

# COVID-19 pandemic actions

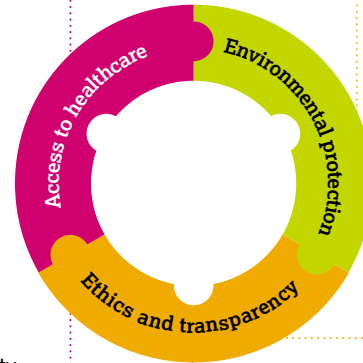
**AstraZeneca's response to the COVID-19 pandemic was consistent with our Values of following the science, putting patients first and doing the right thing. Our priorities were driven by the needs of patients, caregivers and communities.**

To respond effectively, we partnered with governments, international organisations, health professionals, industry and non-profit organisations. Our response also reflected our sustainability priorities.

## Access to healthcare

Our objectives and actions:

- **Help ensure continued access to care and medicines**
  - Redesigned clinical trials to avoid disruption by increasing the use of initiatives like home-based treatments and remote monitoring
  - Pledged financial commitments to dozens of patient advocacy groups and professional societies across the globe to prioritise continuity of care during the pandemic
  - Lead donor of the COVID Impacts Cancer Initiative — launched by the American Society of Clinical Oncology — to establish a registry for its members to share data on how the coronavirus impacts care and patient outcomes
  - Launched our Partnership for Health System Sustainability and Resilience, with the World Economic Forum and the London School of Economics, to identify solutions to strengthen the resilience of healthcare systems
- **Protect critical operations to ensure the continued supply of our medicines to patients who need them**
  - Monitored more than 1,300 global logistics routes to ensure the efficient flow of medicines, enabling us to continue to deliver our medicines and respond to the growth in global demand for some medicines



## Environmental protection

Our objectives and actions:

- **Remain steadfast in our commitment to environmental protection**
  - Conducted environmental risk assessments in line with local regulatory requirements during research and development of potential COVID-19 treatments
  - Co-authored a [10-point action plan](#) to create a circular bioeconomy, recognising deforestation, biodiversity loss and landscape fragmentation as key processes enabling transmission of zoonotic infectious diseases
  - Recovered heat from mask incineration

## Ethics and transparency

Our objectives and actions:

- **Ensure the safety and wellbeing of our employees**
  - Launched a secure digital platform for more than 77,000 employees and contract workers in eight days so that most employees, including some laboratory staff, could work from home
  - In locations where employees remained in or were able to return to their place of work, additional health and safety measures were put in place, including temperature screenings, physical distancing and mandatory mask-wearing
  - Administered more than 50,000 PCR and antibody assessments for employees at key sites
  - Provided support and guidance to employees with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
  - Launched toolkits for employees and leaders including advice on working effectively from home while maintaining physical and mental wellbeing. We shared these toolkits externally for other organisations to use and repurpose
  - Assisted employees who worked on site to find available places at nurseries and with registered childminders
- **Contribute more broadly to society**
  - Updated our Global Volunteering Policy, extending the amount of leave for medically trained employees, and encouraged volunteering more generally to relieve exhausted health systems and support communities
  - Provided more than \$15 million in COVID-19 donations to patient advocacy groups, health charities and relief agencies, supporting 340 non-profit organisations in 78 countries