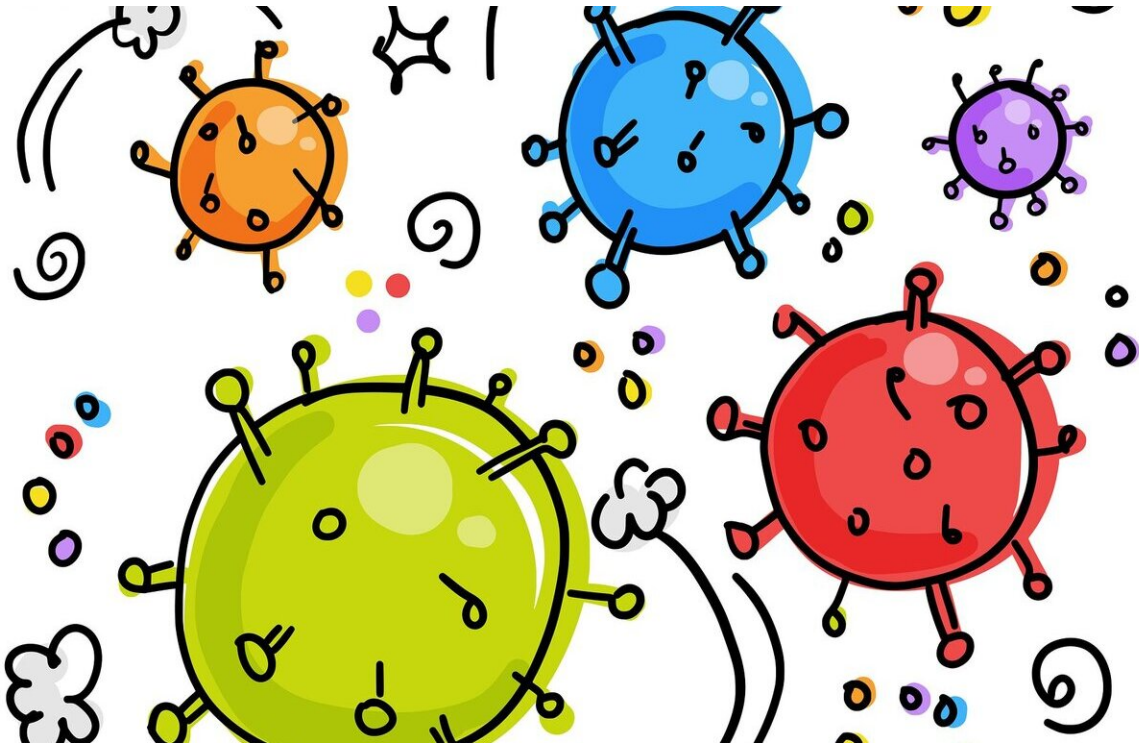


BioNTech says can make mutation-beating vaccine in six weeks

December 22 2020



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

The co-founder of BioNTech said Tuesday it was "highly likely" that its vaccine against the coronavirus works against the mutated strain detected in Britain, but it could also adapt the vaccine if necessary in six weeks.

"Scientifically, it is highly likely that the [immune response](#) by this

vaccine also can deal with the new virus variant," said Ugur Sahin.

But if needed, "in principle the beauty of the messenger technology is that we can directly start to engineer a vaccine which completely mimics this new mutation—we could be able to provide a new vaccine technically within six weeks."

Sahin said the variant detected in Britain has nine mutations, rather than just one as is usually common.

Nevertheless, he voiced [confidence](#) that the vaccine developed with Pfizer would be efficient because it "contains more than 1,000 [amino acids](#), and only nine of them have changed, so that means 99 percent of the protein is still the same".

He said tests are being run on the variant, with results expected in two weeks.

"We have scientific confidence that the [vaccine](#) might protect but we will only know it if the experiment is done... we will publish the data as soon as possible," he added.

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