

COVID-19
Prevention Network

COVID-19 Vaccines are here!

Issues for Older Adults and those who care for them

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**Background:
we are a community in mourning**



Long term care is in mourning and in crisis

WHAT WE HAVE LOST:

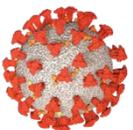
- Health care workers in the US are under stress
- 1,177 deaths (CDC); 2,900 deaths (twitter) AND RISING

Long term care is the center of the pandemic

- Washington state: 13,338 cases, 1,162 deaths in 9 months.
- LTC deaths are 52% of Washington state deaths

A DARK WINTER:

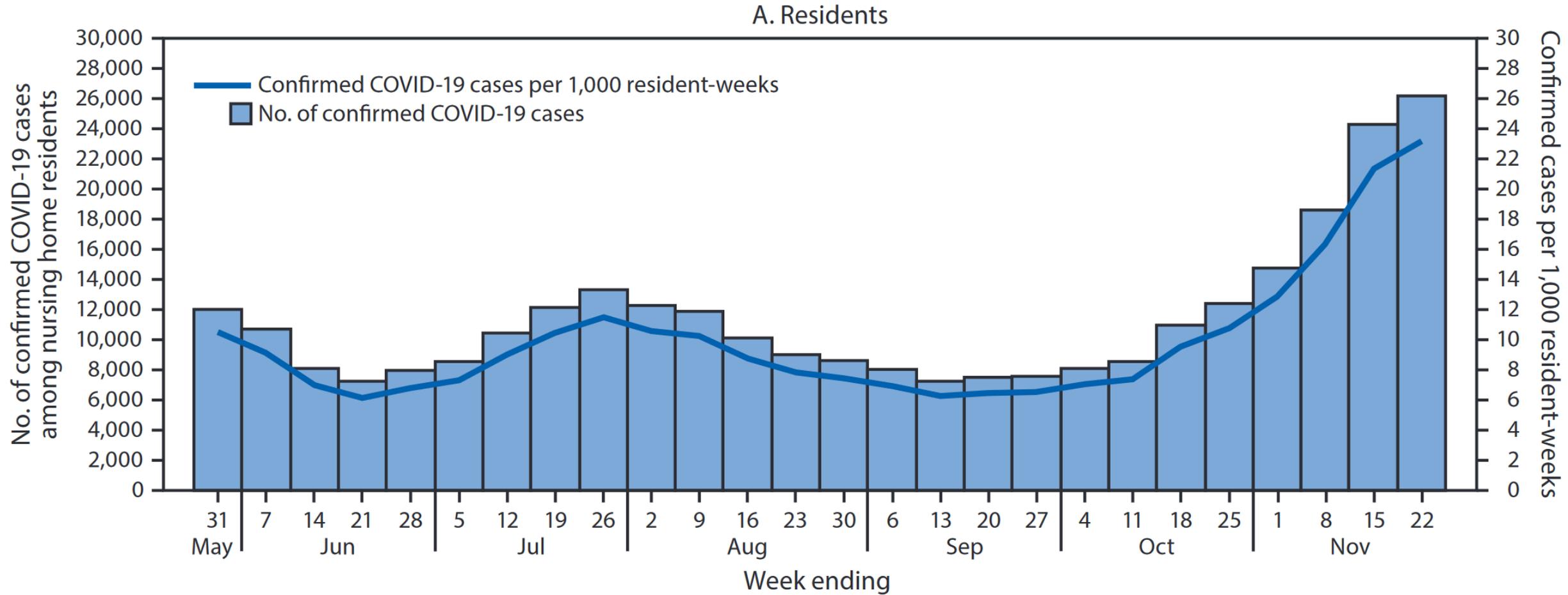
- We are in the middle of a second surge of cases. Despite PPE, training, and testing, ***LTC in Washington continue to be hardest hit with COVID-19***



Sources: CDC.gov, updated 1/3/2021

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/data-tables/Weekly-COVID-19-Long-Term-Care-Report.pdf> 1/4/2021

