

COVID-19 Biomedical Research Update 7

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Friends:

While Colorado battles the devastating effects of the COVID-19 crisis, we thought it beneficial to stay updated on the efforts underway to find treatments and cures.

This recurring summary provides a top-line overview of developments in research to combat and treat COVID-19. The information draws on a range of sources from the U.S. bioscience industry and major news outlets along with government and university institutions. The intent is to support understanding of facts surrounding the search for lasting COVID-19 treatments and vaccines.

Highlights

Six months after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared an international pandemic (on Jan. 30, 2020), the urgent work to find a potential vaccine continues at a furious, unprecedented pace.

- ✓ The number of vaccine candidates being developed continues to climb. There are many dashboards tracking these efforts. For consistency's sake, we have been keeping up with the data provided by the [Milken Institute](#).
 - 205 vaccine candidates are now in the research pipeline. (On April 10 that number was 79). Of those 205 vaccine candidates, six are in Phase III clinical trials.
 - 315 treatment candidates—designed to reduce symptoms of the disease—are being studied. (On April 10 that number was 116).
- ✓ Two firms, Novavax and Vaxart, have drawn [major attention](#) lately and are vying for room at the front of the pack. Data from Novavax, released on Aug. 4, showed that its potential COVID-19 vaccine produced neutralizing antibodies in all 131 healthy participants in the study. Just as important, the vaccine was “well-tolerated” by study participants. Novavax plans to deliver as many as 100 million doses of the vaccine by the end of this calendar year, as long as regulatory approval is granted.
- ✓ The Vaxart vaccine candidate is administered orally. Vaxart is now preparing for a [Phase 1](#) clinical trial following promising results on testing with animals. Both Novavax and Vaxart's work shows that handicappers are watching the whole field, not only those in late-stage (Phase III) testing.
- ✓ In one of the [biggest deals](#) to date, The United States announced in late July that it will pay Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline up to \$2.1 billion to test and produce 100 million doses of an experimental COVID-19 vaccine. Half of the money goes to support further

development of the vaccine and early testing. The other half goes for the first 100 million doses. (There is also an option to buy an additional 500 million doses.) In all, the U.S. government has spent more than \$8 billion on vaccines that may or may not work.

- ✓ [Highly watched](#) Moderna's Phase 3 trial was announced in late July. Some 30,000 adults at 89 clinical research sites around the country will be involved in this Phase III effort. This includes some 1,000 participants from [Colorado](#).
- ✓ Pfizer, working with its partner German company BioNTech, has moved into a combined [Phase II / Phase III](#) trial. If the trial data are promising, Pfizer and BioNTech have said they are on track to seek regulatory review as early as October. If this team of companies receives emergency authorization from the FDA, as many as 100 million doses may be available by the end of the year, and about 1.3 billion by the end of 2021.

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Thank you,

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