



European  
Commission

# Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority

*Better prepare for and respond  
to cross-border health threats*

MAY 2024

## Why do we need HERA?

HERA was created to strengthen Europe's ability to ensure the provision of medical countermeasures in case of a pandemic or other large-scale health threats. This implies identifying possible threats, assessing existing countermeasures, establishing stocks or supporting the development of new countermeasures, as well as making sure that, if needed, we will have the capacity to produce them quickly and at mass.

- Outbreaks of infectious diseases are on the rise worldwide
- Learning lessons from COVID-19: we need to be better prepared for future pandemics and move from ad hoc to structured cooperation with all actors
- Strengthening security of supply

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**HERA**  
#HealthUnion



## HERA's Mission



Better EU health security coordination before and during crises



Bringing together the EU Member States, industry, researchers and relevant stakeholders



Development, production, procurement, stockpiling, and equitable distribution of medical countermeasures



Reinforcing the global health emergency response architecture

### What are medical countermeasures?

*Medical countermeasures (MCMs) are medicines and medical devices that can be used to diagnose, prevent, protect from, or treat conditions during a public health emergency. Examples of MCMs are vaccines, antibiotics, medical equipment, chemical antidotes, therapeutics, diagnostic tests, or personal protective equipment such as gloves or masks.*



## How does HERA operate?

HERA has **two modes of operation** to reflect both peace times and crisis times. During peace times, it is governed by the HERA Board, which is composed of high-level Member State and Commission representatives and responsible for shaping the strategic direction of EU and national health preparedness and response actions.

In the event of a public health emergency at EU level, HERA will switch to emergency operations under the steer of a high-level Health Crisis Board coordinating urgent action in response to the crisis.

### 1. Preparedness phase

- Threat assessment and intelligence gathering
- Advanced R&D for medical countermeasures
- Boosting industrial capacity
- Procuring and distributing medical countermeasures
- Increasing stockpiling capacity
- Strengthening knowledge and skills

### 2. Emergency phase

- Ensure the availability, supply, and deployment of medical countermeasures
- Act as a central purchasing body
- Monitor availability of medical countermeasures
- Activate emergency measures for research, EU FAB manufacturing surge capacity and emergency funding



## Budget

**Investing in prevention and preparedness** will result in a significantly lower human and economic cost later, and will have a large return on investment, not only for the economy, but also for society and the health of European citizens

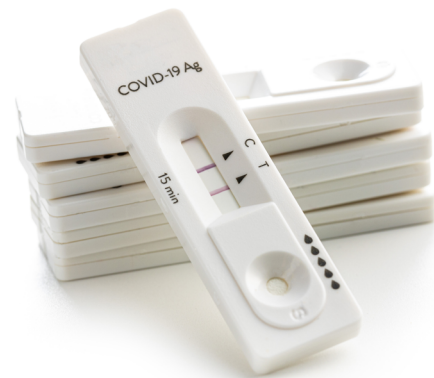
HERA benefits from a multisource significant budget amounting at €6 billion coming from different programmes such as:

- EU4Health, adopted as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to reinforce crisis preparedness in the EU
- Horizon Europe, EU's key funding programme for research and innovation
- The Union Civil Protection Mechanism

## Global health security

Through its cooperation in the EU and globally, HERA contributes to bolster cooperation and reinforce global health security, ensuring availability and access to critical medical countermeasures for all.

In close collaboration with strategic global partners, HERA is:



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