



Civics is all around us. There is a lot to know about the government and how “We the People” interact with the government and each other. Let’s help each other expand our civic literacy.



During the week of December 14, 2020, federal government efforts to combat COVID-19 with a vaccine, then known as [Operation Warp Speed](#) (OWS), came to a crescendo, as the first vaccines were administered to frontline health workers.

This milestone in the global fight against the Coronavirus is significant, and the result of a lot of hard work on the part of the Department of [Health and Human Services](#), the Department of [Defense](#), the [National Institutes of Health](#), the [Centers for Disease Control](#), as well as other governmental agencies and corporations.

Established by the Trump Administration, Operation Warp Speed was a public-private partnership between government agencies and private pharmaceutical companies. Following all scientific protocols, OWS’ goal was to accelerate the development of a COVID-19 vaccine safely and efficiently for public consumption. To meet necessary public safety targets, the Biden Administration has restructured and refocused the federal government’s efforts to increase distribution.

Because the testing trials of the vaccine were reported to yield a [94% success rate](#) against contracting the virus, the [Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) issued an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) to the Pfizer and Moderna pharmaceutical companies to produce and distribute the vaccine three months earlier than anticipated. As the pandemic continues, other pharmaceutical companies are continuing to test their vaccines.



On January 29, 2021, Johnson & Johnson’s vaccine was deemed 66% effective against COVID-19 and 85% effective against severe disease. As additional vaccines yield meaningful protection rates, the Food and Drug Administration is likely to continue to grant emergency use.

This accomplishment is the result of the dedication of the scientific and governmental communities, united for the purpose of combating the virus, and helping to restore some normalcy in daily life.

To Think and To Do: Review the [Preamble](#) to the U.S. Constitution. How does the government’s involvement in the development of a vaccine support the preamble’s guarantee of promoting the general welfare?

Learn MORE about the federal government response to COVID-19. Free registration may be required.

- [Gaining Herd Immunity](#), from the Harvard Gazette
- [Vaccine Research and Development](#), from Johns Hopkins
- [Operation Warp Speed](#), from the Department of Defense

