The different types of COVID-19 vaccines



Vaccines will play a major role in ending the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 vaccines have already been proven highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalisation and death.

Approach

Viral vector

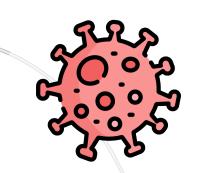
(non-replicating)

Protein subunit

DNA

RNA

Inactivated or attenuated virus



How does it work?

Uses a form of the virus that has been inactivated or weakened so it doesn't cause disease, but still generates an immune response

Uses a virus that has been **genetically engineered** so that it can't cause disease but produces coronavirus proteins to safely generate an immune response

Uses harmless fragments of proteins that mimic the COVID-19 virus to safely generate an immune response

Synthetic **DNA fragment** (plasmid) that encodes a COVID-19 antigen

Typically the RNA segment of the viral genome that codes for the virus spike protein (or other antigenic region) is prepared in a suspension of lipid nanoparticles

SARS-CoV-19 vaccines*

Sinopharm, Sinovac Similar vaccines

Cholera, Polio, MMR, Yellow fever, TBC

Gamaleya Research Inst. (Sputnik V), AstraZeneca and Univ. Oxford, CanSino Biological Inc.,

Ebola

EpiVacCorona, Novavax

Johnson & Johnson

Seasonal influenza, Hepatitis B, Tetanus

Inovio None (new tech)

Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, Curevac None (new tech)

What else do vaccines contain?

Adjuvants

Lipid nanoparticles (NLPs), present in RNA vaccines only

Why are they there?

To **enhance** the **immune response** and reduce the dose of antigen needed, e.g. by stimulating the body to produce more antibodies or a longer-lasting immune response

Encapsulate and **protect** the RNA and help it enter the body's cells where the RNA can start producing the desired protein that will produce the antigenic response

^{*}Mention here is for illustrative purposes only and does not signify endorsement by the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP).

Other vaccines produced using similar processes may be equallyor more effective or still under trial. Icons designed by Freepik from Flaticon.com.