



**World Health  
Organization**

# **WHO R&D Blueprint novel Coronavirus**

**COVID-19 Viruses, Reagents and Immune  
Assays**

**WHO Working Group**

WHO reference number

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**R&DBlueprint**

Powering research  
to prevent epidemics



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## Background

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO Blueprint team has established an Expert Group focused on COVID-19 viruses, reagents and immune assays. The goal of the group is to advance the development of COVID-19 medical countermeasures (vaccines and immunotherapeutics). This is being achieved by providing a platform to discuss availability of viruses and key reagents, to share data on immune assays and the potential for cross reactivity of SARS-CoV-2 with other coronaviruses.

## Terms of Reference

- Discuss the theoretical potential for cross-reactivity between SARS-CoV-2, SARS-CoV-1 and MERS-CoV based on available sequence/modelling data.
- Present data which evaluate cross-reactivity and outline planned experimental approaches that will inform on vaccine and monoclonal antibody selection and thus advance development timelines
- Obtain an overview on the status of development/availability of SARS-CoV-2 viral isolates and other critical reagents followed by weekly updates.
- Present data on the development of immune assays with an emphasis on ELISA and neutralization, both live virus and pseudovirus.
- Coordinate efforts with other WHO groups focused on COVID-19 control and development of medical countermeasures.

## Composition

### Experts

#### **Chairs:**

Dr. William Dowling, CEPI

The chair has the following responsibilities

- To chair the weekly meetings
- To liaise with the WHO R&D Blueprint
- To review meeting reports and reports from any interim recommendations
- To represent the group at technical meetings as requested

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