



## European Federation of Immunological Societies

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Ursula von der Leyen  
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Berlin and London, 12 March 2021

### COVID-19 Vaccines: Report of the EFIS Vaccination Taskforce

Dear President von der Leyen,

We are writing as President of the European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS) and Chair of the EFIS Vaccination Taskforce with regard to our report, '[COVID-19 Vaccines](#)'.

EFIS is an umbrella organisation that represents 35 immunology societies from both inside and out of the European Union and is committed to supporting research and education into immunology and vaccine development across Europe, as well as strengthening scientific interaction between its members. It is this commitment to these principles that underpins our belief that vaccines represent the exit to the pandemic for hundreds of millions of Europeans, but that to utilise them in the most effective manner will mean comprehensive public health communication, long term monitoring of effectiveness and safety, and equitable access to vaccines for all.

After many months of intensive and rigorous endeavour by scientists in labs the world over, countries in Europe are now vaccinating their citizens. This means shoring up confidence in vaccines, which can be vastly different when crossing national borders and providing people with the information that they need to make the right choices. Vaccine hesitancy will not disappear overnight, but what this report makes clear is that public health communication and engagement by governments on scientific issues and addressing people's fears and concerns will be paramount in ensuring that a great enough number are vaccinated in order to achieve herd immunity.

The role of the scientific community does not end after a vaccine has been developed. Robust immune monitoring and long-term, detailed studies of the immune responses of vaccinated individuals must be carried out. The outcome of these studies will determine the answers to questions about the



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longevity and durability of vaccine-mediated immunity: with these answers, we might be able to properly formulate policy around ending or easing national lockdowns, to see if there will be a need for an annual vaccination plan (along the lines of the influenza vaccination programme seen in many countries), and to ensure the vaccines' effectiveness across different demographics.

We would be delighted to discuss these ideas further, and will look forward to hearing from you and your team soon.

Yours sincerely,

**Professor Andreas Radbruch**  
**President,**  
**European Federation of Immunological Societies**

**Dr Doug Brown**  
**Chair of the EFIS Vaccination Taskforce**  
**Chief Executive, British Society for Immunology**