



INTERNATIONAL GENERIC AND  
BIOSIMILAR MEDICINES ASSOCIATION

[Info@igbamedicines.org](mailto:Info@igbamedicines.org)

## COVID-19

### **Critical to keep the supply chain of essential medicines manufacturing operating at full capacity**

For immediate release  
Geneva, 18 March 2020

IGBA, the International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA), representing global manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines, today calls upon the global policy leaders and governments to do everything in their power to keep the manufacturing operations and the supply chain of essential medicines operating at full capacity. This will allow our companies to continue to produce much needed critical medicines. While we support the need to protect healthcare workers and to provide hospitals with essential materials, putting unreasonable restrictions on exports of essential medical supplies or medicines will do more harm than good at this time of urgent need.

*“Given the pandemic nature of the COVID-19 outbreak, manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines around the world need to produce at maximum capacity while ensuring maximum safety for the industry staff”,* commented Hanan Sboul, IGBA Chair.

Following the closure of borders of several countries around the globe to reduce the spread of the virus, IGBA stresses that it is crucial that essential health products can circulate without delays to meet the rising demands around the globe. The IGBA therefore welcomes the 16 March [European Commission’s Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services](#).

Furthermore, the IGBA encourages the WHO to continue their highly valued, non-stop efforts and expertise to contain and mitigate this unprecedented coronavirus outbreak. Our industry is a party to that cooperation and is sharing information with its leaders so that patients continue to receive their medicines all over the world. *“We join the WHO in calling on all countries to act without delay on the eight pillars of the [WHO’s Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan](#)”* commented Suzette Kox, IGBA Secretary General. *“Solidarity, cooperation and international coordination are needed urgently to protect public health and lives”,* she added.

## **About IGBA**

The International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA) strengthens cooperation between associations representing manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines from around the world. The IGBA is at the forefront of preserving sustainable competition within our industry, by stimulating competitiveness and innovation in the pharmaceutical sector; thereby, ensuring millions of patients around the world have access to high quality, pro-competitive medicines. For more details, regarding IGBA and its member associations, see the IGBA website at: [www.igbamedicines.org](http://www.igbamedicines.org).