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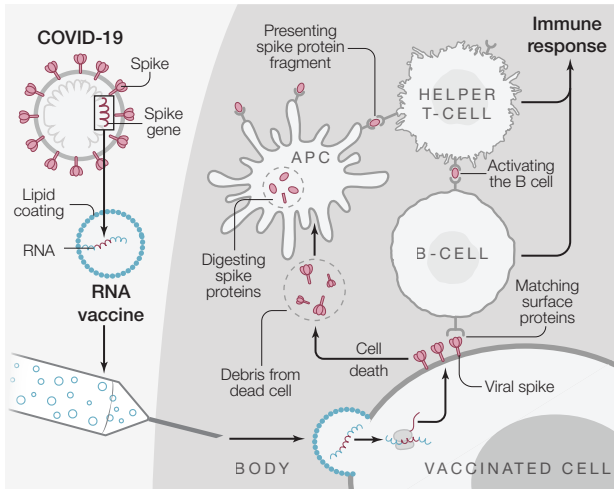
Messenger RNA vaccines against SARS-CoV-2

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NAME

Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccines

APPROVED FOR

Emergency authorization, ages 16 and older, vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 infection

TYPE

mRNA in lipid nanoparticles

MOLECULAR TARGETS

The viral spike (S) glycoprotein

CELLULAR TARGETS

The vaccine induces B cell production of antibodies to the virus's spike protein. T cells are also elicited, particularly CD4+ and CD8+ against the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

EFFECTS ON TARGETS

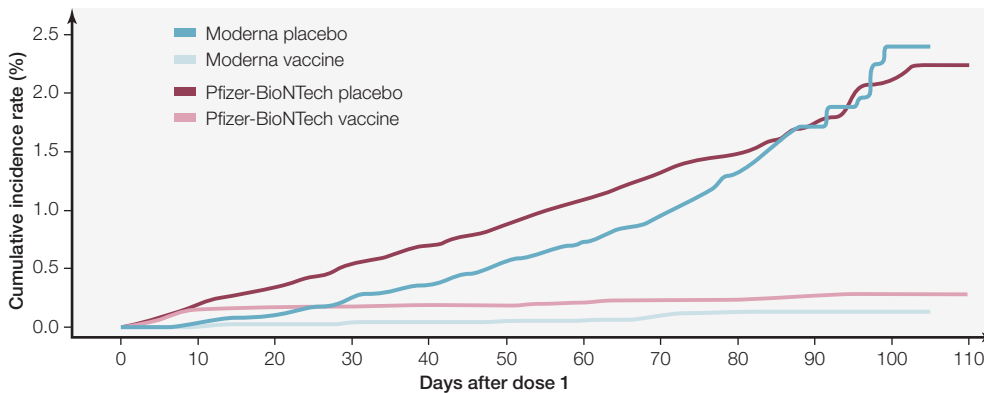
Antibodies bind to target sites on the SARS-CoV-2 surface glycoprotein and either neutralize it or inactivate virions for destruction and clearance by the immune system.

DEVELOPED BY

BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna/NIH VRC

The first two vaccines proven to be effective for inhibiting COVID-19 illness were both mRNA, achieving 95% efficacy (and safety) among 74,000 participants (half receiving placebo) after intramuscular delivery of two shots, 3–4 weeks apart.

Vaccine efficacy



Global impact of COVID-19

(as of Dec. 16, 2020)



>73M infected

>1.6M deaths



References for further reading are available with this article online: [www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(20\)31761-X](http://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(20)31761-X)