FIGURE. COVID-19 cases* per 1,000 resident-weeks[†] among nursing home residents (A) and staff members (B) — United States, May 25–November 22, 2020

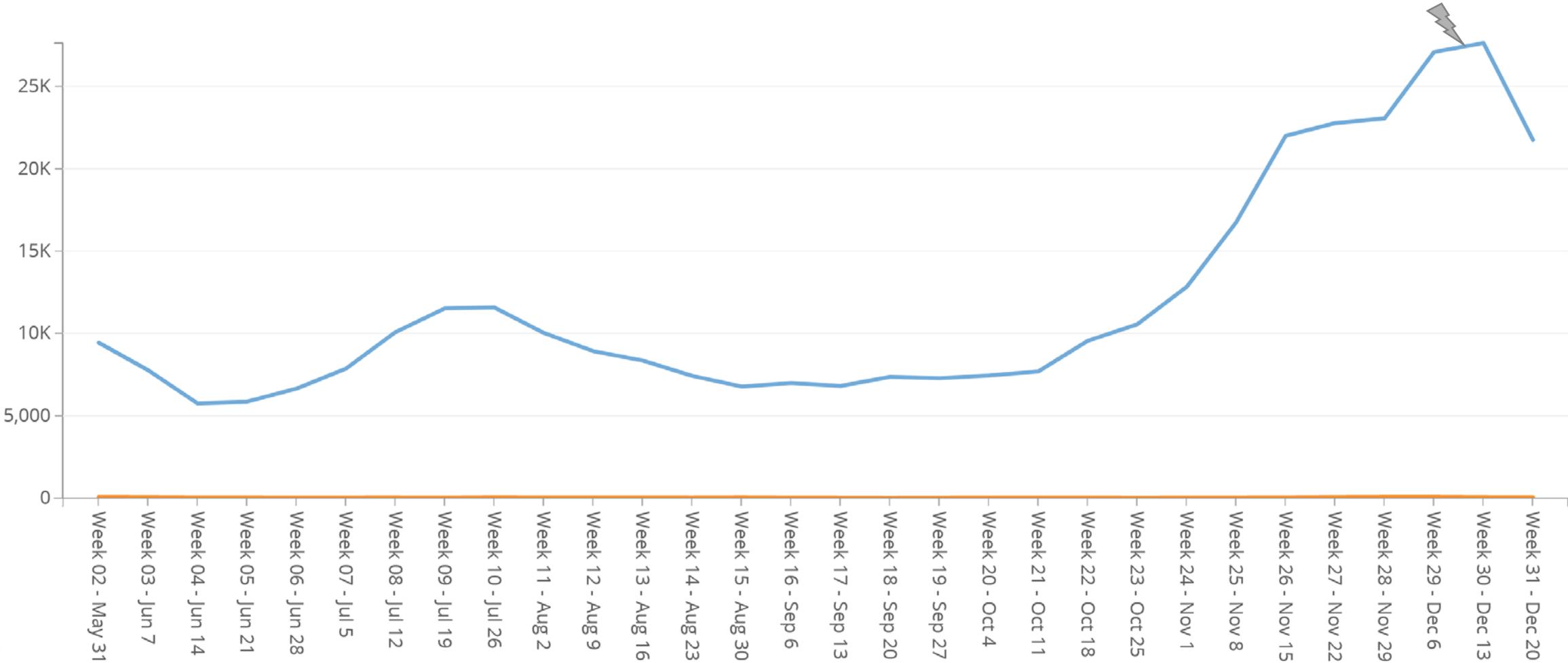


US Long term care staff cases of Covid-19

Weekly Staff COVID-19 Confirmed Cases and Deaths

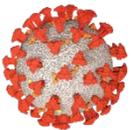
Note: The most recent week's data is considered preliminary and will be updated the following week.

25,000 staff members with Covid-19 in ONE WEEK!!



Vaccines represent hope for all of us

- Safe and effective vaccines will protect workers and patients
- Safe and effective vaccines will stop deaths among workers and patients
- Safe and effective vaccines will allow families to visit again
- Safe and effective vaccines will end the pandemic as soon as we can get them to a majority of people



What does the research show?

