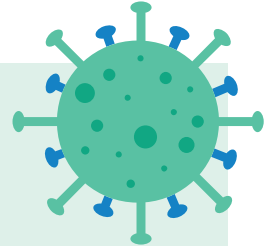


How Did the COVID-19 Vaccine Get Developed So Quickly?

ct.gov/covidvaccine

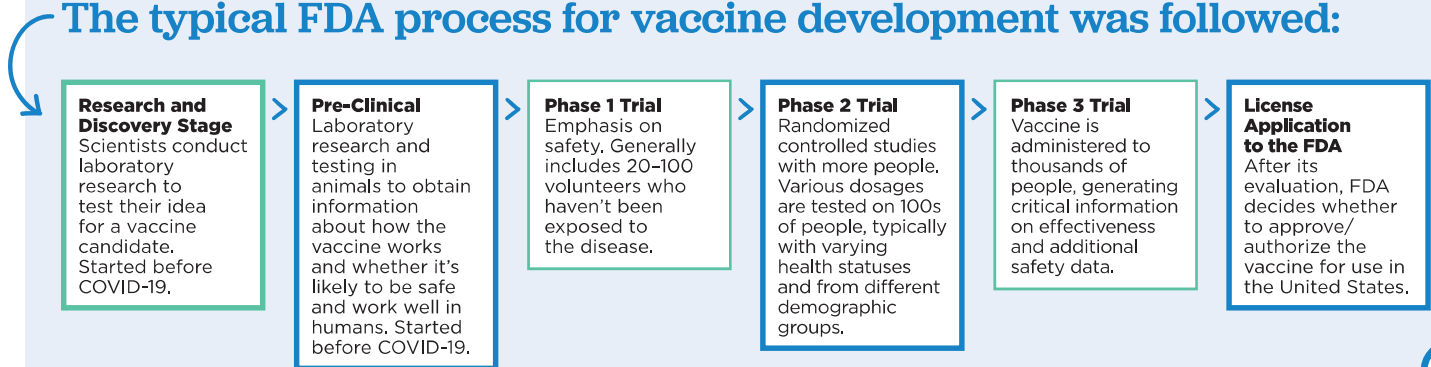


These mRNA vaccines are a result of decades of work.

- **Lessons learned from earlier vaccine research** informed strategies for developing COVID-19 vaccines.
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) are two diseases caused by coronaviruses closely related to the virus that causes COVID-19. Researchers began working on developing vaccines for these diseases after they were discovered in **2003 and 2012**, respectively.

- None of the SARS vaccines ever made it past the first stages of development and testing, in large part because the virus disappeared. **One MERS vaccine (MVA-MERS-S) successfully completed a phase 1 clinical trial in 2019.**
- **mRNA vaccines have been studied before** for flu, Zika, rabies, and cytomegalovirus (CMV).
- As soon as the genetic code became available for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), scientists began designing the mRNA for the vaccine, which **provides instructions for cells to build the unique spike protein for SARS-CoV-2.**

The typical FDA process for vaccine development was followed:



Learn more, read the COVID-19 vaccine's path to authorization: www.fda.gov/media/143890/download

Getting vaccinated is one of many steps you can take to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

For some people, COVID-19 can cause severe illness or death. Getting vaccinated not only protects you from COVID-19, it also protects those around you by preventing its spread. Stopping a pandemic requires using all the prevention tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus. Other steps, like masks and social distancing, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus and spreading it to others. **Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.**

SOURCES

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html
- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mRNA.html
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