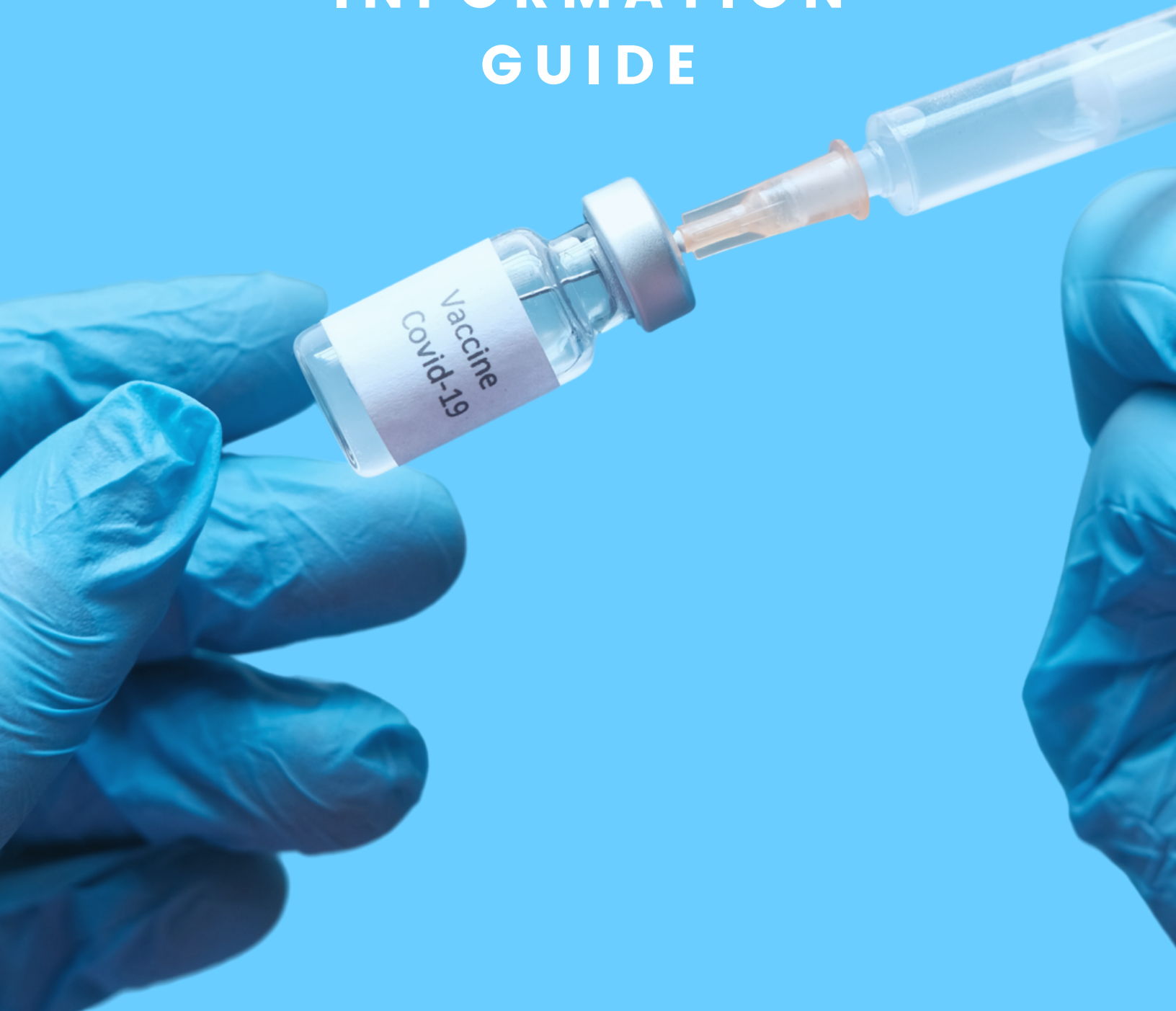


COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION GUIDE

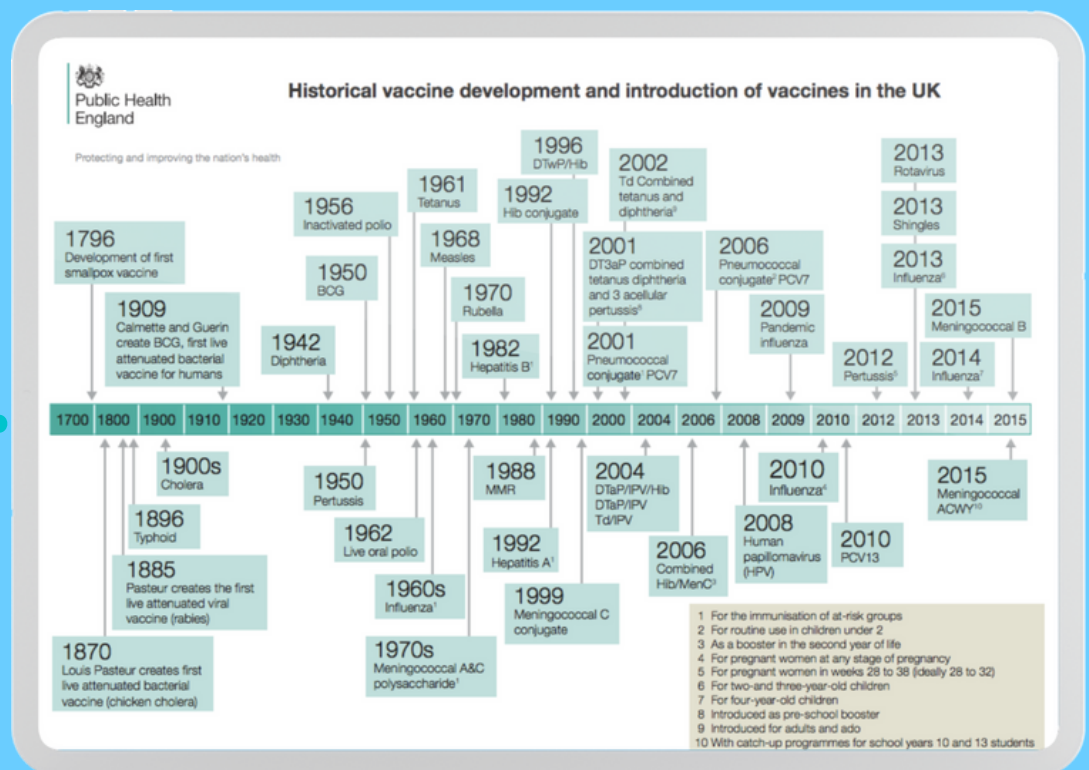


THE MERITS OF VACCINES & THE COVID-19 VACCINES



A GREAT HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT

One could argue that vaccines are one of the greatest human achievements. Prior to the development of the polio vaccines, all people lived with the fear of contracting a virus that could cause permanent paralysis and death. Today, the polio vaccine works so well most people, even doctors have never seen someone who contracted it.



