

Topic: COVID-19 Vaccine

The goal of a vaccination is to stimulate the production of antibodies and thereby provide immunity to a specific disease. Vaccines are created from a causative agent of a disease that resembles a disease-causing microorganism. Vaccines can be produced in a variety of methods by using weakened or killed forms of the microbe, the toxins it produces, or one of its surface proteins¹. The typical vaccine development period is a long, complex process consisting of multifarious stages of development and clinical trials. This process contains extreme regulations, research oversight, development, and testing, which explains why vaccine production lasts ten to fifteen years on average².

Currently, there is no authorized or approved vaccine to prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019. There are currently over 1,262,147 deaths worldwide from COVID-19 making this a serious concern across the globe³. Additionally, this number expected to nearly double to 2,495,769 deaths by the end of February 2021, highlighting the urgency of a vaccine development⁴. While it is imperative that a vaccine is developed as soon as possible, it is also crucial that a proper balance is struck to avoid detrimental long-term ramifications that may be neglected due to the urgency to develop a COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccines are being developed at an unprecedented speed across the globe⁵. Experts, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, believes that a coronavirus vaccine will be available sometime in 2021, possibly even by the end of 2020⁶. This would mean that a vaccine that typically takes over a decade to develop may be produced in a single year. This astonishing speed of development has raised safety concerns around cutting corners for many individuals worldwide. The World Health Organization considers vaccine hesitancy to be a serious threat to global health⁷. In a recent nationally representative survey, nearly half of Americans said they would not get a coronavirus vaccine when one becomes available citing safety concerns⁸. Unfortunately, this is a serious public health concern which no country can not conquer alone.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/vpd-vac-basics.html>

² <https://www.historyofvaccines.org/index.php/content/articles/vaccine-development-testing-and-regulation>

³ <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

⁴ <https://covid19.healthdata.org/global?view=total-deaths&tab=trend>

⁵ <https://www.clinicaltrialsarena.com/comment/covid-19-vaccine-development-across-the-globe/>

⁶ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-8841009/US-general-public-able-covid-vaccines-APRIL-Fauci-says.html>

⁷ https://www.who.int/health-topics/vaccines-and-immunization#tab=tab_1

⁸ <https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/05/health/covid-19-vaccine-willingness-cnn-poll-wellness/index.html#:~:text=CNN%20poll%3A%2056%25%20of%20Americans%20willing%20to%20receive%20COVID%20vaccine&text=If%20a%20Covid%2D19%20vacine,poll%20findings%20released%20on%20Monday.>

In addition to the safety concerns, there are a variety of other questions to consider when writing your topic paper including:

- Should any country or countries get the vaccine before others? If so what factors should be taken into account in deciding that?
- When a coronavirus vaccine is discovered, there will be a limited quantity available. What factors will determine which person receives a vaccine over another?
- While the older people are most susceptible to COVID-19, vaccines are also least effective on older people⁹. Especially considering the speed at which the vaccine is being developed, how does WHO ensure both its efficacy and safety on a global scale?
- Additionally, how will we ensure effective distribution of the vaccine? Should socioeconomic statuses be taken into account? How will fair vaccine distribution be enforced?

It is your job as delegates of the World Health Organization to research the issue, come prepared, and work together with your fellow delegates to protect the health of the individuals in this world. Please do not limit your research to these questions alone. Make sure to understand your specific country's current policy and stance on this issue. Most importantly, ensure you have several creative and comprehensive theories to solve this quandary.

Just as a reminder, you are here to represent your country's views regardless of whether they are your own. Additionally, all papers will be submitted to Turnitin to ensure that your work is in fact your own work.

Best of luck,
Jason Jubas
Chair of WHO
YUNMUN XXXI

⁹<https://theconversation.com/why-vaccines-are-less-effective-in-the-elderly-and-what-it-means-for-covid-19-141971>