

severe illness, to minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19 during outbreaks.⁵³

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 2020.⁵⁴ 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.⁵⁵