The Commission continues to monitor the supply chains of critical input materials and ancillary materials like syringes for vaccines through the Commission’s Task Force for industrial scale-up of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics. In relation to the manufacturing of (low dead-space) syringes, there is strong production in the EU and the Commission is not aware of supply issues.

Regarding the strengthening of manufacturing capacities, one of the main tasks the Commission’s Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) will be to promote advanced research and development of medical countermeasures and related technologies as well as addressing market challenges and boosting the Union’s open strategic autonomy in medical countermeasures production. HERA will be using funds within existing programmes under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 such as EU4Health\(^1\), Horizon Europe\(^2\) and RescEU\(^3\). Together with Member States, HERA will map supply chains and monitor manufacturing capacity.

International engagement and cooperation are crucial in the context of the global nature of health threats and the global dynamics of the market for medical countermeasures.

The Commission will also ensure close collaboration with global partners to address international supply chain bottlenecks, remove unnecessary restrictions, expand global production capacity and support uptake of vaccines globally.

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\(^1\) [https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union\_en)

\(^2\) [https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe\_en)

\(^3\) [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/resceu\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/resceu\_en)