

March 27, 2021

Vaccine Inequity Will Prolong Pandemic**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 look 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.**