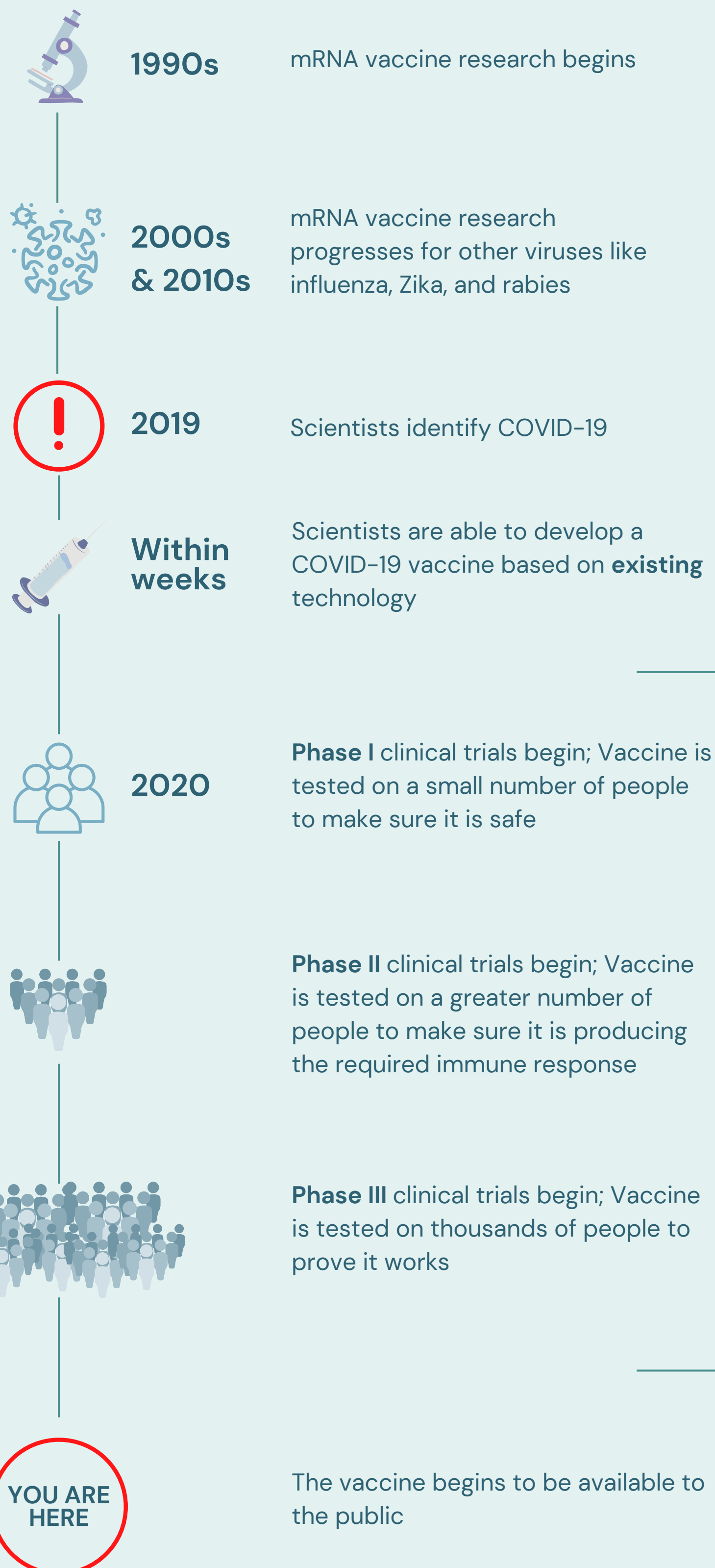


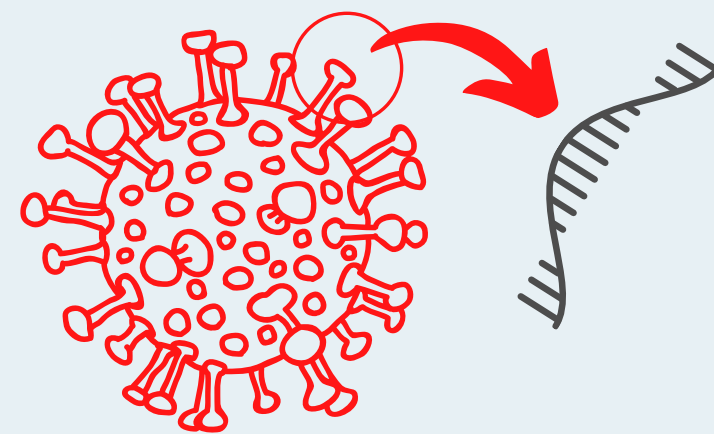
COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine FAQ

How was the COVID-19 vaccine developed?