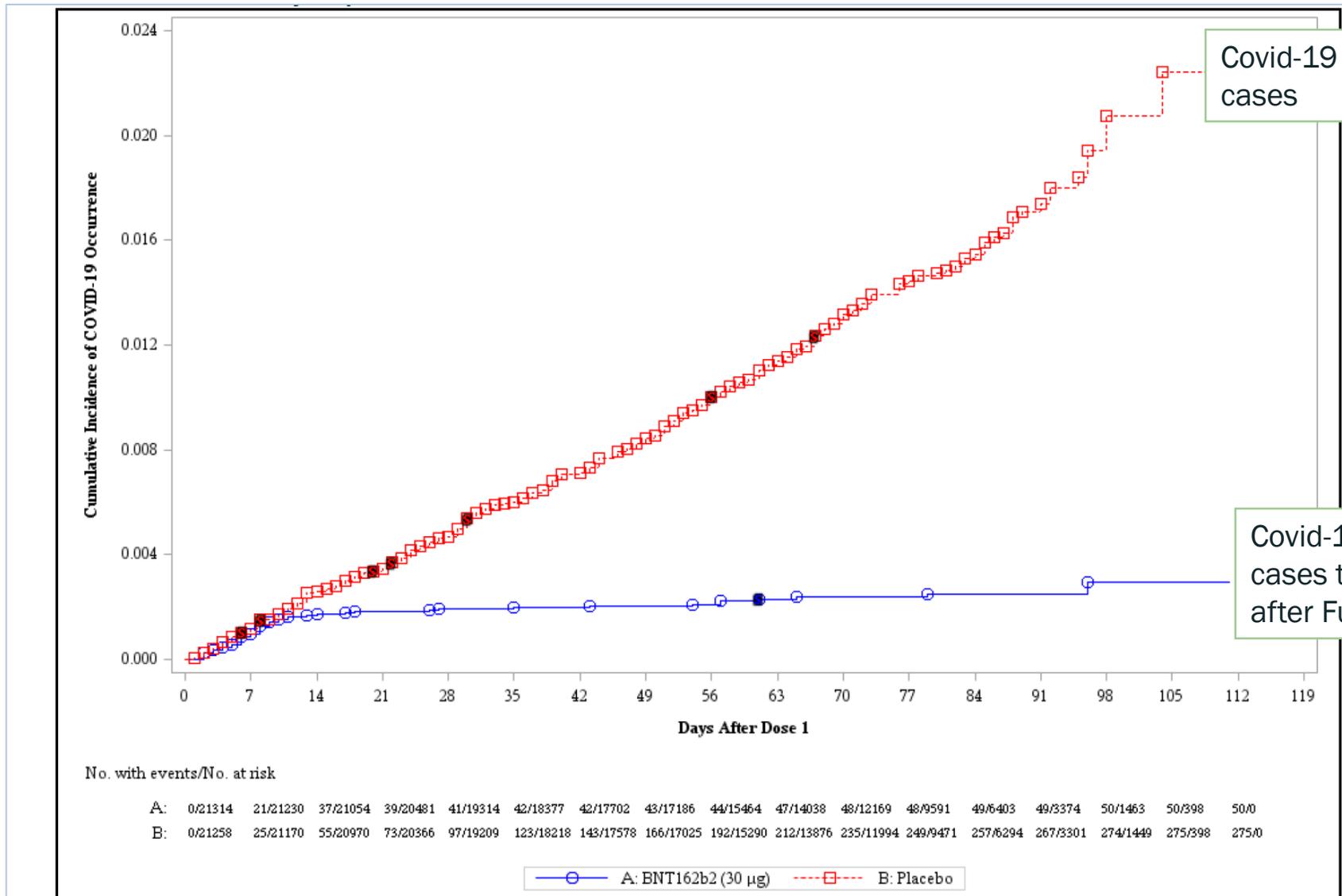


We have 2 amazing vaccines under EUA

- **Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been examined by the FDA and are approved for use under an EUA**
- **Both vaccines went through all 3 stages of clinical trials:**
 - Phase 1: safety – Is it safe in healthy people?
 - Phase 2: is it safe in all types of people? Does it appear effective?
 - Phase 3: efficacy – Does it work in a large group of people?
- **Both vaccines underwent the most rigorous testing, which is a placebo-controlled randomized controlled trial**
- **Warp Speed: speed does not mean shortcuts – fast because better funding, less red tape**



