

## - Vaccination

# What's in our Covid vaccine?

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We're going to be completely clear about this one upfront: there is no microchip in the Covid-19 vaccine.

Despite all the conspiracy theories swirling around the internet, there is simply no evidence or data to support this claim.

The Whole Truth is tackling this rumour only because it has now persisted for several months, prompting even the Ministry of Health to address it directly, along with its Australian counterpart. Manufacturers are required by law to list down all ingredients in a vaccine.

For the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine, which MedSafe has approved for use in New Zealand, there are 10 ingredients. A microchip isn't one of them. Besides the active ingredient – messenger RNA – the Pfizer vaccine includes four fats: cholesterol and three others.

It also contains sucrose (or sugar), and four salts: potassium chloride, monobasic potassium phosphate, sodium chloride and dibasic sodium phosphate dihydrate.

None of these ingredients is, or contains, a microchip.

Before use, the vaccine vial is removed from storage at -70 degrees Celsius, thawed out and diluted with water and saline – this allows for five to six doses of vaccine per vial. There is no way microchips could survive this process and be distributed evenly through each vaccine dose.

The vaccine is then injected using a 21-gauge or smaller needle. Even the 21-gauge needle's inner diameter of 0.21 millimetres would be much too small for even the smallest microchip capable of remotely transmitting.

The vaccinator also visually inspects the vaccine, both before and after dilution, to make sure there are no particles in it.

The actual production of the Pfizer vaccine is also subject to strict manufacturing processes.

Various regulators have also put checks and balances in place, poring over all aspects of how the Covid-19 vaccines are produced, to ensure their safety.

Reporting disclosure statement: Epidemiologist Michael Baker from the University of Otago provided expert advice for this post. It was also reviewed by The Whole Truth: Covid-19 Vaccination expert panel members Dr Apisalome Talemaitoga (GP and chair of the Pacific GP Network) and Dr Rawiri Jansen (GP and clinical director for a primary healthcare organisation).