Although COVID-19 is a new virus, scientists have been developing the mRNA technology behind the COVID-19 vaccines for decades.



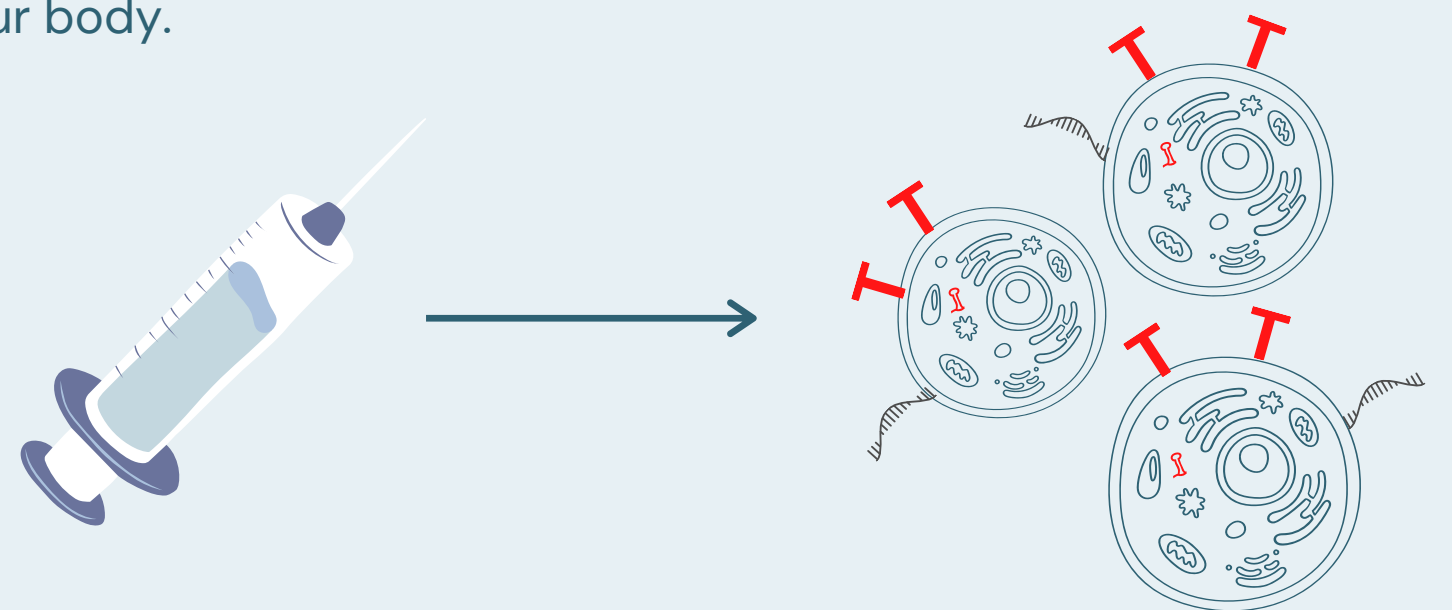
How does the COVID-19 vaccine work?



