



HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

Another Vaccine: Study Finds Novavax Shot Is 90 Percent Effective

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American vaccine maker Novavax says a large study found its COVID-19 shot is 90 percent effective against the coronavirus and several virus **variants**.

The results, announced Monday, were based on late-stage trials involving nearly 30,000 volunteers in the United States and Mexico.

Novavax said the two-shot vaccine was about 90 percent effective and data showed it was safe. The company says it plans to seek emergency approval for the vaccine in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere by the end of September.

It estimates it would then be able to start producing up to 100 million injections a month. The company says it aims to supply 110 million **doses** to the U.S. over the next year and a total of 1.1 billion doses to developing countries.

The vaccine -- which is easy to store and transport -- is expected to play an important part in increasing the availability of shots in the developing world.

“Many of our first doses will go to ... low- and middle-income countries, and that was the goal to begin with,” Novavax Chief Executive Stanley Erck told The Associated Press.

While more than half of the U.S. population has had at least one vaccine injection, less than 1 percent of people in the developing world have had one shot, researcher [Our World In Data](#) reports.

The Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines have already been approved for emergency use in the U.S. and Europe. Europe also uses a vaccine developed by AstraZeneca.

Novavax's study involved nearly 30,000 people ages 18 and up. Two-thirds of subjects received two injections of the vaccine, three weeks apart, with the rest receiving an inactive substance or **placebo**.

There were 77 cases of COVID-19 -- 14 in the group that got the vaccine and the rest in volunteers who received the placebo. None of the people in the vaccine group experienced moderate or severe disease.

The vaccine was similarly effective against several variants. One of the variants first appeared in Britain and is also found in the U.S. It has especially been affecting high-risk populations, including older people and those with other health problems.

Only minor side effects were reported in people taking part in the study, such as head and muscle **aches**, tiredness and pain at the injection site. The company said there were no reports of unusual blood **clots** or heart problems.

Novavax reported its results in a news release. It said it plans to publish the findings in a medical publication to be examined by independent experts.

I'm Bryan Lynn.

The Associated Press and Reuters reported on this story. Bryan Lynn adapted the reports for VOA Learning English. Hai Do was the editor.

Words in This Story

variant – *n.* different in some way from others of the same kind

dose – *n.* the amount of a medicine, drug or vitamin this is taken at one time

placebo – *n.* a substance that is given to a patient in a medical study that has no physical effect

ache – *n.* a feeling or pain over an area of the body that continues for a long time

clot – *n.* (medical) a mass of dried blood that stops blood from flowing through blood vessels

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