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'Wealthy nations to have 1.2 B vaccines they don't need'

LONDON – Wealthy countries face mounting pressure to divert COVID-19 vaccine supplies to lower-income regions, with a new analysis showing they will likely have about 1.2 billion extra doses available by the end of the year, according to a report in *Bloomberg* yesterday.

"The US, Britain, European nations and others could satisfy their own needs – vaccinating about 80 percent of their populations over the age of 12 and moving ahead with booster programs – and still have large quantities to redistribute globally, according to London-based analytics firm Airfinity," *Bloomberg* reported.

Those governments have so far delivered a meager amount of the supplies they have pledged to poorer countries as some move forward with plans for booster shots in a race to fight the Delta variant.

Health advocates worry that the slow pace will prolong the pandemic and increase the risk of more worrisome variants emerging. Some are also calling for more transparency on the agreements between governments and manufacturers.

Of the more than one billion doses the Group of Seven countries and the European Union have pledged, less than 15 percent has been delivered, Airfinity said.