

Moderna Covid vaccine efficacy falls slightly to 90% in US trial

April 14 2021



A vial of the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine is prepared at the Madejski Stadium in Reading, west of London

US biotech company Moderna announced COVID vaccine is 90 percent effective against all forms of the disease and 95 percent effective against severe disease.

The new results come from its ongoing Phase 3 clinical trial involving more 30,000 people across the United States, and the headline efficacy figure is a slight decrease from an earlier figure of 94.1 percent published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in December.

The new number is based on 900 adjudicated cases of COVID from the study as of April 9, while the previous was based on 185 cases.

A company press release did not indicate why efficacy has fallen, but one reason might be the emergence of new variants of concern which are not as susceptible to antibodies evoked to the vaccine.

Moderna is working on two variant-specific boosters, and said mice studies showed they elicited an increased immune response. The results of these studies have been posted online in a [scientific paper](#) that is now awaiting peer review.

"The new preclinical data on our variant-specific vaccine candidates give us confidence that we can proactively address emerging variants," said CEO Stephane Bancel.

The company said that as of April 12, it has delivered 132 million doses of its [vaccine](#) globally, including approximately 117 million doses to the United States.

It remains on course to deliver its second tranche of 100 million doses by the end of May followed by 100 million more by the end of July.

The [company](#)'s clinical trial for adolescents aged 12 to 17 is now fully enrolled with 3,000 US participants, and its pediatric trial for children aged six months to 11 years is continuing to enroll its 6,750 participants in the United States and China.

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Citation: Moderna Covid vaccine efficacy falls slightly to 90% in US trial (2021, April 14)
retrieved 23 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-04-moderna-covid-vaccine-efficacy-falls.html>

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