Types of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines for COVID-19

Genetic vaccines (nucleic acid vaccines)

Contain a segment of SARS-CoV-2 virus genetic material that codes for a specific protein. Can be DNA or RNA.

Our cells use the genetic material to make the SARS-CoV-2 protein, which is recognised by the immune system to trigger a response.

This response builds immune memory, so your body can fight off SARS-CoV-2 in future.

Considerations

Low cost and fast to develop.

May need to be stored at specific low temperatures.

Examples in human use

Pfizer/BioNTech & Moderna COVID-19 vaccines

In clinical trials for COVID-19

Imperial College London