

# Hope on the horizon

If everything goes well, at best, COVID-19 vaccines could be developed by next month or early next year

● Should be distributed across the world to ensure that every person will be protected

● WHO looks to deliver two billion doses by the end of next year

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Since February, the world has been suffering and facing an unseen enemy called the coronavirus (COVID-19) that is silent, ruthless and deadly.

And amid the pandemic, the world's top scientists, research labs and pharmaceutical companies are working as fast as they can towards one common goal: to save lives by rapidly developing a safe and effective vaccine. Interestingly, vaccines go through a three-stage clinical trial process before they are sent to regulatory agencies for approval – which can be a lengthy process itself.

Even after a vaccine is approved, it faces potential roadblocks when it comes to scaling up production and distribution, which also includes deciding which populations should get it first – and at what cost. Many vaccines also stay in what's called phase four, a perpetual stage of regular study.

In fact, more than 150 vaccines are currently in development stage across the world – and hopes are high to bring one to market the soonest possible time to ease the global health crisis that has infected more than 54 million people worldwide and killed 1.3 million.

But now there is hope. If everything goes well, at best,



A shot of hope and a return to normal

vaccines could be developed by year's end or in the first months of 2021. After developing a vaccine, it should be distributed across the world to ensure that every person – regardless of age, gender, geographic location or wealth status – will be protected.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is also coordinating global efforts to develop a vaccine, with an eye towards delivering two billion doses by the end of next year.

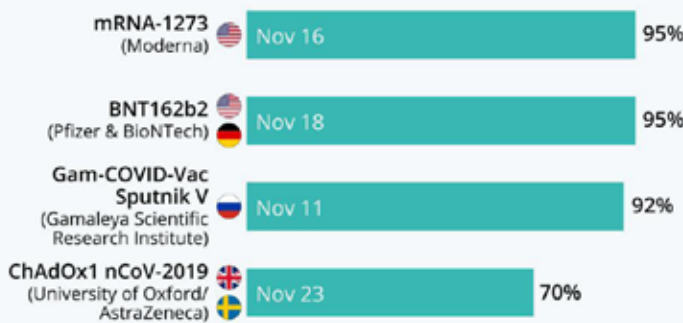
But there are concerns that the race to get one will be won by the richest countries, at the expense of the most vulnerable. The question is, who will get it first, how much will it cost and, in a global crisis, how do we make sure nobody gets left behind?

To date, there are dozens of vaccine candidates in various stages of development.

In particular, potential vaccines developed by China, the

## How Effective Are The Covid-19 Vaccine Candidates?

Estimated effectiveness at Covid-19 prevention based on interim data from late-stage clinical trials\*



\* As of Nov 23, 2020. Phase III trials for BNT162b2 are complete. Other trials are ongoing and findings have not been peer-reviewed. Sources: Respective companies, Russian health ministry

Forbes statista

UK, US, Russia, Australia, Germany and India have all announced to be more than 90% effective against coronavirus, with several others not far behind.

A vaccine produced by Pfizer and BioNTech has convincing evidence that it works and proved to be more than 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 in clinical trials.

And then just a week later another pharmaceutical company,

Moderna, announced the results of its own clinical trials.

Moderna's vaccine showed a remarkable 95% efficacy in preventing COVID-19.

The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine showed between 70-90% protection.

Earlier, the Russian Ministry of Health announced that its Gam-COVID-Vac jab, better known as Sputnik V, is 92% effective.

China says it has developed



Potential vaccines developed by China, the UK, US, Russia, Australia, Germany and India have all announced to be more than 90% effective against coronavirus, with several others not far behind.



150

The number of vaccines that are currently in development stage across the world.

## Bahrain condemns Houthi attack on Jeddah petroleum station

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Bahrain has strongly condemned the terrorist attack with a projectile launched by the Iranian-backed terrorist Houthi militia towards the petroleum products distribution station in north Jeddah that sparked a fire in a fuel tank.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that this cowardly terrorist act targeting oil installations threatens the stability of energy supplies to the world and poses a grave danger to the global economy.

In a statement, the ministry affirmed Bahrain's solidarity with Saudi Arabia and its full support for all the measures it takes to safeguard its security and stability.

The ministry also stressed the need for the international community to take serious and strict steps to confront such terrorist acts of sabotage committed by the Houthi group that target civilian facilities and threaten the safety and security of innocent civilians.

## Bahraini-Israeli environmental cooperation discussed

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Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) Chief Executive Dr Mohammed Mubarak bin Dainah met virtually yesterday with Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection Director General David Yahalomi and discussed bilateral cooperation in this field.

Dr bin Dainah stressed keenness of SCE on boosting the efforts of all countries supporting the international endeavour to face environmental challenges, mitigate the impact of climate change and preserve wildlife.

The meeting is held in preparation for signing a memorandum of understanding between the SCE and Israeli Ministry.

## French Embassy set to host competition for video game fans

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The French Embassy in Bahrain will showcase French independent video games at a special event to be held virtually on November 28 from 10am to 8pm.

Professionals and non-professionals will be able to try out for free the latest games offered by young French start-ups, interact on Twitch with specialised schools, game creators and independent French studios during conferences, the embassy said in a statement.

The web platform will be enabled by French start-up and video-game specialist NTWU.

"This total immersion in the exciting and innovative world



of French video games, open to the general public, is the first of its kind in the Gulf," the embassy said.

"As part of the 'Digital November' event celebrating the French Touch in digital matters, this event is not to be missed by all video game enthusiasts and lovers. Several digital events are also proposed until the end of November at the Alliance Française whose program is available on their Instagram account @afbahrain."

## BDF unit participates in Arab Sword manoeuvres

● Saudi Arabia, UAE, Jordan and Sudan also taking part

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A Bahrain Defense Force unit is participating in the final stages of the Arab Sword 2020 military exercise in Egypt that is also involving Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Jordan and Sudan.

During this stage of the manoeuvres, field applications, specialised military manoeuvring, and methods of dealing with hostile targets and emergencies were carried out.

The advanced stage of the exercise reflects the efficiency and ability of the participating forces in carrying out the tasks



Military exercise in progress

assigned to them with high accuracy and professionalism.

The Arab Sword exercise is part of the Arab military cooperation to bolster combat capabilities and readiness, enhance coordination and exchange expertise and military skills.

The manoeuvres are among the most important in the Arab world and confirm the depth of the ties between the participating states. They aim to unify joint Arab military action to provide security and stability in the Middle East.



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