

Abstract:

As of July 2021, nineteen anti-COVID-19 vaccines have been approved in the world <https://covid19.trackvaccines.org/vaccines/approved/>. Their utilization will expedite an end to the current pandemic. Besides the usual vaccine formats that include inactivated viruses (8 approved vaccines) and protein-based vaccines (3 approved vaccines), two new formats have been validated: recombinant adenovirus (6 approved vaccines) and messenger RNA (mRNA, 2 approved vaccines). The latter was the fastest (authorized in 2020 in the EU, USA and Switzerland). Most Western countries have reserved or use the protein vaccines, the adenovirus vaccines and mRNA vaccines. I describe here the different vaccine formats in the context of COVID-19, detail the three formats that are chiefly reserved or used in Europe, Canada and the USA and discuss why the mRNA vaccines appear to be the superior format.