

## CALL FOR ACTION

### PRIORITISE MEDICINES IN COVID-19 ACTIONS

Medicines for Europe members supply 67% of prescription medicines in Europe. Our companies are the largest suppliers of critical medicines needed to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. Our members have over 400 production sites across Europe working day and night at full capacity manufacturing finished products and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) to respond to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak in Europe.

It is of utmost importance to bring to **highest priority the supply and circulation of medicines (APIs, finished products, raw materials, etc.) and medical equipment across EU Member States via a coordinated European approach** by implementing the following actions:

#### ENSURE SUPPLY OF MEDICINES FOR EQUITABLE ACCESS

- **Keep all available pharmaceutical manufacturing in Europe open and running at all times, without exception. Medicines manufacturing plants cannot close during this time.**
- **Anticipate regulatory flexibilities to ensure maximum production levels as well as possible requests to shift production to address new needs.**
- **Avoid patient, pharmacy and wholesaler stockpiling** of drugs needed for patients infected by COVID19 as well as chronic patients **to avoid disruption of supply** (encouraging electronic solutions could be useful).

#### PHARMA WORKERS RECOGNISED AS HEALTH WORKERS

- **Employees working in pharmaceutical factories need protective equipment urgently (without which they cannot work) & recognition of vital status of health workers** (Authorised to cross borders if they work in a nearby country and benefit from national measures - like access to child day care services).

#### MEDICINES CIRCULATION VIA GREEN LANES

- **Avoid export restrictions on manufacturers of medicines or active pharmaceutical ingredients.** There must be **solidarity toward countries** hardest hit by the outbreak. Hoarding of supplies should be strongly discouraged.
- **Prioritise medicines, protective equipment health goods at border crossings via EU Green lanes**

#### ACTIVATE GLOBAL COOPERATION ON SUPPLY AND CIRCULATION OF MEDICINES

- **Global cooperation is essential to maximise production levels for all countries under WHO leadership** involving industry and Health Ministries.
- **Maintain air freight capacity** by making use of available commercial aircraft not currently in use or banned from flying. Military planes could also be considered for use for essential medicines either **reserve cargo capacity for medicines, active pharmaceutical ingredients, intermediates, key starting materials and medical equipment to Europe.**
- Ensure that airports remain open inside and outside Europe for these essential goods
- **Coordinate the approach to maintain the airport traffic flowing in EU and other global pharmaceutical hubs** (like India, US and China) – creating open routes or “Green lanes” between EU and third countries, and within those countries, for these essential goods.