

GSK's major contributions to the fight against Covid-19 in Belgium: a minimum of 6000 screening tests per day and a donation of ten tons of protective equipment

GSK brings its expertise by carrying out tests in its laboratories against the coronavirus, thus participating in a significant increase of the number of analyzes in our country. GSK will be able to carry 6.000 tests per day. On top of this commitment we added the donation of ten tons of protective equipment. Local actions that join other initiatives and research projects carried out internationally by the company to fight the pandemic.

WAVRE, April 8, 2020 – By the end of this week, GSK will receive, in Rixensart (Walloon Brabant), the first samples of suspected Covid-19 cases for immediate testing. The results of these screening tests based on PCR (polymerase chain reaction) technology, which is the most used and reliable technology, should already be released within 24 hours.

GSK Vaccines, world number one in vaccines with its headquarters in Belgium, is thus participating in the fight against the pandemic by providing its infrastructure and staff free of charge. Thanks to its state-of-the-art facilities, the company will be able to conduct these large-scale tests under the highest biosecurity conditions. This use of GSK facilities is done after rigorous testing to ensure the highest quality of analysis possible.

A minimum of 6.000 tests per day

This intensification of tests in our country allows to significantly increase their number. GSK alone will have the capacity to carry out a minimum of 6,000 tests per day for Belgium. The samples will be transported daily by specialized transport from hospitals and medical centers to GSK. The results generated by the GSK laboratories will be transmitted via a secure computer system. GSK plans to conduct these tests as long as necessary to deal with the Covid-19 in Belgium, and may if necessary further increase its analytical capabilities

Philippe De Backer, Federal Minister in charge of Covid-19 Task Force: "It is a huge advantage we have in Belgium to be able to count on GSK as a world leader in health based at home. We are extremely grateful for this free and crucial assistance which will help us, all together, to cope with the pandemic. "

Patrick Florent, Managing Director of GSK Vaccines in Belgium: "*In recent weeks, GSKs collaborated intensively with the federal authorities in order to offer our expertise: our objective is to considerably increase the screening capacity of Covid-19. More than ever, it is our duty to provide all possible support for a unique collaboration which brings gathers the forces of several Belgian universities, clinical laboratories, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. "*

Ten tons of material for Belgian hospitals

After a donation of 4,500 disposable overalls to hospitals mid-March, GSK has just made 10 tons of additional equipment available to federal authorities: cloth coveralls, disposable aprons, gloves and soap. This equipment will be redistributed to Belgian hospitals and medical institutions as needed.

International engagement

In addition to the tests carried out today in Belgium and equipment donations, GSK also made an international commitment as soon as the virus appeared. To support research and production of a covid-19 vaccine candidate, the company has made its vaccine adjuvant technology, developed in Rixensart, available to several partner companies and international research groups working on vaccine candidates against the Covid-19. The use of an adjuvant would not only improve the immune response of the person vaccinated, but also reduce the needed amount of vaccine protein required per dose. This could allow more doses of vaccine to be produced to protect more people, which is particularly crucial in a pandemic situation.

PRESS RELEASE



For screening and research of new drugs, GSK announced this week the collaboration with Vir Biotechnology to use their monoclonal technological platform to accelerate and identify new antiviral antibodies, which could allow therapeutic or preventive options against Covid-19 .

In addition, GSK is a member of the Covid-19 Therapeutics Accelerator and makes all of its molecules available for research against the Covid-19. On the other hand, GSK is evaluating whether its currently distributed drugs or its in development phase drugs could be used beyond their existing indications in response to the pandemic.

GSK's consumer health division prioritizes actions to distribute more products in high demand due to the pandemic, such as painkillers

Beyond that, GSK donated \$ 10 million to the Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund created by WHO and the United Nations. This fund will for instance allow the distribution of essential equipment to front-line health personnel such as individual protective equipment.

Patrick Florent, Managing Director of GSK Vaccines in Belgium: *"We think of all those who work on the front line: defeating Covid-19 requires a collective effort and we are convinced that collaborations between scientists, regulators, governments, Healthcare professionals and industry will help protect people and come up with global solutions to this pandemic. "*

###

About GSK GSK

GSK - a leading global pharmaceutical research and healthcare company - is committed to improving the quality of life by helping men and women do more, feel better and live longer. GSK Vaccines, one of three divisions of GSK (vaccines, prescription drugs and consumer health products), is one of the leading vaccine manufacturers in the world, with a portfolio of more than 30 vaccines for infants, adolescents and adults and 16 other vaccines in development. More than 2 million vaccines are produced by GSK every day and sent to people in 158 countries. 70% of these vaccines are distributed to developing countries. In Belgium, the more than 9,000 employees of GSK make it the largest pharmaceutical company. Historically very close to the academic world, GSK for example in 2019, established 17 scientific collaborations with Belgian academies.

Contact Média :

Elisabeth Van Damme, Directeur Communication Externe
0478 27 26 41
Be.Media@gsk.com