



CDC Closely Follows Four COVID-19 Vaccine Candidates

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CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) continues to hold monthly emergency meetings to assist in accelerated COVID-19 vaccine development.

Four vaccine candidates for COVID-19 are currently undergoing clinical development; Moderna's mRNA-1273 vaccine and Pfizer & BioTech's mRNA vaccine are both undergoing phase 3 study, with recommendations from ACIP that these trials should enroll diverse study participants and allow sufficient time to evaluate safety. Post-marketing safety surveillance plans include federal monitoring via several electronic database systems, including the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), an FDA- and CDC-monitored system that covers the entire U.S. population. Additionally, a new VAERS agreement will allow data sharing for American Indian and Alaskan Native populations within Tribal and Indian Health Service facilities.

More broadly, epidemiology data was presented to emphasize the risk of acquiring COVID-19 disease in certain populations; "essential workers", older adults and adults with underlying medical conditions were specifically noted. In congregate settings, like long-term care and correctional facilities, staff are often the first to acquire the disease before long-term care residents and incarcerated individuals. ACIP discussed the potential to lower case rates in these settings by providing immunity to workers.

Finally, ACIP discussed the allocation of a COVID-19 vaccine, including the prioritization of certain groups for the first rounds of distribution. The groups proposed included health care personnel, essential workers, individuals with high risk medical conditions and older adults.

IDSAs will continue to monitor ACIP activities. Please contact Haley Payne, Public Health Policy Manager, at hpayne@idsociety.org with any questions.