

US company poised to start COVID-19 vaccine safety test

April 6 2020



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A second U.S. company is poised to begin a small safety test of a vaccine against the new coronavirus.

Inovio Pharmaceuticals said Monday that it has Food and Drug Administration permission for the study in 40 [healthy volunteers](#) in

Philadelphia and Kansas City, Missouri.

The study is a first step to see if the [vaccine](#) appears safe enough for larger tests needed to prove whether it will protect. Even if the research goes well, it is expected to take over a year before any vaccine could be widely available.

Last month, the first safety [test](#) in people of a different vaccine candidate began in Seattle. It was developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc.

Numerous other research groups are attempting to make vaccines against COVID-19 using a variety of different methods in hopes at least one will offer protection.

Inovio's approach is what's called a DNA vaccine, made using a section of the virus' [genetic code](#) packaged inside a piece of synthetic DNA.

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Citation: US company poised to start COVID-19 vaccine safety test (2020, April 6) retrieved 19 November 2023 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-04-company-poised-covid-vaccine-safety.html>

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