

# THE TRUTH ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES

## HOW AMERICANS AND OUR GOVERNMENT SAVED THE DAY AND MADE BILLIONS FOR BIG PHARMA

Moderna, Pfizer, and other vaccine makers are busy taking bows for the COVID-19 vaccines that have saved millions of lives. They tell us they rescued us. But like so many of pharma's claims, their story isn't the whole truth. It omits key facts about the origin of the most successful COVID-19 vaccines, including the role American taxpayers and their government played in developing vaccine technology so it was ready to be used when the pandemic hit in early 2020.

Drug companies deserve credit for doing their jobs. They took the new mRNA technology and minimized or eliminated their risk using billions of dollars from the U.S. and German governments, and did the work to produce vaccines. They made billions of dollars, and at least nine drug executives became billionaires in the process.

**But they didn't save us. We saved ourselves.**

### mRNA VACCINE TECHNOLOGY STEMS FROM PUBLIC INVESTMENT

Prior to the pandemic, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency invested more than \$17 billion in vaccine technology and contributed to fundamental discoveries related to RNA vaccines and the spike proteins they target. When the pandemic hit, the Pfizer/BioNTech mRNA vaccine benefited from a \$445 million investment from the German government. Moderna's mRNA vaccine — by its own admission in August 2020 — was 100 percent underwritten by the U.S. government. **As of September 2021, Moderna had received more than \$10 billion in federal funds to underwrite the research, clinical trials, manufacturing capacity, and purchase of its vaccine.** NIH scientists played a pivotal role in inventing the Moderna vaccine, though the company is attempting to undermine the agency's role in an effort to protect profits.

### COVID-19 VACCINES SET TO BE THE BEST-SELLING DRUGS OF ALL TIME, REAPING BILLIONS FOR DRUG COMPANIES AND EXECUTIVES

Despite claiming benevolent motives, Moderna and Pfizer executives admitted they intended to profit off the pandemic in July 2020. **But these companies were not satisfied with modest profits — instead, their vaccines are set to be the best-selling drugs of all time, catapulting company executives into the ranks of the richest people in the world.**

In fact, COVID-19 vaccines have minted nine new billionaires, including four leaders of Moderna, whose vaccine is partially owned by the U.S. government.

Moderna projects sales of \$38.7 billion for 2022 — nearly *double* the previous record for one-year sales of a prescription drug (AbbVie's Humira previously held the spot with \$19.8 billion in sales in 2020). Pfizer is set to shatter records with an expected \$54.5 billion in sales next year. To put this into perspective, Pfizer's best-selling product in 2019, Plevinar, achieved worldwide revenues of \$5.8 billion.

These two companies have demonstrated they will stop at nothing to rake in more profit. Pfizer is engaging in predatory contracting with several countries, and Moderna is refusing to share its technology to increase access in low-income countries despite the vaccine's origin as a publicly funded technology. In the United States, Pfizer is already extracting more profit by increasing the price of its vaccine by 23 percent.

# BY THE NUMBERS

**\$17 BILLION**

Amount of money invested by NIH into research on vaccine technology prior to the pandemic

**\$10 BILLION**

Investment into Moderna vaccine by U.S. taxpayers since the pandemic began

**\$93 BILLION**

Anticipated sales of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines in 2021

**23%**

Amount of summer 2021 Pfizer vaccine price hike

**#1 IN SALES**

Moderna and Pfizer are both expected to shatter Humira's current record for sales in a year for a single product

**9**

Number of newly minted pharma billionaires