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Environmental Report September 2020

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Covid-19 Phase III testing protocols reviewed

In the interest of transparency, phase III testing protocols from two vaccine manufacturers, Moderna and Pfizer were disclosed. A review of those disclosures was conducted, a brief review follows.

An efficacy of 50% is required for approval, 75% is preferred. Both Moderna and Pfizer protocols are targeting 60% efficacy. Currently there are 27 companies developing vaccines, 15 are in phase II testing and 9 in phase III. Moderna and Pfizer are in the later group.

Both protocols will use their test vaccine and a saline solution placebo. Moderna will use 30,000 test subjects and Pfizer 44,000. Half will receive the test vaccine and half the placebo. Subjects will be monitored for any adverse reactions as well as Covid-19 symptoms. In the case of the Moderna trial with 30,000 subjects, a total of 151 patients must contract the virus and a 60% efficacy demonstrated. With Pfizer, the numbers are 44,000 and 164 cases. Efficacy of 60% can be assumed if after 53 cases the efficacy is 74% or greater.