



## Press Release

### OPPI members are committed to addressing COVID 19 situation in India

- **Commitment towards patients: supplies of medicines**
- **Commitment towards scientific research: development of new and improved medicines**
- **Commitment towards employees: health & safety**

**Mumbai, March 16, 2020:** In line with its patient-first approach, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), which represents the research-based pharmaceutical companies, reiterates the support and commitment of its members towards working with the Government of India in addressing the COVID-19 situation by ensuring:

Supply Continuity of Medicines: OPPI and its member companies reassure availability of adequate supplies of medicines for those in need of them. OPPI confirms that currently its member companies have adequate inventory in India and efforts are being made to step up further production. OPPI members are committed to working on measures to ensure that there are no shortages and that there is continuity in the pharmaceutical supply chain through a focused engagement with all critical stakeholders across the supply chain.

Response to public health challenge driven by scientific research: As a science-driven industry that aims to address some of the world's biggest health care challenges, the research-based pharmaceutical industry clearly has a role to play in developing new and improved medicines and vaccines to help respond to this epidemic. From the outset of the epidemic, global research-based pharmaceutical companies have reviewed their drug and vaccine portfolios to see if there is any research that could be of help. This analysis involved scientists assessing the companies' libraries for potentially useful assets that could help with the development of new or repurposed treatments or vaccines to fight against the novel coronavirus: Relevant assets include diagnostics and biomarkers, approved therapies or compounds in development which could be repurposed for use in treating patients with the coronavirus. In addition, these companies are undertaking to identify any ACE inhibitors, protease inhibitors or immunotherapies that could be relevant in the context of novel coronavirus. The collective R&D efforts of the research-based pharmaceutical industry, as on date, that outlines the vaccines and treatment developments that are underway can be accessed at: <https://www.ifpma.org/subtopics/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-industrys-rd-efforts/>

Health & Safety of Employees: In line with the advisories issued by the Government and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on COVID-19, OPPI members are tracking the updates and implementing them on a regular basis. In view of addressing the safety, well-being and good health of employees, partners and other stakeholders, members are committed to following the general precautionary measures that include the universal or standard precautions of general hygiene; maintaining a social distancing of 2 meters or more and avoiding mass gatherings. Members have postponed internal and external meetings, events & gatherings, and travels, until further notice.

OPPI members remain committed and supportive towards working with Government, medical institutions and other stakeholders, in delivering quality patient care during these challenging times.

## About OPPI

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) established in 1965, represents the research-based pharmaceutical companies in India. OPPI remains committed to supporting the nation's healthcare objectives and collaborating with all stakeholders to find sustainable solutions. OPPI believes the need for innovation must be balanced with the necessity for more accessible medicines, within a robust IP environment. For more information, please visit <https://www.indiaoppi.com/>

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