

VACCINE SAFETY MATTERS



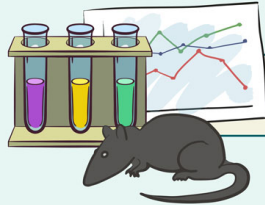
HOW VACCINES ARE TESTED & APPROVED



All vaccines go through a thorough testing process to show that they are safe and effective before they are approved for use in Canada.

It can take up to **10 YEARS** OR LONGER for a vaccine to be **APPROVED** for use.

TESTING PROCESS



Before a vaccine is ever given to people, lab and animal studies are done.

Clinical Trials

Clinical trials (studies in people) are next to see if the vaccine is safe and works. These studies have 3 phases (stages).



People taking part in these studies are volunteers.



The volunteers understand that a vaccine is being studied and are informed about the possible side effects.



If a vaccine is being made for children, it is tested on adults first.

PHASE 1



10 - < 100 volunteers (healthy adults)

- Is the vaccine safe?
- Does it appear to work?

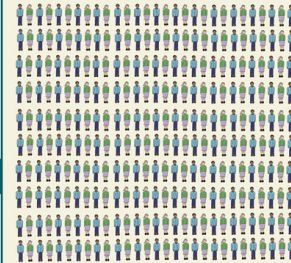
PHASE 2



50 - 500 volunteers (target population, e.g. children)

- Is the vaccine safe?
- What is the best dose and schedule?

PHASE 3



300 - 30 000 volunteers (target population, e.g. children)

- Is the vaccine safe?
- Does it work?

Approval Process

Health Canada reviews the data from the clinical trials and approves a vaccine for use only if:



It's safe



It works



The benefits outweigh the risks



Once Health Canada approves a vaccine, experts review the data on the vaccine and make recommendations for its use.



After a vaccine is approved for use, its safety is carefully and continuously monitored. [Learn more](#)