

COVID-19 pill could be available later this year: Pfizer CEO

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More information: [CBS News Article](#)



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(HealthDay)—A pill to treat COVID-19 is being developed by Pfizer and could be available by the end of the year, company CEO Albert Bourla says.

In March, Pfizer launched an early-stage clinical trial of a new antiviral drug for the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, *CBS News* reported. The drug reduces the production of enzymes the virus needs to multiply in human cells.

If [clinical trials](#) are successful and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approves the drug, it could be available across the United States later in 2021, Bourla told *CNBC* on Tuesday, *CBS News* reported.

Last month, Mikael Dolsten, M.D., chief scientific officer and president, worldwide research, development, and medical of Pfizer, said it is possible that the new drug could be prescribed "at the first sign of infection, without requiring that patients are hospitalized or in critical care."

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