

## **\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **RUTGERS NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL BEGIN RECRUITING HEALTHY ADULTS FOR COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICAL TRIAL**

**Newark, NJ** – Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) and University Hospital (UH) announced today that they are recruiting healthy adults for a Phase 3 clinical research study to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of mRNA-1273, a vaccine candidate against COVID-19. Sponsored by [Moderna](#), the COVE Study is recruiting healthy volunteers ages 18 or older in high-risk populations, including the elderly, racial and ethnic minorities at higher risk for COVID-19, and essential workers in close contact with potentially infected persons.

The Phase 3 study will evaluate if mRNA-1273 boosts the immune system to produce enough antibodies against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, so it does not cause illness in case of infection.

“We are excited and hopeful as we begin participating in the COVE Study, understanding this is one of the most important and impactful clinical research studies in our lifetime,” said Shobha Swaminathan, Principal Investigator, Rutgers NJMS and Medical Director, Infectious Diseases Practice, UH. “We encourage individuals across the state to consider participating in this trial, which could bring the world one step closer to ending this global health crisis.”

To be eligible for the study, healthy volunteers must be 18 years of age and older with no known history of SARS-CoV-2 infection or previous participation in an investigational coronavirus vaccine. Within this population, Rutgers NJMS and UH, Newark, NJ are prioritizing candidates whose locations or circumstances put them at higher risk of exposure to the virus, including:

- Elderly, ages 65 and older
- Essential workers in close contact with potentially infected persons, including, but not limited to, healthcare and hospital workers, first responders, transit employees, institutional residents or workers, factory employees, and teachers and students

- Racial and ethnic minorities at high risk for COVID-19

If a person is eligible and decides to participate, the research staff at Rutgers NJMS will randomize patients to receive either the mRNA-1273 vaccine or a matching placebo. The total length of participation is 25 months and includes approximately six visits to the clinic and 25 phone calls.

Rutgers NJMS is one of 89 research sites across the country participating in the COVE Study. If someone is interested in participating in clinical research in their area, call 1 844-782-6765 or email [thecovestudy@njms.rutgers.edu](mailto:thecovestudy@njms.rutgers.edu) to learn more.

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