremost, we wish to express our solidarity with all people responding to the pandemic, particularly frontline health workers who bear much of the burden on health systems and witness first-hand the human costs involved. At GARDP, we have put in place steps to protect patients and staff and to limit transmission of the virus.

Our immediate priority has been to assess and address the impact on clinical studies, particularly on patient safety and the availability of site and laboratory staff. Frontline workers and scientific capacity are shifting to the response to COVID-19, which means we have been obliged to cancel or postpone some activities, while other efforts continue as normal. We have instituted a business continuity strategy to help absorb the impact of the pandemic over the longer-term and continue to identify and mitigate risks to our research and development activities. This is being done through ongoing dialogue with our many partners, including the World Health Organization (WHO). While we will be closely monitoring the data on COVID-19-related bacterial infections and the potential for these to contribute to drug resistance, it is essential that GARDP maintains its long-term focus on its core social mission.

In such unprecedented and difficult times, it is clear that only by working together will we bring the current pandemic under control, while also mitigating the impact on research and development activities. An approach of exceptionalism, where human and economic resources are recalibrated to an urgent response, is essential during times of crisis. In parallel, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that resources are mobilized, preparations made and action taken, not only when systemic shocks occur, but knowing that vigilance, foresight and innovation will protect us all over the long term. The current crisis will make our resolve to deliver on GARDP's mission even stronger.

We believe that GARDP, partners and like-minded organizations across the global health community have a responsibility to forge an even stronger global partnership and deliver on the SDGs during this "Decade of Action". We must ensure that lessons learned from COVID-19 help to plot a clear path forward for health security and multilateral action. We look forward to honing this spirit to help deliver on our promises.

The investments made by you and other funders have allowed us to form more than 50 partnerships in 20 countries, build a base of knowledge and expertise, and create research platforms and programs to deliver on our ultimate goal to make life-saving treatments affordable and accessible to people who need them, wherever they are. We are confident that a less fragmented, better resourced and more coordinated global health community will emerge from this crisis. With your help, GARDP will continue to play its part and ensure that all infections are treatable for everyone, everywhere.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about our current activities. We will be in touch with you and your team with further information as the situation unfolds.

Sincerely,

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Netherlands Permanent Mission Geneva: 5.1.2e