

AstraZeneca to donate 9 million face masks to support healthcare workers around the world in the fight against COVID-19

Italy to receive first shipments imminently

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AstraZeneca is donating nine million face masks to support healthcare workers around the world as they respond to the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) global pandemic. AstraZeneca has partnered with the World Economic Forum's COVID Action Platform, created with the support of the World Health Organisation, to identify countries in greatest need. Italy will receive the first shipments this week with other countries to follow.

In addition to these donations, AstraZeneca is accelerating the development of its diagnostic testing capabilities to scale-up screening and is also working in partnership with governments on existing screening programmes to supplement testing

Pascal Soriot, Chief Executive Officer, said: "Our first thoughts are with those suffering from this global pandemic and with the brave healthcare workers who are caring for them. As a company, we have prioritised our response by partnering with international health authorities and others to share our scientific knowledge and expertise, and we have taken this step to donate these masks as we continue to accelerate our efforts on diagnostic testing and a treatment against COVID-19."

The nine million masks will be manufactured and distributed from China, where the large-scale and accelerated effort has been aided by AstraZeneca's leading position and strong relationships with the country's healthcare system and manufacturing sector.

Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, AstraZeneca has already made several rounds of financial contributions, medicines and personal protective equipment donations to health organisations in China and several other countries around the world.