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8 de mayo de 2020 7:00 GMT-3

# A Look at the Most Promising Candidates for a Covid-19 Vaccine

Drug companies and university scientists are testing scores of possible inoculations.

By Cristin Flanagan, Riley Griffin, Robert Langreth, and John Lauer



▲ An engineer with an experimental Covid-19 vaccine at Sinovac Biotech's facilities in Beijing on April 29. PHOTOGRAPHER: NICOLAS ASFOURI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



From the Issue  
May 11, 2020

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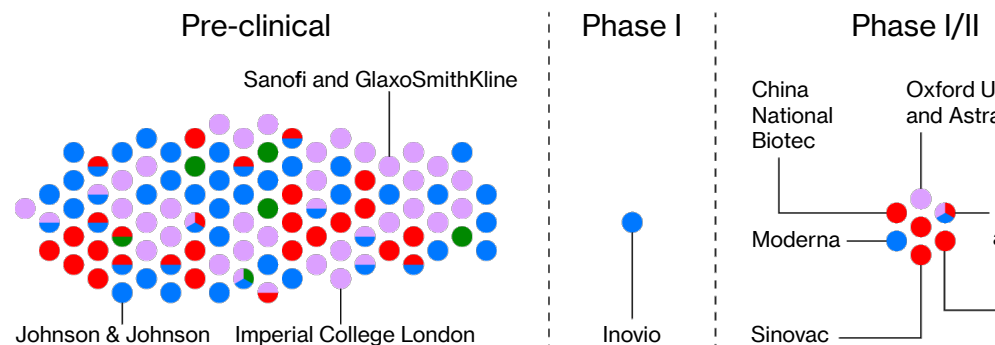
From the U.S. to China to Germany, scientists are working around the clock to find a vaccine against the novel coronavirus. While experts caution that the process will take time—and that it's not even a sure bet one can be found—some researchers say a vaccine could be ready for emergency use by the end of the year. The Trump administration has announced “Operation Warp Speed” to have an inoculation ready as soon as possible.

Most of the programs are in their early stages, meaning the gold standard of data, clinical trials with “blinded” placebo and therapeutic groups, is still a ways off. In normal times, the process to approve a drug or vaccine is slow and painstaking. It can be accelerated but at the risk of incurring unforeseen harm. When rules are loosened in the desire to get a vaccine to market quickly, it's important to cast a skeptical eye on too-good-to-be-true data. It's also possible that more than one usable vaccine could emerge. In the polio epidemic of the 1950s, scientists developed two different kinds, first an injection and later oral drops, to help eradicate the disease.

## One of These Vaccines Might End the Pandemic

Drug companies and university researchers are investigating about 100 experimental inoculations.

● Asia ● Europe ● North America ● Other



Data: World Health Organization, compiled by Bloomberg

### Johnson & Johnson

Working on a \$1 billion-plus effort with the U.S. government to test a vaccine, J&J plans to start human trials by September.

### Inovio

Inovio kicked off its vaccine trial in April; the company is targeting larger studies this summer.

### Moderna

The U.S. government has awarded the company almost \$500 million in funding to develop and test its candidate. A patient trial is under way; early results could be available in late May or June.

### Sinovac

The company says its inoculation can neutralize different strains of the virus.

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**CanSino Biologics**

The Hong Kong-listed company worked alongside China's military to develop a vaccine. It's starting human trials in Wuhan.

**Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline**

Sanofi is testing technology that's already used in a flu shot, with Glaxo providing some of the ingredients. Patient trials could start in the second half of this year.

**Imperial College London**

Researchers have received funding for their vaccine project and aim to begin clinical trials in June.

**China National Biotec**

The Chinese state-owned drugmaker began conducting blinded, placebo-controlled human trials in April.

**Oxford University and AstraZeneca**

AstraZeneca has agreed to make an experimental inoculation developed by researchers at Oxford. Already being studied in humans, it could reach late-stage trials by the middle of the year.

**BioNTech and Pfizer**

The German and American duo launched clinical trials of its vaccine in the U.S. and Europe. If it's successful and approved by regulators, the drugmaker could start distributing the shot on an emergency-use basis in the fall.

*Read more: [After Four Antibody Tests, I'm Still Not Sure I've Had Covid-19](#)*

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