



National Indian Health Board
**NATIONAL TRIBAL
 COVID-19 RESPONSE**

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08/06/2020

Vaccines and COVID-19

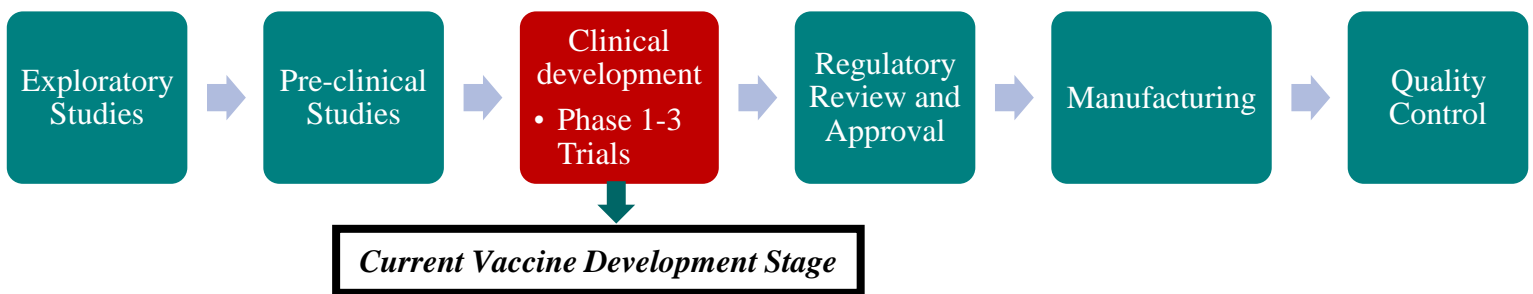
What We Know About Vaccines for the Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2

There is currently no vaccine to protect against SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), but progress is underway. In mid-May 2020 the Trump Administration introduced “Operation Warp Speed”, a private-public partnership with drug and biotechnology companies. The initiative is designed to accelerate the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and delivery 300 millions of doses to Americans by January 2021¹.

Development of a COVID-19 Vaccine

Every vaccine is evaluated rigorously for safety and ability to protect an individual from getting seriously ill. Typically this process from initial discovery to fully-scaled release takes multiple years (see box below for more information on vaccine development²). **Due to the risks of COVID-19 to health and healthcare systems, the vaccine discovery process is being accelerated. Some timelines estimate COVID-19 vaccine will be available in as soon as early 2021³.**

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



Operation Warp Speed has identified 14 promising vaccines⁴ and as of early August **six are in Phase 3 trials: Moderna/NIH, BioNTech/Pfizer/Fosun Pharma, AstraZeneca/Univ. Oxford, Sinopharm, Sinovac Biotech, and Murdoch Children’s Research Institute⁵**. Phase 3 trials evaluate a vaccine’s safety and ability to protect a wide range of individuals by giving the vaccine to thousands of volunteers. After completing a Phase 3 trial a

¹<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/06/16/fact-sheet-explaining-operation-warp-speed.html>
² <https://www.vaccines.gov/basics/safety>; <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/basics/test-approve.html>
³ <https://www.bcg.com/en-us/publications/2020/covid-vaccines-timelines-implications.aspx>
⁴ <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/05/unveiling-warp-speed-white-house-s-america-first-push-coronavirus-vaccine>
⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/science/coronavirus-vaccine-tracker.html>



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vaccine will submit an application to be licensed and inspected before being distributed to the public. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for approving all vaccines used in the US, including those made internationally.

Worldwide over 139 different potential vaccines have been proposed, and the World Health Organization (WHO) has chosen 26 to move to small clinical trials⁶. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced agreements with the US-based company Pfizer, and international companies Sanofi and Glaxo-Smith Kline to purchase vaccine doses in the event their vaccines are successful^{7,8}.

We do not know what a COVID-19 vaccine will look like yet or how effective it will be. The number of doses required and specific rules for how a vaccine is administered will be determined by various federal agencies and independent groups, including the Centers for Disease Control⁹, who consult their Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)¹⁰ and other medical organizations. When a vaccine is available, you may be able to receive it for no or little cost through the CARES Act¹¹.

Keeping up with Routine Vaccines

COVID-19 has made many aspects of daily life more challenging, including going to a healthcare provider. It is important that you still receive routine vaccines [for example, the flu vaccine every fall] to make sure you and your family are safe and healthy. Contact your local healthcare provider or clinic if you or your child need to get a routine vaccine.

A vaccine may not be available until 2021. Until then you should take recommended precautions to avoid getting COVID-19:

**WASH YOUR
HANDS**

**STAY 6 FT
APART**

**WEAR A CLOTH
FACE COVERING**

⁶ <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-landscape-of-covid-19-candidate-vaccines>

⁷ <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/07/22/us-government-engages-pfizer-produce-millions-doses-covid-19-vaccine.html>

⁸ <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/07/31/hhs-dod-partner-sanofi-gsk-commercial-scale-manufacturing-demonstration-project-produce-millions-covid-19-investigational-vaccine-doses.html>

⁹ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/schedules/sets-schedule.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/recommendations.html>

¹¹ <https://www.ashp.org/Advocacy-and-Issues/Key-Issues/Other-Issues/GRD-Issue-Brief-CARES-Act>

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