severe illness, to minimise the risk of exposure

to COVID-19 during outbreaks.°°

9 VACCINES

The strange coronavirus outbreak in the

Chinese city of Wuhan, now termed COVID-19,

and its rapid transmission, threatens people

around the world. Because of its pandemic

nature, the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

and pharmaceutical companies are involved in

the development of COVID-19 vaccines. Xu

Nanping, China’s vice-minister of science and

technology, announced that the first vaccine is

expected to be ready for clinical trials in China

at the end of April 2020.°\* There is no approved

vaccine and treatment for COVID-19 infections.

Vaccine development is sponsored and

supported by the Biomedical Advanced

Research and Development Authority (BARDA),

a component of the Office of the Assistant

Secretary for Preparedness and Response

(ASPR). Sanofi will use its egg-free, recombinant

DNA technology to produce an exact genetic

match to proteins of the virus.°°