Pfizer: Covid-19 infection over time



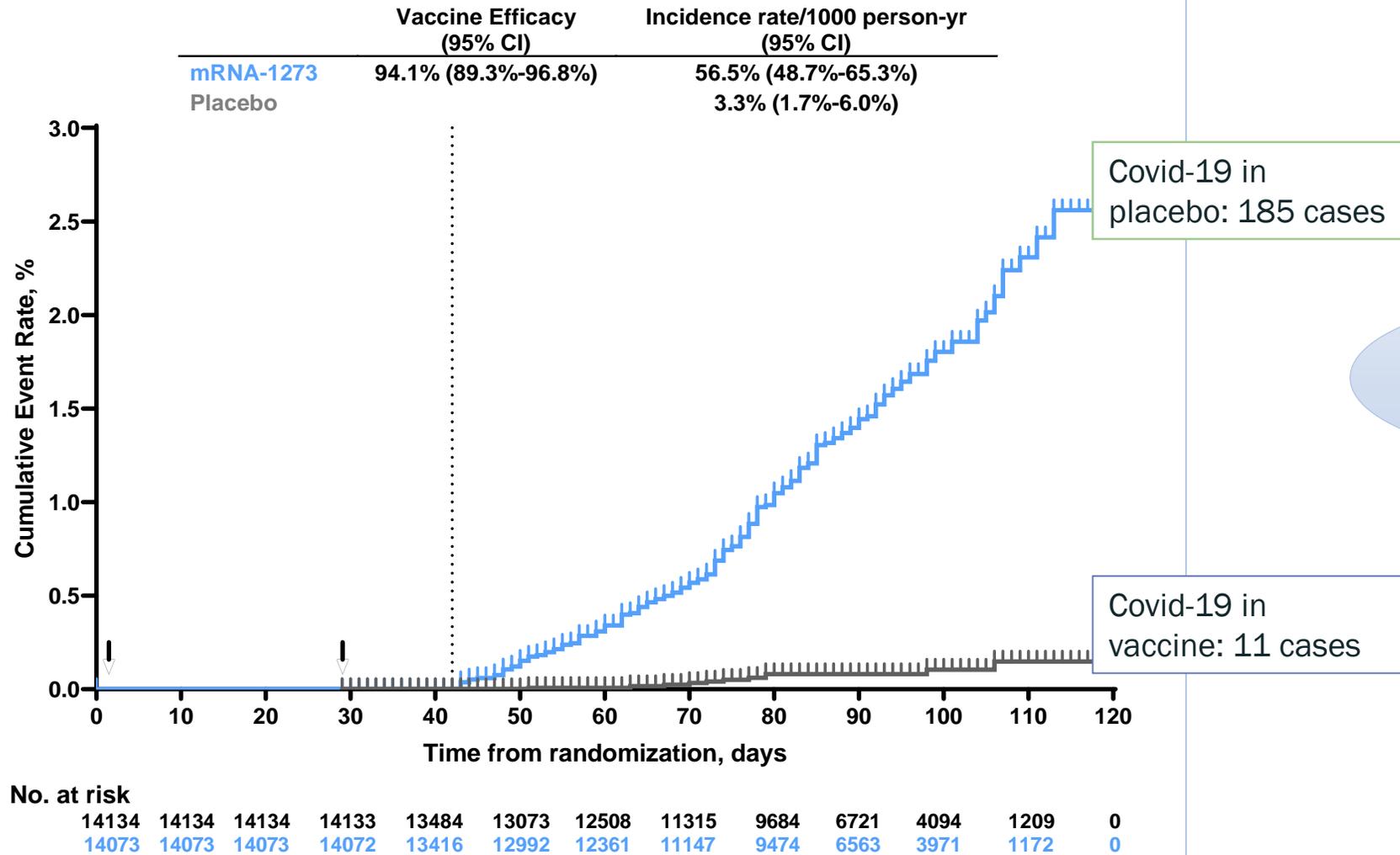
Covid-19 in placebo: 275 cases

OVERALL EFFICACY: 95%

Covid-19 in vaccine: 50 cases total, 9 cases after Full Immunization

38,000 participants tested!

Moderna: Covid-19 infections over time



**OVERALL
EFFICACY:
94.1%**

28,200
participants
tested!

Cumulative incidence of Covid-19 events starting 14 days after the 2nd vaccination.

? How do mRNA vaccines work?

mRNA vaccines give your body the information needed to defend against a virus.

1



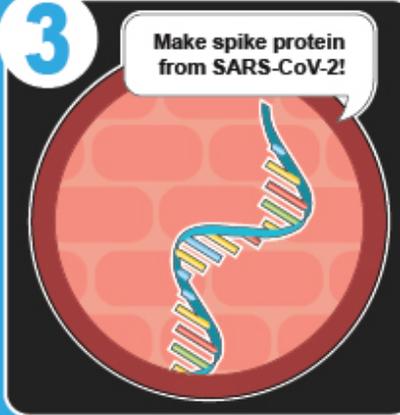
mRNA has instructions for making the spike protein from SARS-CoV-2

2



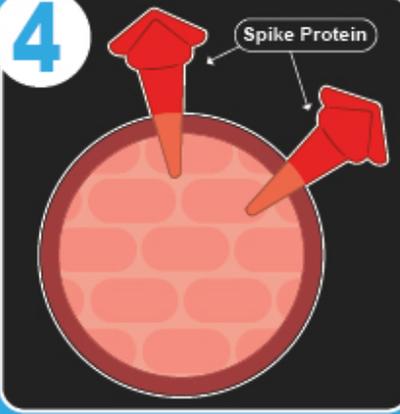
