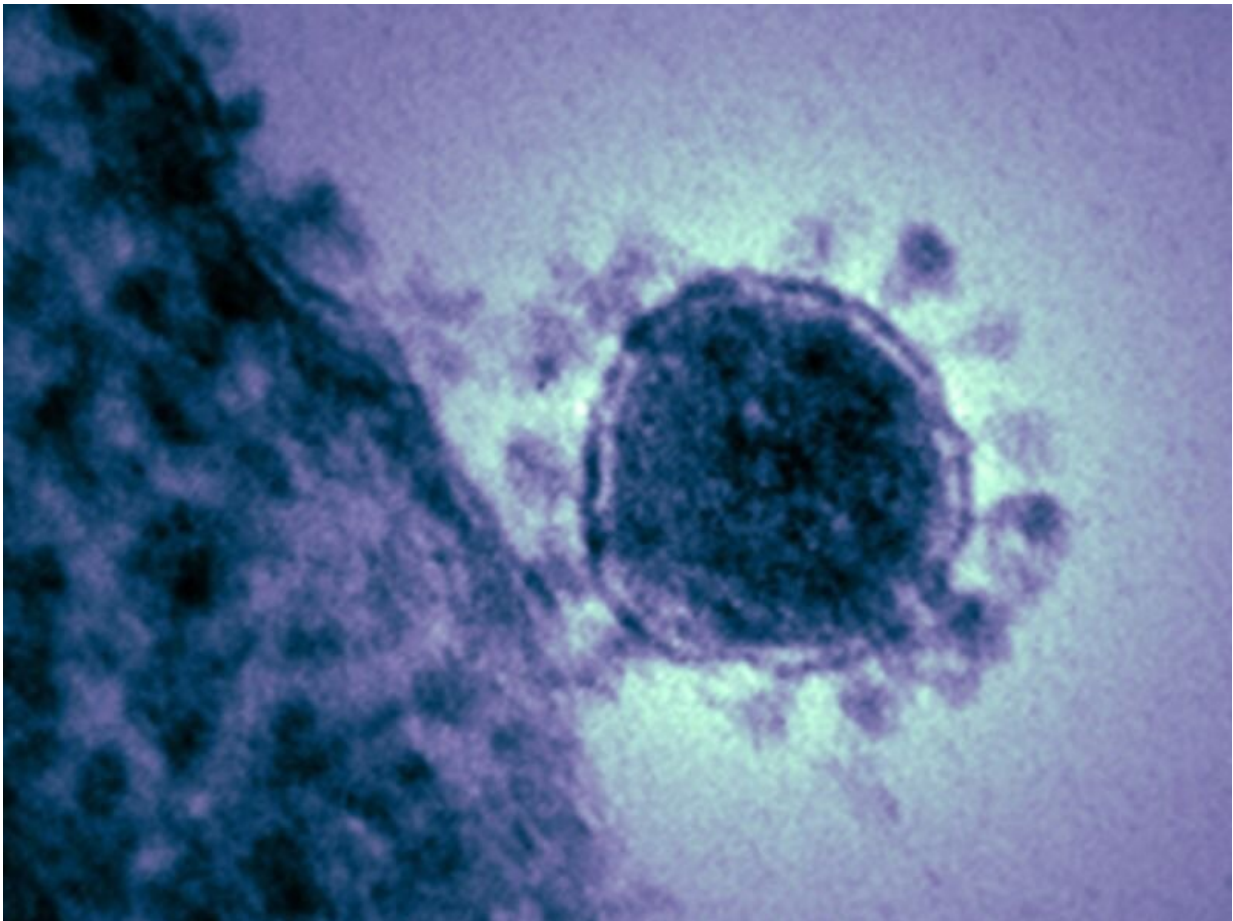


Pfizer and Moderna vaccines effective against new NYC variant

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The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines protect against

serious illness and death from the coronavirus variant first identified in New York City, two new studies show.

The B.1.526 variant was first detected in November and accounted for nearly half of cases diagnosed in the city as of April 13. City officials have said the variant may be more contagious and may be able to avoid the [immune response](#) triggered by the vaccines, *The New York Times* reported. But the two independent studies showed that antibodies stimulated by the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are only slightly less effective against the variant than the original form of the novel coronavirus.

The findings—which have not been peer-reviewed—are based on laboratory experiments with [blood samples](#) from small numbers of vaccinated people, *The Times* reported. The studies add to growing evidence that the two vaccines protect against all coronavirus variants identified so far.

"The take-home message is that the vaccines are going to work against the New York variant and the South African variant and the U.K. variant," Nathan Landau, a virologist at N.Y.U.'s Grossman School of Medicine who led the one of the studies, told *The Times*.

More information: [The New York Times Article](#)

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