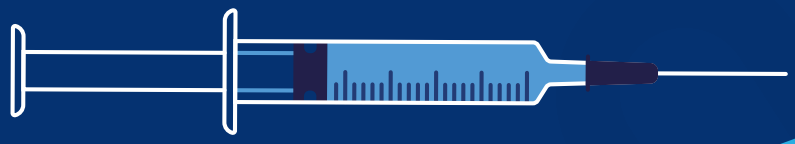
ACCELERATING THE REVIEW OF COVID-19 VACCINES



During the COVID-19 pandemic, development of vaccines was globally fast-tracked by applying the extensive knowledge on vaccine production gained with existing vaccines.[1]

Fast-tracking the development and review of a vaccine doesn't mean that safety is compromised.[1]

Independent health authorities, such as the European Medicines Agency (EMA), responsible for review and approval of new medicines, **will only approve a vaccine if it complies with all the requirements of quality, safety and efficacy.[1]**

How were the COVID-19 vaccines fast-tracked without compromising on safety?

RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION

Researchers around the world have been working hard to develop COVID-19 vaccines.

- **Extensive research** into how to respond to a pandemic occurred long before COVID-19.[1]
- **Early and continuous dialogue** between developers and a dedicated group of regulatory experts within the EMA accelerated the development of COVID-19 vaccines.[1]
- **A dedicated COVID-19 Task Force (ETF)** was formed as part of the EMA to provide vaccine manufacturers with early scientific advice on the methods and study designs that would best generate robust data.[1]

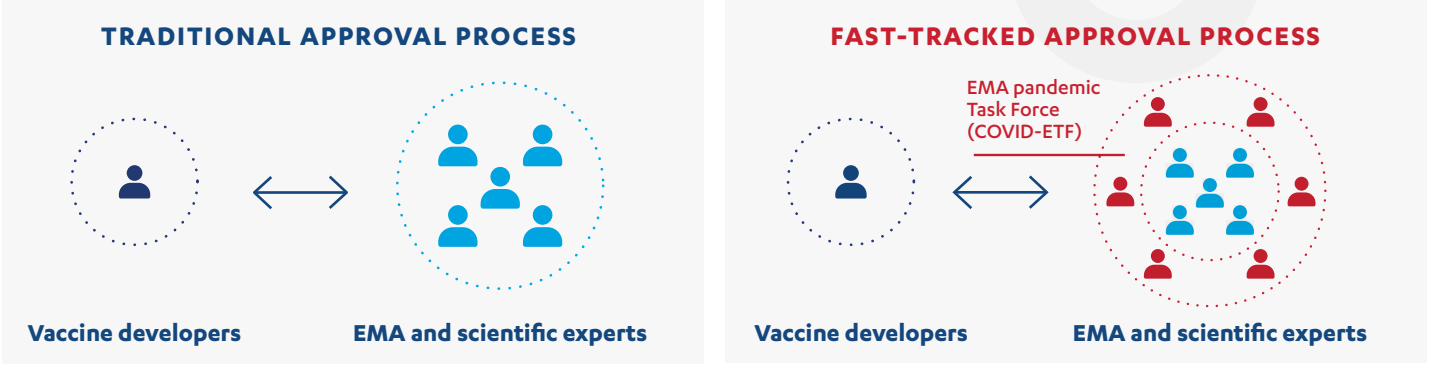


Figure adapted from European Medicines Agency.[1]

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DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING

- **Established production systems** have been tried and tested to develop safe and effective vaccines before. These same systems were used in the production of many COVID-19 vaccines.[1]
- **Expanded manufacturing capacity** allowed large-scale production and deployment of vaccines once they were authorised.[1]
- **Early manufacturing** of COVID-19 vaccines by some developers meant they were ready to distribute once approval was granted.[1]

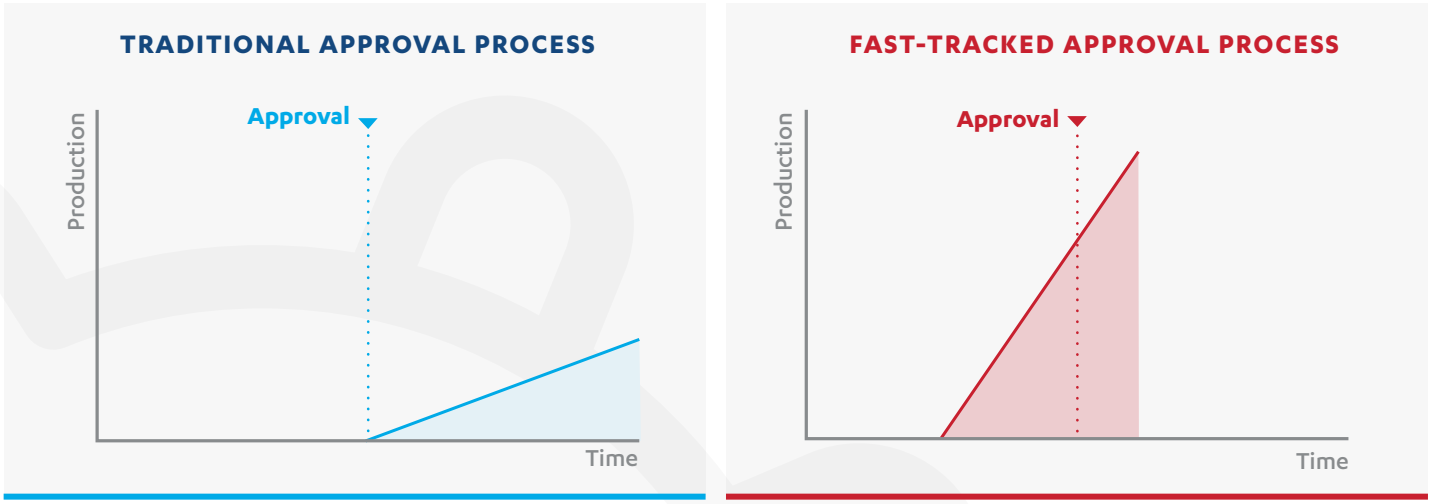

Figure adapted from European Medicines Agency.[1]

FUNDING

- **The European Commission (EC)** pledged €1.4 billion to support with vaccine and vaccination research and innovation for COVID-19.[2] An additional €2.9 billion has been invested by the EC to support the development of production capacities.[2]

BEFORE APPROVAL, ALL VACCINES ARE EVALUATED AGAINST THE SAME HIGH STANDARDS AS ANY OTHER MEDICINE.[1]

The difference for vaccines in pandemic situations, such as COVID-19, is that the speed of development and review is much faster in order to address the public health emergency.[3]

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VACCINATION, PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR DOCTOR.

References: 1. European Medicines Agency. COVID-19 vaccines: development, evaluation, approval and monitoring. Available at: https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/treatments-vaccines/vaccines-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines-development-evaluation-approval-monitoring. Accessed: September 2021. **2.** European Commission. Vaccines. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/health-research-and-innovation/coronavirus-research-and-innovation/vaccines_en. Accessed: September 2021. **3.** European Medicines Agency. COVID-19 vaccines: key facts. Available at: https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/treatments-vaccines/vaccines-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines-key-facts. Accessed: September 2021.

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