mRNA enters a human muscle cell through an injection

3



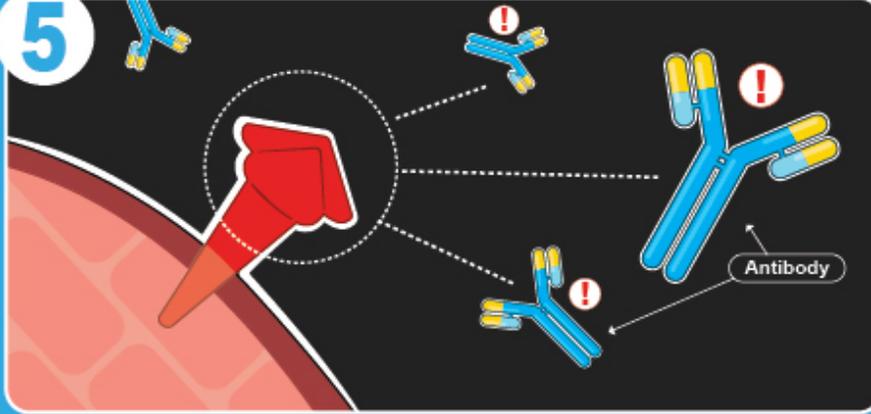
mRNA in the cell delivers the instructions to make the spike protein. It lasts about 24 hours

4



Cell makes spike protein and displays it on the surface for about 3 days

5



Immune system sees the spike protein, recognizes it as foreign, and creates an immune response to prevent disease

mRNA vaccines are not new

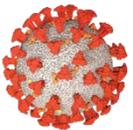
The National Institutes of Health have been working on mRNA vaccines for 17 years

This technology has previously been used to make vaccines for other diseases, although the Covid-19 vaccines are the first with FDA EUA.

