

The Top 3 COVID-19 Vaccine Stocks to Consider

The race is on for a COVID-19 vaccine.

With more than 1.8 million people now infected around the world, with 116,000 deaths, a vaccine is needed immediately. That being the case, we're highlighting some of the top stocks running as companies move at breakneck speed for a vaccine.

Top Stock No. 1 – Inovio Pharmaceuticals (INO)

Weeks after saying it developed a potential vaccine in three hours, Inovio launched a phase one trial to see if it's safe for humans. Over the course of the trial, 40 people will be given two doses of the vaccine, and monitored for reaction.



If all goes well, the company will start another study to assess its efficacy against the virus. "We've set the internal goal of having 1 million vaccines for testing by end of 2020," says Kate Broderick, Senior VP of R&D at Inovio.

To date, preclinical data has shown promising immune responses across animal models. "Preclinical results for INOVIO's COVID vaccine have been consistent with completed Phase 1 vaccine study for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), also caused by a coronavirus, in which INOVIO's DNA vaccine was well tolerated and induced high levels of antibody responses in 95% of subjects, while also generating broad-based T cell responses in nearly 90% of study participants," notes Inovio.

Top Stock No. 2 – Moderna Inc. (MRNA)

Moderna Inc. is working with the National Institutes of Health on a healthy-volunteer study. Moderna's product is a synthetic strand of messenger RNA, or mRNA, designed to convince bodily cells to produce antibodies against the virus.

According to the company, the first participant has been dosed in the Phase 1 study of the Company's mRNA vaccine (mRNA-1273) against the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). This Phase 1 study is being conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) under its own Investigational New Drug (IND) application.



“This study is the first step in the clinical development of an mRNA vaccine against SARS-CoV-2, and we expect it to provide important information about safety and immunogenicity. We are actively preparing for a potential Phase 2 study under our own IND,” said Tal Zaks, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Medical Officer at Moderna. “We are grateful to NIH for their ongoing collaboration and to CEPI for funding the initial manufacturing of mRNA-1273 and are proud to be included with the many companies, worldwide health agencies and NGOs working on a possible response to the novel coronavirus outbreak.”

Top Stock No. 3 – Gilead Sciences (GILD)

Shares of GILD are pushing higher on COVID-19 hopes, too.



While new data with the company’s remdesivir raising hopes for success, the data is still inconclusive. According to Barron’s, “The data, published Friday in the New England Journal of Medicine, were from hospitalized patients given the drug on a compassionate-use basis, not from a clinical trial. There was no control group randomly selected to receive a placebo. That makes it difficult to determine exactly what the results mean.”

“We cannot draw definitive conclusions from these data, but the observations from this group of hospitalized patients who received remdesivir are hopeful,” said Dr. Jonathan D. Grein, the director of hospital epidemiology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and the NEJM article’s lead author, in a Gilead statement.