

**COVID-19 Vaccination Boosters: when and why?****30 September 2021 1.00pm-2.00pm (London time)**

This seminar will explore ethical considerations in debates about the provision of booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines. The discussion will address rationales for providing booster shots and competing accounts of whether and when they may be justified in practice. Given significant inequities in access to COVID-19 vaccines within and between countries, important questions arise not just about the value of providing boosters to specific populations, but also whether and how boosters might be justifiable while so many are still waiting for their initial vaccine doses.

**To register:**

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/9816324244276/WN\\_ITgTWoNOQRW9qUX-D4dXkw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/9816324244276/WN_ITgTWoNOQRW9qUX-D4dXkw)

**Chair:**

[Professor Michael Parker](#), Director of Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities, University of Oxford

**Panel:**

[Professor Sir Andrew Pollard](#), Professor of Paediatric Infection and Immunity. Director of the Oxford Vaccine Group, University of Oxford

[Dr Kate O'Brien](#), Director, Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologics, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

[Dr Ayoade Olatunbosun-Alakija](#), Co-Chair of the Africa Union Africa Vaccine Delivery Alliance for COVID-19, Abuja, Nigeria

The following questions will form the basis of the seminar's panel discussion. Seminar attendees are invited to submit questions in advance of the seminar when they register or during the live discussion.

- What are the ethical arguments for and against providing booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines?
- Should countries refrain from booster shots until we have global vaccination coverage?
- WHO has called for a moratorium on boosters until the end of 2021. Can any exemptions to this moratorium be justified, such as for specific, high-risk populations?

**Background Reading:**

Booster shots for COVID-19—the debate continues [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(21\)00574-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(21)00574-0)

Are COVID-19 boosters ethical, with half the world waiting for a first shot? A bioethicist weighs in <https://theconversation.com/are-covid-19-boosters-ethical-with-half-the-world-waiting-for-a-first-shot-a-bioethicist-weighs-in-167606>

WHO Interim statement on COVID-19 vaccine booster doses <https://www.who.int/news/item/10-08-2021-interim-statement-on-covid-19-vaccine-booster-doses>

Considerations in boosting COVID-19 vaccine immune responses [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)02046-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)02046-8)