How was the COVID-19 vaccine developed, approved and manufactured

Vaccines have saved the lives of thousands of Virginians through the years. Now, scientists and researchers have worked to bring us a new vaccine to help in the fight against COVID-19.

**EVERY vaccine**, no matter what it’s for, goes through multiple steps. **For the COVID-19 vaccine, NO STEPS were skipped.** The financial part of the process was sped up to help us fight this virus.

**It Starts with Lab Testing**
Scientists and researchers work on formulas that will become a vaccine. Before it’s ever given to people, it goes through extensive lab testing.

**Clinical Trials**
Volunteers around the country offer to get the vaccine so scientists and medical professionals can see how they are affected.

**PHASE 1: Safety**
- Evaluate safety and identify any common reactions
- 20 – 100 volunteers

**PHASE 2: Effectiveness**
- Gather more information on safety, efficacy, dosage and reactions
- Several hundreds of volunteers

**PHASE 3: Safety + Effectiveness**
- Compare reactions of people who got the vaccine versus those who have not
- Thousands of volunteers

*Who is the FDA? What does it do?*
A non-political group, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) uses oversight and regulation to ensure vaccine quality, safety and effectiveness — helping to facilitate the timely development of COVID-19 vaccines.

For more information about how vaccines are created, tested and distributed, visit vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine or call 877-ASK-VDH3.