

Discover & Deliver: Despite Troubling Variants, Encouraging News on Vaccine Effectiveness



As we embark on month 11 of the global pandemic, there was more encouraging vaccination news, with two additional companies reporting positive Phase 3 results.

What's new: Last Thursday, [Novavax announced](#) their vaccine candidate was 89.3% effective against COVID-19 infection, based upon their 15,000 person trial in the UK. Additionally, last Friday, [Johnson & Johnson announced](#) their 43,783 person Phase 3 trial illustrated the vaccine was 66% effective against moderate to severe COVID-19.

While there was much news coverage that both vaccine candidates were less effective against the South African variants of the virus, this overshadows an important detail: the vaccines are extremely effective at preventing the most severe cases of COVID-19 and death.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine demonstrated “complete protection” against hospitalization and death. Likewise, the FDA-authorized vaccines produced by Pfizer and Moderna are [“essentially 100% effective against severe disease.”](#)

What's more, even where the vaccines fail to offer protection from mild to moderate disease, it's important to remember that any efficacy is still better than none, which is where things stood prior to December. As experts have [aptly noted](#), even 50% efficacy for a vaccine is still “a damn sight better than zero.”

What's Next: Today, Johnson & Johnson filed for an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and hopes the EUA will be approved by [early March](#).

Why It matters: In less than a years-time, we are on the cusp of having four safe and effective vaccines to combat COVID-19.

Our [latest interactive map illustrates](#) the research is ongoing: 1,000 clinical trials are currently taking place across all 50 states and in 96% of Congressional Districts.

This continued clinical research – supported by strong IP protection – will be critical to defeating COVID-19 once and for all.

—Kelly Anderson, Senior Director, Health and Drug Policy, Global Innovation Policy Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce