



Exploring the Durability of Modern Vaccines

For Prelims: [Vaccines](#), [Viruses](#), [Bacteria](#), [Measles](#), [Rubella](#), [Yellow fever](#), [Hepatitis B](#), [Hepatitis A](#), [Memory B cells](#), [T cell](#), [Tetanus](#), [Diphtheria Vaccines](#), [Long-lasting plasma cells \(LLPCs\)](#), [Bone Marrow](#), [Influenza](#), [SARS-CoV-2](#)

For Mains: Vaccines efficacy and its impact on human resources in India.

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

Recently, in a review of several [vaccines](#), it has been found that only **five vaccines** provide long-lasting protection spanning more than **20 years** and only **three provide lifelong protection**.

- The variability in **vaccine efficacy** poses challenges concerning its **effectiveness** and **longevity**.

What are Vaccines and Immunological Mechanism?

▪ About:

- Vaccines are biological preparations designed to stimulate the **body's immune system** to recognise and fight against specific pathogens, such as [viruses](#) or [bacteria](#), without causing the disease itself.
- They typically contain **weakened or inactivated** forms of the **pathogen, parts of the pathogen, or toxins** produced by the pathogen.

▪ Immunological Mechanism :

- **Memory B Cells:** Formed in lymph nodes after vaccination, they "memorise" antigens and trigger rapid antibody production upon subsequent exposure to the same antigen.
- **T Cell Support:** Memory B cells require T cell support vaccines that stimulate [T cells](#) can induce the production of [memory B cells](#).
- **Variability in Vaccine-Induced B Cell Response:** Not all vaccines prompt the body to produce **memory B cells**. Some vaccines require frequent **boosters to enhance immunity duration**.
 - **Example: Measles and rubella vaccines** maintain constant levels of **memory B cells** in blood plasma, correlating with antibody levels for decades. However, this is not observed with [chickenpox](#), [tetanus](#), and [diphtheria vaccines](#).
- **Long-Lasting Plasma Cells (LLPCs):** Migrate to the bone marrow and may endure for decades, playing a crucial role in vaccine-induced immunity.
 - LLPCs are essential for lifelong protection, termed the immunology "**holy grail**." Vaccines aim to generate LLPCs for sustained immunity.
 - Some vaccines, like [mRNA Covid-19](#) shots, fail to activate LLPCs in the bone marrow, potentially impacting long-term protection.
- **Variability in Vaccine Efficacy:** Different vaccines differ in their ability to produce memory B cells and LLPCs, leading to discrepancies in durability and effectiveness.

▪ Vaccine and its Efficacy:

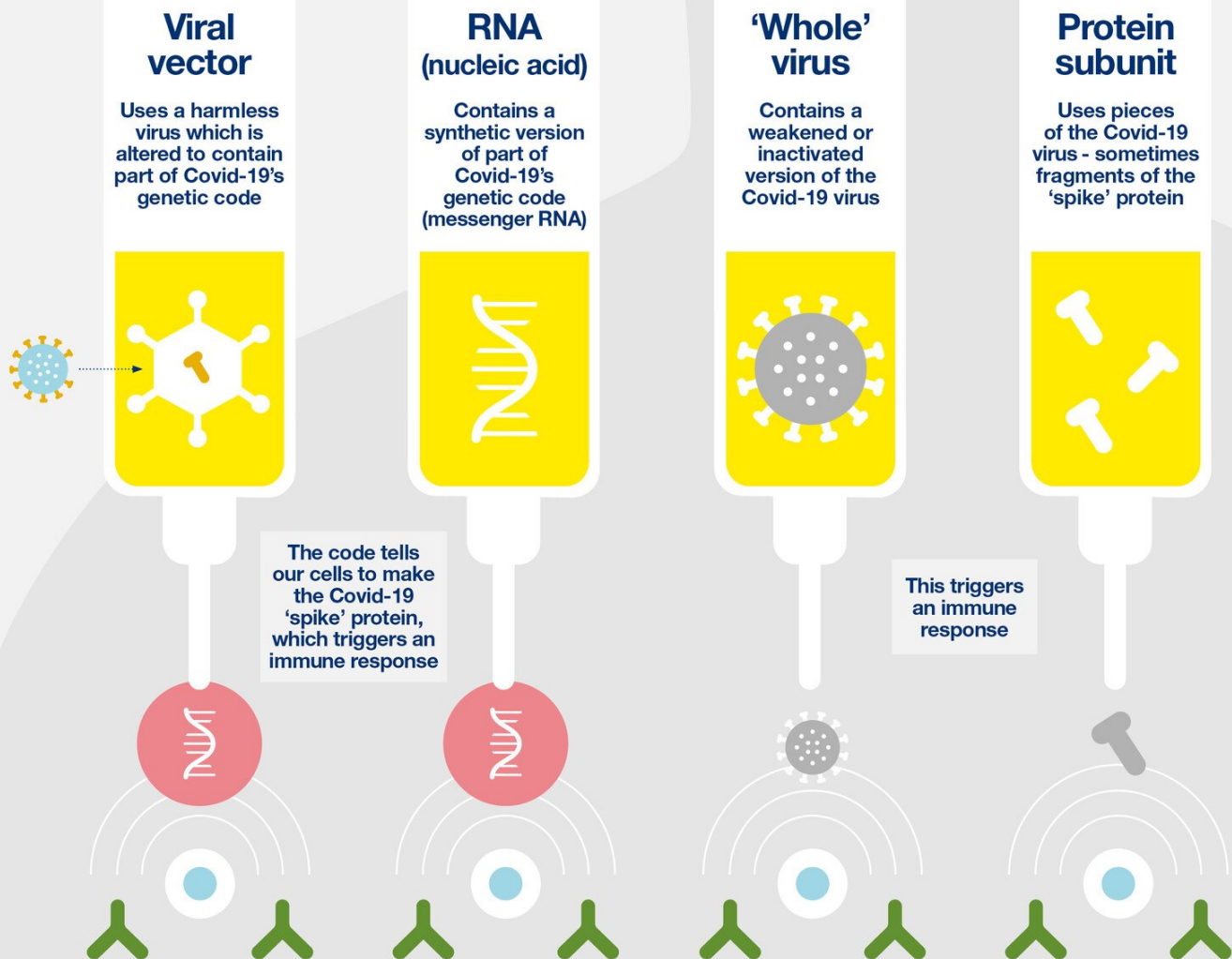
Vaccine	Vaccine type	Efficacy	Est. duration of protection
Measles	Live attenuated parenteral	83%	Lifelong
Rubella	Live attenuated parenteral	80.70%	Lifelong
Yellow fever	Live attenuated	~99%	Lifelong
Hepatitis B	Inactivated, subunit	89-96%	Up to 30 years
Hepatitis A inactivated	Inactivated	98%	At least 25 years

