

VacciNATION



Partnership to Fight
Infectious Disease



Vaccines are the key to bringing an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.



COVID-19 vaccines will be accessible, affordable, and distributed equitably to all people who want to be vaccinated. The CDC has already shared a [playbook](#)¹ to guide development and implementation of COVID-19 vaccination plans.



COVID-19 vaccines are being developed following all FDA requirements, involving thousands of volunteers from diverse backgrounds, to ensure the vaccines are safe and effective.



1. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf

1 Vaccines are the key to bringing an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ▶ Protecting our families, coworkers, neighbors, and communities by stopping the spread of COVID-19 is the quickest way back to school, back to work, and back to seeing our loved ones of all ages without risking contracting or spreading COVID-19.
- ▶ Vaccines have ended many infectious disease pandemics. They are critical to slowing and stopping the continued spread and outbreaks of infections.
- ▶ While the vaccine does have some side effects, you cannot get sick with COVID-19 by taking the vaccine.
- ▶ In the 1950s, polio caused 15,000 cases of paralysis each year, but the result of widespread polio vaccines has reduced the number of children disabled by polio by 99.9 percent worldwide in the last 30 years. The U.S. has been polio-free since 1979.
- ▶ While we wait for COVID-19 vaccines to become available, there are important steps each of us can take to lower our risk of contracting the virus.
 - ▷ **Wear a mask.**
 - ▷ **Wash your hands regularly.**
 - ▷ **Keep at least 6 feet apart from others.**
- ▶ Getting sick with a contagious infection presents many challenges, both physically and financially — but vaccines can lessen the impact.

2 COVID-19 vaccines will be accessible, affordable, and distributed equitably to all people who want to be vaccinated. The CDC has already shared a playbook¹ to guide development and implementation of COVID-19 vaccination plans.

- ▶ Medical, public health, bioethics, and scientific experts are working on a plan to make sure that anyone who wants to be vaccinated against COVID-19 has access to a vaccine.
- ▶ The National Academy of Medicine convened a group of experts to develop a **framework**² for prioritizing distribution of vaccines to assist decision-makers on the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.
- ▶ The overarching goal of equitable vaccine distribution is to reduce severe illness and death and the negative societal impact due to the transmission of COVID-19.
- ▶ Doctors, nurses, other healthcare workers and first responders will be among the first people to be vaccinated against COVID-19 given their high risk of exposure.
- ▶ Next in line are people with two or more underlying health conditions that put them at significantly higher risk, as well as older adults in congregate settings such as nursing homes.
- ▶ Biopharmaceutical companies are already manufacturing potential vaccines so that, if approved, doses will be available immediately for frontline healthcare workers and others at high risk.

3 COVID-19 vaccines are being developed following all FDA requirements, involving thousands of volunteers from diverse backgrounds, to ensure the vaccines are safe and effective.

The speed of the process for COVID-19 vaccines is a result of situational factors and does not mean safety or effectiveness requirements are any less rigorous.

- ▶ Highly trained scientists and doctors at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) evaluate the results of all vaccine clinical studies to determine whether to approve them for use in the U.S.
- ▶ More than 30 potential COVID-19 vaccines are being tested in clinical trials with patient volunteers and more than 150 others are in preclinical development.
- ▶ Once a vaccine is reviewed and approved by the FDA, the FDA and CDC continue to monitor its use, track and publicly report side effects, and make sure there are no safety concerns.
- ▶ Like any medication, vaccines can cause side effects. In most cases, side effects are mild (e.g., soreness where the shot was given) and go away within a few days.

We didn't start from scratch.

Knowledge gained from vaccine research on other coronaviruses (MERS and SARS, in particular) has helped in the search for COVID-19 vaccines.

Pharmaceutical companies engaged in the search for these earlier vaccines were able to test and identify potential vaccine candidates quickly using technology and global sharing of data on COVID-19.

While vaccine R&D has historically been time consuming, public and private sector researchers have leveraged their prior experience and engaged in unprecedented collaboration to advance COVID-19 vaccines. Safety and efficacy are not sacrificed for speed.

Volunteer recruitment for the many, large clinical trials has proceeded quickly due to cooperation among biopharmaceutical companies, NIH, and community-based research networks. Making information about clinical trials and background on the vaccines and other treatments under investigation widely available has expanded access to expertise and resources for the extensive testing needed to recruit volunteers representing a diverse background and measure safety and effectiveness.³



1. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf
2. <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/a-framework-for-equitable-allocation-of-vaccine-for-the-novel-coronavirus#sectionPublications>
3. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-launches-clinical-trials-network-test-covid-19-vaccines-other-prevention-tools>



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