



## **The Importance of mRNA Technology**

### **A Position Statement of Vaccinate Your Family**

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Vaccinate Your Family is a bipartisan, nonprofit organization that is committed to ensuring the timely immunization of people of all ages. As a leader in the immunization space for nearly thirty-five years, we have witnessed the advances in science that have led to the development of several vaccines that now protect children, adolescents, and adults from deadly infectious diseases.

To protect people of all ages from dangerous diseases, our nation must continue to ensure access to lifesaving vaccines, including vaccines that are developed using messenger RNA (mRNA) technology. Vaccinate Your Family strongly supports the use of mRNA vaccines as a critical tool for protecting individuals, families, and communities against serious illness and death from infectious diseases.

Because mRNA vaccines protect public health, they have a demonstrated societal value (as proven during the COVID-19 pandemic), as well as an untapped potential to prevent future threats. Existing available mRNA vaccines include those for COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), with many more disease areas in development (e.g., combination vaccines, herpes simplex virus vaccines, influenza vaccines, norovirus vaccines). mRNA technology is also being applied to develop cancer therapies and innovative treatments for rare genetic diseases.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the power of mRNA technology to quickly tailor an existing platform to an emerging viral threat. It also demonstrated the real-world effectiveness and safety of these products. Over 13 billion COVID-19 vaccines have been administered worldwide, averting millions of deaths.

Developing safe vaccine technology is paramount, and the speed of mRNA technology allows rapid response to emerging threats. The safety of mRNA vaccines has been established by extensive, large-scale, real world and clinical evidence on the COVID-19 vaccines. Any vaccines, including those developed using mRNA technology, must be continuously and rigorously evaluated for safety.

The research and development on the technology underpinning mRNA vaccines represents decades of scientific discovery, leading to lifesaving products. The United States must continue to invest in this technology to remain a medical and biotechnology leader, as well as protect Americans from emerging threats to public health that could also significantly impact our country's economy.

Vaccinate Your Family supports broad and equitable access to vaccines using mRNA technology across the United States. All decisions on vaccine access should be informed by scientific evidence and rooted in the goal of protecting our individual and public health.