Vaccine Induced Immunity

- Vaccine immunity, also known as acquired immunity or immunisation, refers to the protection against **infectious diseases** that is conferred by vaccination.
- When a person receives a vaccine, their immune system is stimulated to recognize and respond to **specific pathogens**, such as **viruses** or **bacteria**, without causing the disease itself.



How do different Covid-19 vaccines work?



Source: Gavi <https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/there-are-four-types-covid-19-vaccines-heres-how-they-work>

What Factors Influence the Efficacy of Vaccines?

- **Vaccine efficacy** is influenced by **three primary categories of factors**, i.e., **vaccine related**, **pathogen related** and **host related**.
 - **Vaccine Related:**
 - **Live Viral Vaccinations:** It Includes the vaccines for [measles](#), [rubella](#), [yellow fever](#), [chickenpox](#), and [polio \(oral\)](#) provide long lasting protection than **killed pathogen or subunit vaccines**.
 - **Interval Between Vaccine Doses:** A long interval of at least six months between priming and booster doses is crucial for a robust immune response.
 - **Target Pathogen Related:**
 - **Pathogens with Mucosal Infections:** Viruses causing mucosal infections like [SARS-CoV-2](#) and **influenza** lead to frequent reinfections due to their quick transmission before the immune system can mount a response.
 - **Genetic Stability of Virus:** RNA viruses like **measles** and **SARS-CoV-2**, with

high mutation rates, may require vaccine updates.

- Measles vaccine has remained stable, while **SARS-CoV-2 vaccines** have been updated due to mutations.
- **Host-Related Factors:**
 - **Age, Gender, and Obesity:** These factors influence vaccine efficacy and duration of immunity. **Extreme ages and obesity may lead to shorter-lasting immune responses.**

Initiatives for Taken by Government for Vaccination:

- [Universal Immunization Programme \(UIP\)](#)
- [Mission Indradhanush](#)
- [Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network \(eVIN\) system](#)
- [National Health Mission](#)

Drishti Mains Question:

Q. Discuss the immunological mechanisms underlying vaccine-induced immunity and the factors influencing vaccine efficacy.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. 'Mission Indradhanush' launched by the Government of India pertains to (2016)

- (a) immunization of children and pregnant women
- (b) construction of smart cities across the country
- (c) India's own search for the Earth-like planets in outer space
- (d) New Educational Policy

Ans: A

Exp:

- Mission Indradhanush is an immunization scheme launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI on 25th December, 2014.
- Depicting seven colors of the rainbow, it aimed to cover all those children by 2020 who are either unvaccinated, or are partially vaccinated against seven vaccine preventable diseases which include diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles and hepatitis B.
- The mission is technically supported by WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International and other donor partners. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.