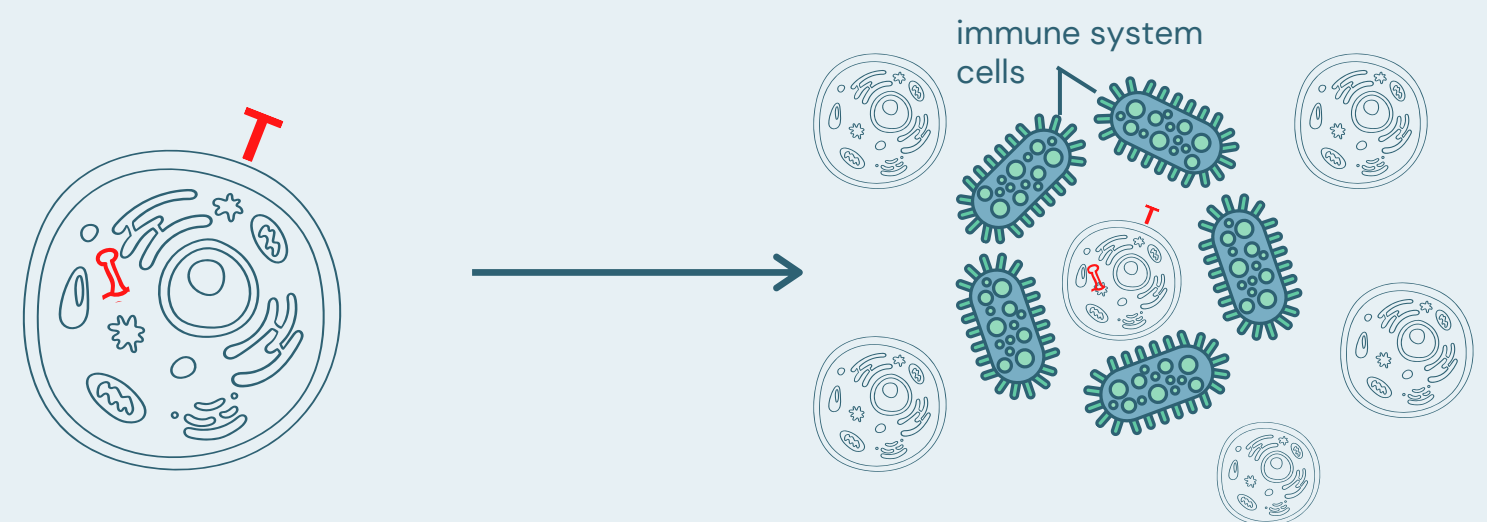
COVID-19

Scientists focus on the genetic sequence for the virus's "spike" protein. This is used to synthesize an mRNA sequence – instructions that cells can use to make the "spike" protein

When you get your injection the vaccine particles bump into cells inside your body and bind to them, releasing the mRNA that was enveloped inside the vaccine. Your cells read the mRNA sequence and build spike proteins. The mRNA from the vaccine eventually goes away on its own, leaving no permanent trace in your body.



After your cells make the spike protein it triggers an immune system response, just like if you were exposed to COVID-19.



Then, if you are exposed to the virus after being vaccinated, your body's immune system will recognize the spike protein and fight the infection.

These vaccines benefit from decades of prior virus research and have followed all of the standard stages of development. These vaccines had to complete each phase of a clinical trial and no stages of development were skipped.

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine FAQ

How do I know the vaccine will work for me?



- Both of the vaccines authorized by the FDA have been found to be >94% effective in clinical trials.
- The clinical trials included a diverse group of people to make sure the vaccine was effective for everyone. Check out the data to the right!
- It is your decision whether to get the vaccine. We encourage you to talk to your primary care provider or other trusted health care team member about your specific health and medication concerns.