It's a technology that allows for rapid development of vaccines – perfect for new diseases like Covid-19.



Dr. Barney Graham and Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett at NIH, researchers who developed the mRNA vaccine *(photo credit NIH Record.nih.gov)*



Research continues on other vaccines

7 billion people on earth need access to vaccines to end the Covid-19 pandemic... so research continues

3 other major vaccine trials are underway:

- **AstraZeneca vaccine:** attenuated adenovirus vector, some preliminary evidence shows efficacy, trials are ongoing
- **Janssen vaccine:** attenuated adenovirus vector; 45,000 participants, results anticipated in late January
- **Novavax vaccine:** protein-adjuvant system, 30,000 person trial starting now
- Multiple other vaccines in development
- Research needed for children and adolescents, pregnant women



Questions and Answers about Covid-19 vaccines



Were vaccines tested on people like me?

YES

Vaccine trials included all adults >18 years of age

25% of participants mandated to be >65 years of age

Study participants included at least 25% of people with high blood pressure, diabetes, HIV, and cancer

No exclusions for disease, medications, except immune suppression

Exception: Unfortunately, the vaccine studies did not include pregnant people



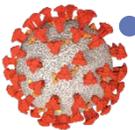
What types of reactions have been reported after vaccine dose?

Common reactions: sore arm, headache, aches, fever, <48 hours

- **Similar to reactions after Shingrix, influenza vaccines**

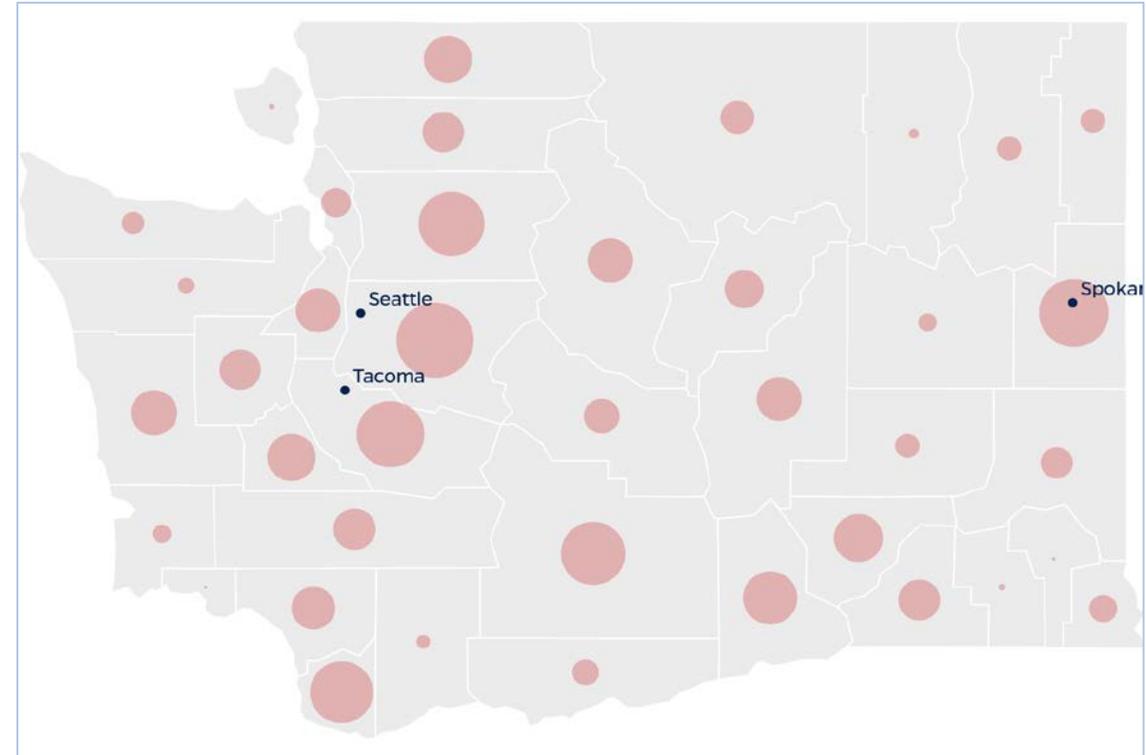
Rare reactions:

