

March 27, 2021

## Vaccine Inequity Will Prolong Pandemic

### Student Discussion Worksheet

**Directions:** Read the online *Science News* article "[Global inequity in COVID-19 vaccination is more than a moral problem](#)." A version of the story, "Vaccine inequity will prolong pandemic," appears in the March 27, 2021 issue of *Science News*. Answer the first set of questions alone and then work with a partner to answer the second and third sets of questions.

#### Vaccinating our global community

1. Are COVID-19 vaccines being distributed fairly around the world? Explain.
2. Which countries have had better access to COVID-19 vaccines? How does vaccine access affect countries' vaccination rates? What impact do vaccination rates have on countries?
3. Choose one of the following quotes from the *Science News* article and discuss its meaning.

"The world is on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure, and the price of this failure will be paid with the lives and livelihoods in the world's poorest countries."

"No one is safe until all of us are safe, since an outbreak anywhere can become an outbreak everywhere."

"If we want to stop the spread we have to stop it everywhere, starting with the most vulnerable. Otherwise we're going to see continued outbreaks and suffering."
4. Brainstorm communities of varying scales. Create a diagram that helps define the relative size and connectedness of the communities. One approach could be to use circles of relative sizes to define the different communities. Be sure to show how the communities are connected in your diagram.

#### Global and local impacts

1. What impact does vaccine inequity have on the global community in the short-term? What about the long-term?

2. Discuss what you know about the vaccination rate in your own community with your partner. How could the impact of COVID-19 vaccines in your local community change over time as a result of global vaccine inequity? Think through short-term and long-term effects.

3. Explain one existing approach to help create a more equitable solution to global vaccination distribution. Propose an idea that would help support the current approach, or suggest a unique alternative solution.

### **Global STEM collaboration**

1. Can you think of an example from your own life where disjointed approaches to solving a problem ended up causing a larger issue? What would have been a more successful approach?

2. What are other examples of global collaborations in STEM that exist for the good of humankind? Explain.

3. Is there a STEM issue facing the world that you think needs a global solution? Explain.