Geographic and Age Diversity of Clinical Trials

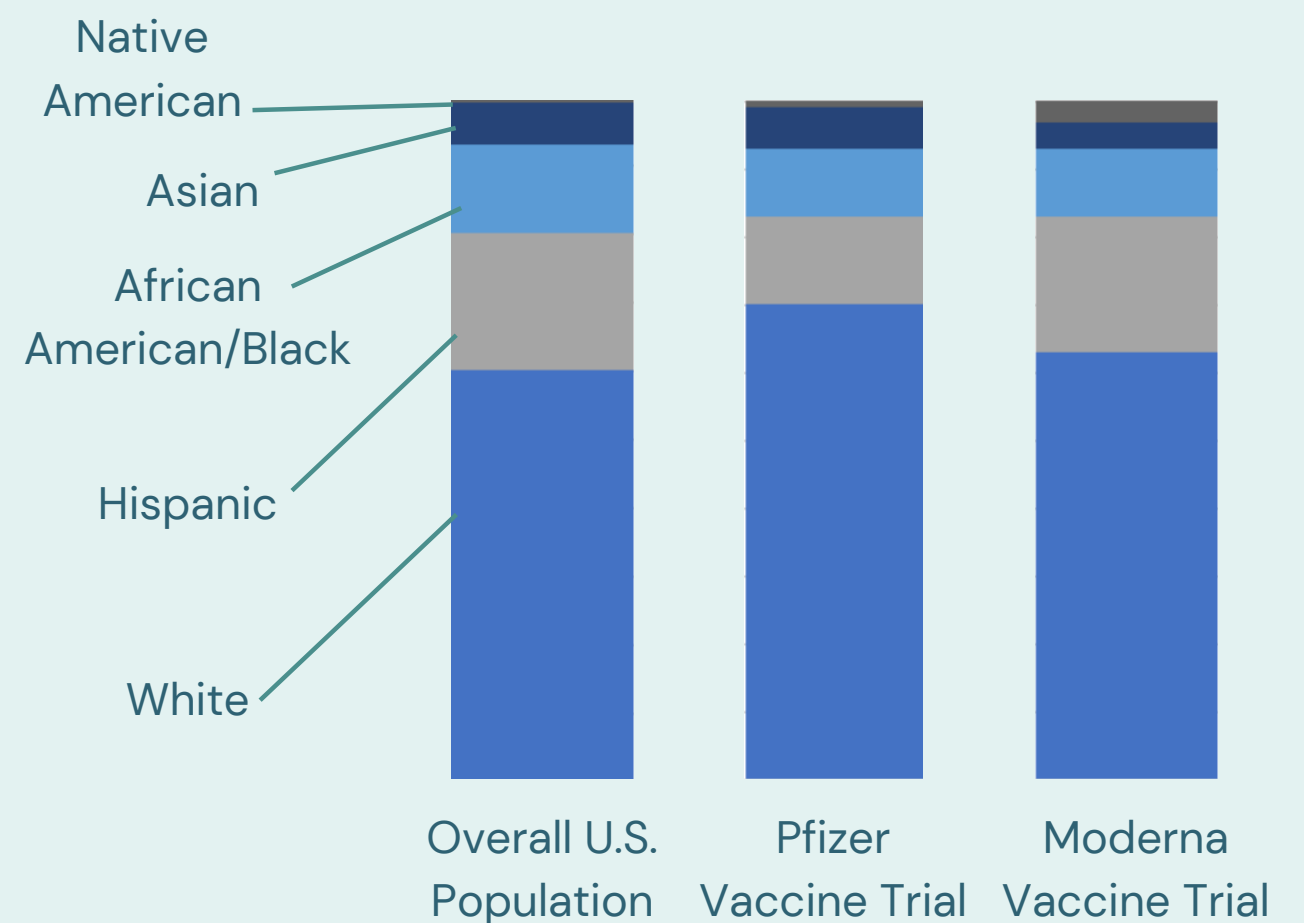
Pfizer Vaccine

- 46,331 enrolled in the vaccine trial as of 2/16/21
- 150 clinical sites across 39 U.S. states
- 39% ages 56–85 years

Moderna Vaccine

- 30,000 enrolled in the vaccine trial as of 2/16/21
- 89 clinical sites across 32 U.S. states
- 24.8% ages 65+ years

The clinical trials were racially diverse and comparable to the diversity of the general population.



What should I expect after I get the vaccine?

Side effects after vaccination such as fever, fatigue, headache, and muscle aches are expected. These side effects are evidence that the vaccine is working as it should be and the body is building immunity! These symptoms typically resolve within 24–48 hours.

It takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. A person could be infected with COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

This is why it is important to **continue to social distance, wash hands, and wear masks even after vaccination.** For more information about COVID-19 and the vaccine, visit here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>