- **anaphylaxis: Pfizer: *21 cases with 2 million doses delivered***
- **Current recommendation: 15 minutes of observation post-dose**
- **If you have a history of severe allergies or anaphylaxis, recommend discussion with your provider and 30 minutes of observation after receiving the vaccine**
- **People with allergies, anaphylaxis have received vaccine with no issues**

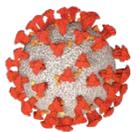


Why should I get vaccine now, v. “wait and see”

- You are not the first: 4 million people have received these 2 vaccines since December
- CDC V-Safe, VAERS are monitoring safety
- Last week in the US: 18,400 people died of Covid-19, and cases are rising
- Vaccines take 4-5 weeks to protect you fully (2 doses)
- New Covid-19 strains are more contagious



Johns Hopkins Coronavirus website 1/6/2021: New cases of COVID-19 in Washington



Why is it important for nursing home workers to get the vaccine?

- **Nursing home workers face very high risk of infection due to your role in direct patient care**
- **Nursing home workers are essential – can't work from home, must be out and among people, which is risky**
- **Nursing home workers can bring Covid-19 into the nursing home and infect patients**
- **Despite everything that is being done to protect nursing homes, we have been unable to keep Covid-19 out of nursing homes**
- **Once inside a nursing home, Covid-19 can spread rapidly**



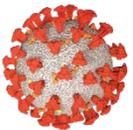
Is the vaccine safe for older adults?

SAFETY DATA show the vaccines are safe

- **Moderna vaccine: 7,512 participants over age 65, no safety concerns**
- **Pfizer vaccine: 15,921 participants over age 55, no safety concerns**

EFFICACY DATA show they are effective

- **Moderna vaccine: 33 cases in people over 65, 29 in placebo group, efficacy estimated at 86%, more data still coming in**
- **Pfizer vaccine: 20 cases in people over 65, 19 in placebo arm, estimated efficacy 93%, more data still coming in**



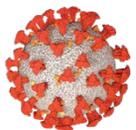
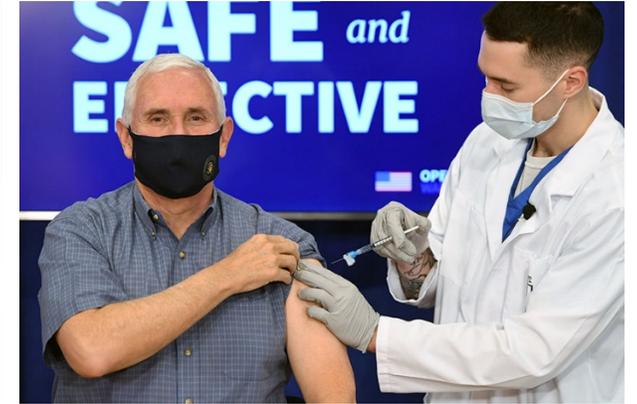
Does mRNA change your DNA?

NO

mRNA is a signal to your cell, it stays in the outer part of cell, it does not enter the nucleus where DNA is located

