



BREAKING: IP waiver on Covid-19 vaccines in the US

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Abstract:

The Biden administration announced its support for a temporary waiver on intellectual property protections on Covid-19 vaccines. India and South Africa led the effort for the development and it is believed the waiver is needed to make the vaccines more widely available. Previously, the U.S. had opposed the proposal at the World Trade Organisation, but the new position was announced by U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai in a statement.

For more information, see the '[Statement from Ambassador Katherine Tai on the Covid-19 Trips Waiver](#)' dated 5 May 2021 and the WIPO news page, [here](#).

Also see our earlier legal update on patents, designs and crown provisions [here](#). Previously it was thought that the emergency provisions are unlikely to be invoked due to the level of collaboration that has been occurring in industry, however Australia has recently been urged to support the proposal to waive IP rights- see the article in the Guardian '[India wants access to cheap copies of Covid vaccines. So why is Australia holding out?](#)'.