

# Promising Interim Results from Clinical Trial of NIH-Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

The vaccine demonstrated 95% efficacy in an ongoing Phase III trial.

November 30, 2020 By National Institutes of Health

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Update: On November 30, [Moderna announced](#) primary efficacy results showing that its vaccine was 94.1% effective in preventing COVID-19. A total of 196 cases were observed, 185 in the placebo group and 11 in the vaccine group; all 30 cases of severe COVID-19 and the sole COVID-19-related death occurred in the placebo group. Efficacy was consistent across age, sex and racial/ethnic groups. No serious safety concerns were reported.

Update: On November 23, the [University of Oxford and AstraZeneca](#) announced that their adenovirus vector vaccine demonstrated up to 90% effectiveness.

Editor's note: This is the second coronavirus vaccine with greater than 90% efficacy, based on unpublished interim results. Results for the other vaccine were [announced last week](#).

An independent data and safety monitoring board (DSMB) overseeing the Phase III trial of the investigational COVID-19 vaccine known as mRNA-1273 reviewed trial data and shared its interim analysis with the trial oversight group on Nov. 15, 2020.

This interim review of the data suggests that the vaccine is safe and effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 in adults. The interim analysis comprised 95 cases of symptomatic COVID-19 among volunteers. The DSMB reported that the candidate was safe and well-tolerated and noted a vaccine efficacy rate of 94.5%. The findings are statistically significant, meaning they are likely not due to chance. 90 of the cases occurred in the placebo group and 5 occurred in the vaccinated group. There were 11 cases of severe COVID-19 out of the 95 total, all of which occurred in the placebo group.

The mRNA-1273 vaccine candidate was co-developed by the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based biotechnology company Moderna, Inc., and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health. It combines Moderna's mRNA (messenger RNA) delivery platform with the [stabilized SARS-CoV-2 spike immunogen \(S-2P\)](#) developed by NIAID scientists.

The vaccine candidate transitioned from early development with NIAID to the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, for advanced development and manufacturing support, to meet the federal government's [Operation Warp Speed](#) (OWS) goals.

The Phase 3 vaccine efficacy trial, known as COVE, was begun under OWS, a multi-agency collaboration led by HHS and the Department of Defense that aims to accelerate the development, manufacturing and distribution of medical countermeasures for COVID-19.

The [Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines \(ACTIV\)](#) partnership advised on the trial protocol design and endpoints to ensure a harmonized approach across multiple vaccine efficacy trials. The partnership brings NIH together with other HHS agencies and government partners and representatives from academia, philanthropic organizations, and numerous biopharmaceutical companies to develop a coordinated research strategy for prioritizing and speeding development of the most promising treatments and vaccines.

More than 30,000 participants at 100 clinical research sites in the United States are participating in the study, which [launched on July 27, 2020](#), after [results from earlier stage clinical testing](#) indicated that the vaccine candidate is well-tolerated and immunogenic. Recognizing the disproportionate impact of the epidemic on underrepresented minority populations, investigators worked with community engagement partners to enroll a diverse pool of participants. 37% of trial volunteers are from racial and ethnic minorities.

The COVE trial is sponsored by Moderna. BARDA and NIAID are providing funding and technical support for the trial. Twenty-five NIH-funded [COVID-19 Prevention Network](#) sites enrolled participants in the trial.

As part of the arrangement under OWS, representatives from NIAID, BARDA and Moderna are part of the oversight group that receives recommendations from the trial's independent DSMB. The same DSMB also oversees the additional OWS-supported Phase 3 clinical trials evaluating COVID-19 vaccine candidates.

The co-principal investigators for the study are Hana M. El Sahly, MD, principal investigator of the NIAID-funded Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium site at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston; Lindsey R. Baden, MD, principal investigator of the NIAID-funded Harvard HIV Vaccine Clinical Trials Unit at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston; and Brandon Essink, MD, principal investigator and medical director of Meridian Clinical Research.

More detailed information about the trial, including more comprehensive data, will be available in a forthcoming report. For more information about the trial, visit [clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov) and search identifier [NCT04470427](#).

About the COVID-19 Prevention Network: The COVID-19 Prevention Network (CoVPN) was formed by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the U.S. National Institutes of

Health to respond to the global pandemic. Through the CoVPN, NIAID is leveraging the infectious disease expertise of its existing research networks and global partners to address the pressing need for vaccines and antibodies against SARS-CoV-2. CoVPN will work to develop and conduct studies to ensure rapid and thorough evaluation of vaccines and antibodies for the prevention of COVID-19. The CoVPN is headquartered at the [Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#). For more information about the CoVPN, visit: [coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org](https://coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org).

About HHS, ASPR, and BARDA: HHS works to enhance and protect the health and well-being of all Americans, providing for effective health and human services and fostering advances in medicine, public health, and social services. The mission of ASPR is to save lives and protect Americans from 21st century health security threats. Within ASPR, BARDA invests in the innovation, advanced research and development, acquisition, and manufacturing of medical countermeasures – vaccines, drugs, therapeutics, diagnostic tools, and non-pharmaceutical products needed to combat health security threats. To date, BARDA-supported products have achieved 55 FDA approvals, licensures or clearances. To learn more about federal support for the nationwide COVID-19 response, visit [www.coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov).

About Operation Warp Speed: OWS is a partnership among components of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense, engaging with private firms and other federal agencies, and coordinating among existing HHS-wide efforts to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.

This news release was [first published](#) on the National Institutes of Health website on November 16, 2010.

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