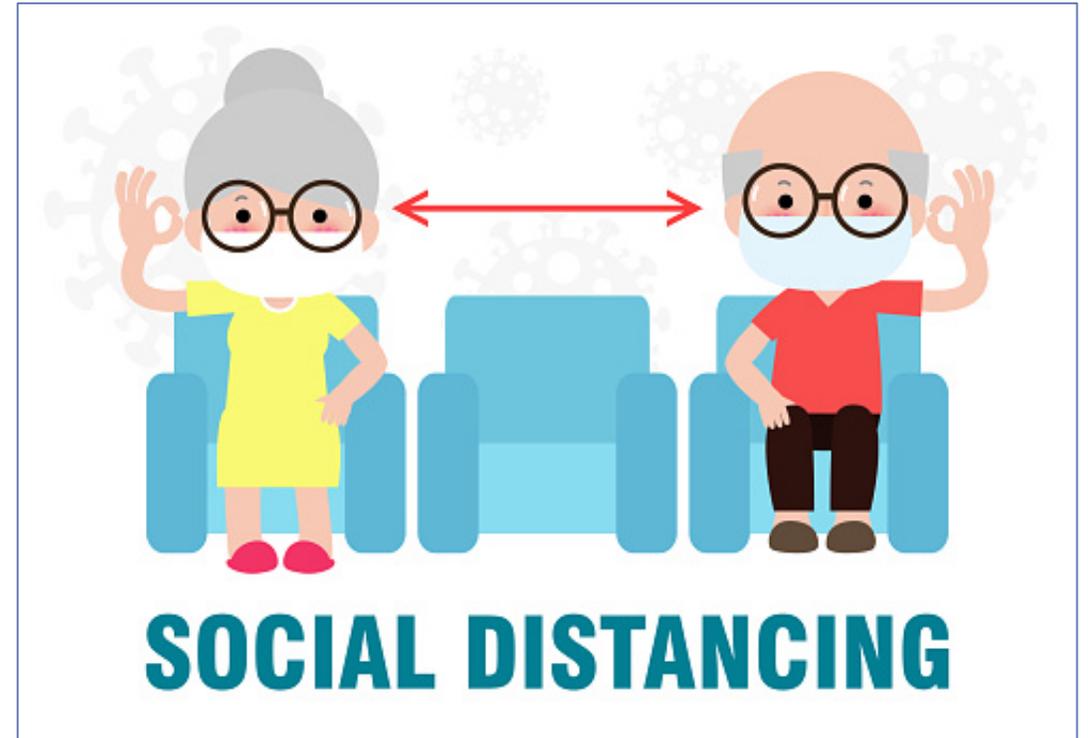
The mRNA in the vaccine is only present in the body for 1-3 days, then it degrades, and the immune system is primed

Other vaccines do the same thing: material enters your body, but only stays a few days



Why do I have to wear a mask after getting immunized to Covid-19?

- The vaccines prevent Covid-19 disease, severe disease, and death
- We do not know if vaccines prevent asymptomatic infection – this was not studied
- Until we know that, we must assume that vaccinated people might get Covid-19 and not know it
- Masks, social distancing still required until we have more information

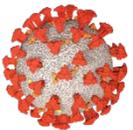


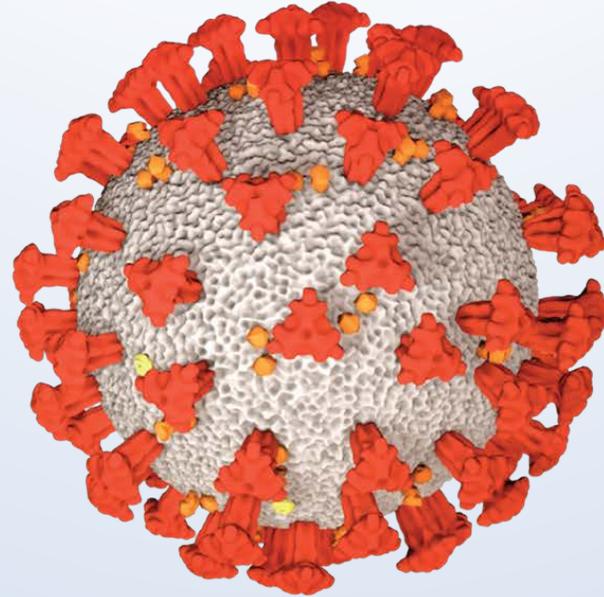
How long does vaccine immunity to Covid-19 last?

- We don't know. Covid-19 is a brand-new human disease, we will need more time to determine how long vaccine responses last

How will viral mutations affect Covid-19 vaccines?

- We don't know. Scientists are actively tracking this. Viral mutation is always possible, so scientists factored this in when creating the vaccines.
- Flattening the curve and reducing infections also reduces the possibility of viral mutation





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