

Joint Nordic declaration to work for joint European vaccine research and accessibility

The Nordic Pharmaceutical Union (NFU) will work to establish a common European emergency response, focusing on both vaccine research and production expertise and on securing the required supplies to safeguard Europe against future epidemics. The NFU is convinced that it is important to stand together in Europe and to focus on joint efforts so that we can cope with a future pandemic or similar major health challenges.

If Europe is to face a strong health crisis, it is essential that each country does not work to ensure only its own security of supply and production of vaccines, but instead collaborates across borders and finds common solutions in Europe. Through a joint effort, Europe will be stronger both financially but also in terms of research efforts.

Achieving this will require the establishment of a European health emergency, focusing on:

- Developing a potential vaccine against viruses such as COVID-19 by prioritizing research through joint efforts
- Ensuring knowledge sharing across experts in the healthcare field when establishing networks
- Strengthen European support for vaccine production to ensure security of supply and especially vaccine-production expertise in Europe
- A flexible and robust regulatory process is in place so that accelerated approval is possible without lowering the standards for vaccine quality, safety and efficacy. Experiences from COVID-19 - approval processes are analyzed for this work

The pharmaceutical and medicine professional competencies are essential to achieving the above goals, as our members have great insight into and understand the aspects of the development and quality assurance, and can advise on medicines and vaccines against diseases.

The Nordic Pharmaceutical Union will jointly contribute to the establishment of a joint European vaccine strategy and research by the following joint initiatives:

- Continuing political and professional focus on the benefits of strengthening European vaccine research and production expertise, rather than each building and safeguarding their own production and research
- Work to ensure a policy framework to promote research into the development of new vaccines for use in pandemic situations such as COVID-19
- Work to support public-private partnerships, like CEPI (The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation) to strengthen vaccine development in the fight against COVID-19 and virus threats in general
- Pharmacists should be part in all projects involving development, supply, and usage of vaccines.

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