**Student Comprehension Worksheet**

**Directions:** Read the online *Science News* article “Global inequity in COVID-19 vaccination is more than a moral problem,” which explores the scientific and economic impacts of the failure to fairly distribute vaccines globally, and answer the following questions. A version of the story, “Vaccine inequity will prolong pandemic,” appears in the March 27, 2021 issue of *Science News*.

1. How have COVID-19 vaccines been distributed so far in wealthy countries and countries with lower incomes?

2. What would a more equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines looks like?

3. What is COVAX and what is its mission? What is one large hurdle that COVAX faces in accomplishing its mission?

4. What is herd immunity? What is the threshold to reach herd immunity?

5. What are coronavirus variants? How do variants arise and why are scientists concerned about some coronavirus variants?

6. How could variants worsen the pandemic? How would the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines mitigate this threat?

7. How does the inequitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines threaten the global economy? How could that threat be averted?

8. When do scientists estimate low-income countries will achieve herd immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19? Explain.