



Sioux Lookout  
First Nations  
Health Authority

## **Radio Script: How we have COVID-19 vaccines**

**Developed: January 2021**

Hello/Boozhoo listeners. This is \_\_\_\_\_.

A lot of people are asking, “How did we get vaccines for COVID-19 so fast?” Today we are going to answer that question.

It is true that we got vaccines for COVID-19 fast. It usually takes years to develop and test vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccines were developed and tested in just one year. How? There are three big reasons.

The first reason is need. COVID-19 is a serious illness. It has hurt many people around the world. It has damaged economies. And it has robbed us of our traditional gatherings and way of life.

Vaccine research was a priority for many people. That is why researchers got a lot of funding. This is also why many people volunteered to help test the vaccines.

The second reason is research. The virus that causes COVID-19 is new. But experts have been looking at the same kinds of viruses for many years. And for more than 10 years, researchers have been studying vaccine technologies. As soon as there was data on this virus, they were ready to start making and testing vaccines. The tests are called clinical trials.

That brings us to the third reason. Cooperation. Researchers shared what they were learning as they went along. This allowed them to cut the wait time between the testing stages. It’s like any project. The more people you have working on something, the less time it takes.

Researchers will keep watching the volunteers from the clinical trials for the next two years. They will warn us if they see any safety issues. But so far, there are no major safety concerns about the vaccine.



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The vaccine can help keep us safe. Millions of people across Turtle Island have already been safely vaccinated. So now it is our turn.

So that, in short, is why we have a vaccine so soon. If you have questions, you can reach out to a member of the community pandemic response team. You can also talk to your doctor or nurse. Be prepared with the facts, so you that you and your family can make the right decision.

Let's stay informed with sources that we trust to help promote good health and keep our communities safe.

Before we end, we want to remind you about NAN Hope. Nishnawbe Aski mental health and addictions support access program is for all NAN citizens. If you or someone you know needs support, reach out. If you would like to speak with someone, you can call 1-844-626-4673. If you would prefer to connect through text or messaging, visit [nanhope.ca](http://nanhope.ca). On the main page, you can find a text and live chat option.

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