



BRINGING CIVIL SOCIETY TOGETHER
TO END THE TUBERCULOSIS EPIDEMIC

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The Impact of COVID-19 on Research and Development in Tuberculosis

Webinar series

28th September – 7th October 2020

Background

At current rates of progress, the target under the Sustainable Development Goals to end the tuberculosis (TB) epidemic by 2030 will not be achieved because of the impact of COVID-19 on TB programmes. According to an estimate by Imperial College London and others, the impact of COVID-19 could reverse progress made on tackling TB back to 2013 levels. In addition, TB Research and Development (R&D) has been impacted with delays in clinical trials due to lockdowns or shifted focus onto COVID-19. It should be noted that COVID-19 has utilised assets invested in TB and HIV research and Development. Prior to COVID-19, it was predicted that without new tools to tackle TB, the SDG target would not be achieved for another 100 years at least and progress against the disease was already being threatened by drug-resistance (DR-TB). The situation is therefore critical and it is vital that civil society understands the situation. TBEC is therefore running a series of webinars exploring how COVID-19 will impact on TB R&D. To join these, please see the information below.

While the BCG vaccine has been around for almost a century, it has limited efficacy against less severe forms of TB and TB in adults. In order to achieve the WHO End TB Strategy targets, there is a need for a new vaccine. In 2018 and 2019 we saw the most promising steps forward in the century-long effort to develop a new TB vaccine. The results of a phase 2B trial on vaccine candidate M72 showed an efficacy of 54% and no apparent safety concerns.

Diagnosis of TB and drug-resistant TB remains a challenge globally with a third of the people with TB and two-third of the people with drug-resistant TB remaining undiagnosed. An estimated 500,000 people become sick with drug-resistant TB every year, yet only 37% of these people are diagnosed and only 31% are started on treatment. Global rates of treatment success among those diagnosed and treated range from 39% to 56%, depending on the extent of the resistance. Improving access to point-of-care testing as well as more affordable and accessible treatment regimens could help reduce treatment gaps and increase treatment success rates.

As the world comes together to tackle the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, it is important to ensure that TB prevention and care approaches are adapting appropriately to offer uninterrupted, safe and high-quality TB services. Considering the similarity of TB and COVID-19 illnesses in disease presentation and transmission, as well as synergies in the response (e.g. prevention, infection control, adherence support, etc), the pandemic presents many questions for TB field that requires learning through research and innovation.



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Join TB Europe Coalition as we launch a series of webinars on research and development. The series will be broken out in three different webinars. The first will focus on vaccines, the second on diagnostic tools and policy, and the third will focus on treatment for drug-resistant TB.

The line-up for speakers and registration is below. The webinar will take place in Russian and English, with consecutive translation

Agenda

Webinar 1: The Impact of COVID-19 on TB Research and Development on Vaccines

We will be joined by Treatment Action Group and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative to discuss TB vaccine research and development and how COVID-19 has had an impact.

Time: Monday, 28th September 2020, 3pm CET

Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AF73X14cS4aZUOHx3cP0FQ

If you are having any problems, please contact coordinator@tbcoalition.eu.

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Overview of the WHO Vaccine Pipeline
- ❖ Impact of COVID-19 on TB Vaccine Research & Development
- ❖ Question and Answer session

Webinar 2: The Impact of COVID-19 on Research and Development on TB Diagnostic Tools and the Lessons Learnt about R&D Policy Reform

We will be joined by MSF to discuss R&D diagnostics and policy reform.

Time: Friday, 2nd October 2020, 3pm CET

Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Hao6LQEdQ2mRTp4P5ToxFQ

If you are having any problems, please contact coordinator@tbcoalition.eu.

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Impact of COVID-19 on TB Diagnosis
- ❖ Research & Development Policy Reform: from TB to COVID-19, Mistakes Made and Lessons Learnt
- ❖ Question and Answer session



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Webinar 3: The Impact of COVID-19 on Research and Development on TB Drug Development

We will be joined by TB Alliance and Moldova National Association of TB (SMIT) to discuss the realities of conducting TB Drug R&D in the context of COVID-19 and Community Involvement.

Time: Wednesday, 7th October 2020, 3pm CET

Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DwpCZI2DT0Wh42YLggR0cw

If you are having any problems, please contact coordinator@tbcoalition.eu.

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Impact of COVID-19 on TB Treatment and Drug Development
- ❖ Gaps in Drug Resistant TB Care and Recommendations to Address Challenges Faced by Affected Communities and Individuals
- ❖ Questions and Answers session