

■ **Four vaccine manufacturers have been asked by the US HHS* to test their vaccines against coronavirus,** reports the *Pink Sheet*. According to the report, the request was made at a recent meeting with the HHS Secretary, which was held to discuss the role of the pharmaceutical industry in addressing the SARS** outbreak. The meeting was attended by representatives of GlaxoSmithKline, Wyeth, Merck, Aventis-Pasteur and Lilly, as well as by representatives of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Vaccine Program Office. The pharmaceutical industry has been asked to produce all relevant information pertaining to antiviral research and candidate antivirals, says the report. Aventis has donated samples of a proprietary cell line to the NIH and CDC to enable isolation and culture of coronavirus.

* Department of Health and Human Services

** severe acute respiratory syndrome

SARS infects Rx industry: vaccines tested against virus; antivirals donated.

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