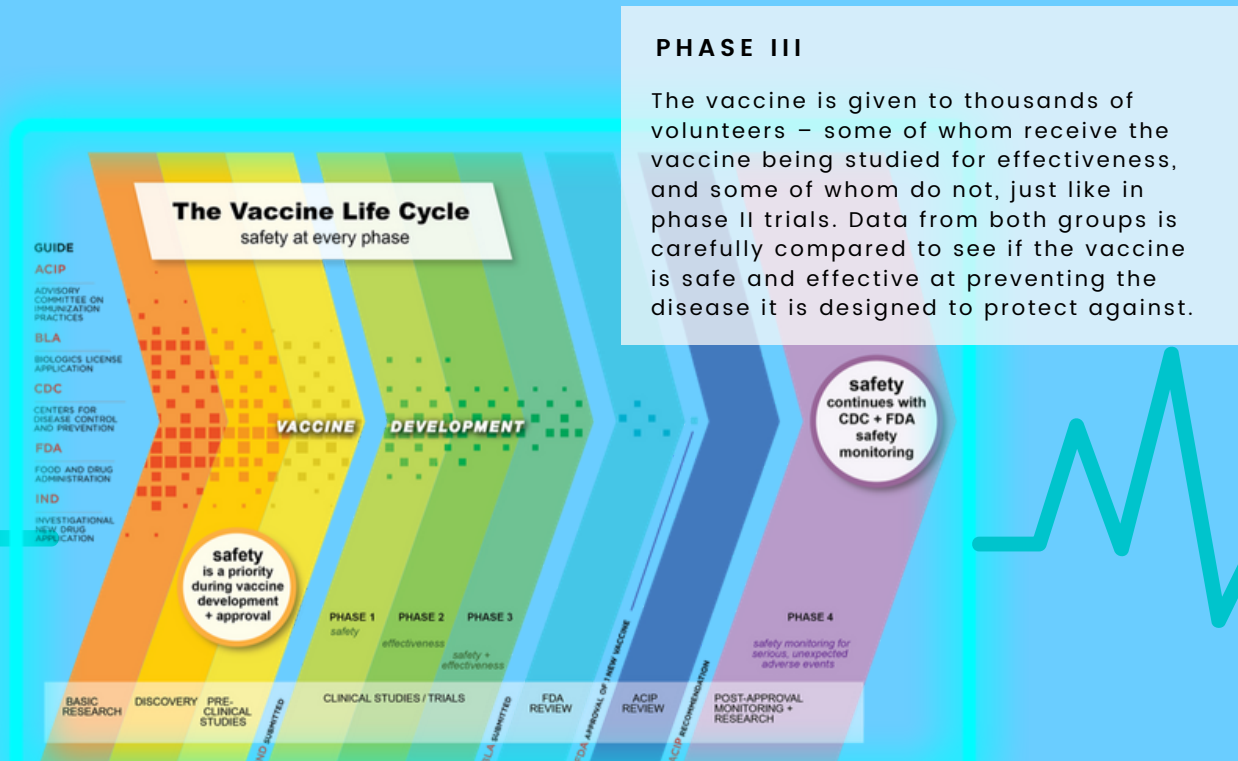
A BRIEF HISTORY OF VACCINES

For more than 200 years medical science has been studying and refining the understanding and production of vaccines to prevent illness and death from deadly infections. By providing our immune systems with weak versions of the actual virus or bacteria or at least a piece of them, our body can develop a defense and protect us if we are exposed.

HOW ARE VACCINES DEVELOPED AND TESTED?

The most commonly used vaccines have been around for decades, with millions of people receiving them safely every year. As with all medicines, every vaccine must go through extensive and rigorous testing to ensure it is safe before it can be used.

A vaccine is first tested in animals to evaluate its safety and potential to prevent disease. It is then tested in human clinical trials, in three phases:



PHASE I

The vaccine is given to a small number of volunteers to assess its safety, confirm it generates an immune response (produces antibodies to prevent the infection), and determine the right dosage.

PHASE II

The vaccine is usually given to hundreds of volunteers, who are closely monitored for any side effects, to further assess its ability to generate an immune response. In this phase, data is also collected to determine whether the infection is actually prevented, but usually not in large enough numbers to have a clear picture of the effect of the vaccine on disease.

Once the results of clinical trials are completed, a series of steps is required, including reviews of efficacy, safety, and manufacturing for regulatory and public health policy approvals, before a vaccine may be used in a national immunization program.

BENEFITS OF GETTING A COVID-19 VACCINE

We understand that some people may be concerned about getting a COVID-19 vaccine now that one has been approved for use in the United States. While this and other COVID-19 vaccines are being developed as quickly as possible, routine processes and procedures remain in place to ensure the safety of any vaccine that is authorized or approved.

COVID-19 VACCINATION WILL BE A SAFER WAY TO HELP BUILD PROTECTION

- COVID-19 vaccines are being carefully evaluated in clinical trials and are authorized or approved only if they protect you and make it substantially less likely you'll get COVID-19.
- Based on what we know from the study of the approved COVID-19 vaccines as well as from the experience of older vaccines for other diseases, getting a COVID-19 shot will keep you from getting seriously ill, even if you were to get exposed.
- Getting COVID-19 does get the body to produce antibodies. But there is too much risk of serious consequences, including a long hospitalization or even death from being infected by this virus. The COVID-19 approved vaccines can produce the same or better protection without the risk of serious illness.

CONCLUSION

Stopping a pandemic requires that we use all the tools we have available. Wearing masks and physical distancing help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines help you make antibodies so you will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed to it. The combination of getting vaccinated and following the CDC's other recommendations will offer the best protection from COVID-19 for you, your family, friends and colleagues. Additionally, these actions give all of us the best chance to rid our communities of this pandemic and return to our normal lives. If we all roll up our sleeves, in the near future we will be able to work closely with colleagues, dine with friends, and hug our loved-ones.

