

# CDC Emails: Our Definition of Vaccine Is “Problematic”

CDC: Problematic Vaccine? No, Problematic Definition of Vaccine.

By [Techno Fog](#)

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*The CDC caused an uproar in early September 2021, after it changed its definitions of “vaccination” and “vaccine.” For years, the CDC had set definitions for vaccination/vaccine that discussed immunity. This all changed on September 1, 2021.*

The prior CDC Definitions of Vaccine and Vaccination ([August 26, 2021](#)):

Vaccine: A product that stimulates a person’s immune system to produce immunity to a specific disease, protecting the person from that disease. Vaccines are usually administered through needle injections, but can also be administered by mouth or sprayed into the nose.

Vaccination: The act of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease.

The CDC Definitions of Vaccine and Vaccination since [September 1, 2021](#):

Vaccine: A preparation that is used to stimulate the body’s immune response against diseases. Vaccines are usually administered through needle injections, but some can be administered by mouth or sprayed into the nose.

Vaccination: The act of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce protection from a specific disease.

People noticed. Representative Thomas Massie was among the first to discuss the change, noting the definition went from “immunity” to “protection”.

Check out [@CDCgov](#)’s evolving definition of “vaccination.” They’ve been busy at the Ministry of Truth: [pic.twitter.com/4k2xf8rvsL](https://pic.twitter.com/4k2xf8rvsL)

To many observers, it appeared the CDC changed the definitions because of the waning effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines. For example, the effectiveness of the Pfizer vaccine falls over time, with an [Israeli study](#) reported in August 2021 as showing the vaccine being “only 16% effective against symptomatic infection for those individuals who had two doses of the shot back in January.” The CDC recognizes the waning effectiveness, thus explaining their promotion of booster shots.

Of course, the usual suspects defended the CDC. The Washington Post, for example, [cast doubt](#) that the CDC changed the definition because of issues with the COVID-19 vaccines. The CDC tried to downplay the change, [stating](#) “slight changes in wording over time ... haven’t impacted the overall definition.”

#### Internal CDC E-Mails

CDC emails we obtained via the Freedom of Information Act reveal CDC worries with how the performance of the COVID-19 vaccines didn’t match the CDC’s own definition of “vaccine”/“vaccination”. The CDC’s Ministry of Truth went hard at work in the face of legitimate public questions on this issue.

In one August 2021 e-mail, a CDC employee cited to complaints that “Right-wing covid-19 deniers are using your ‘vaccine’ definition to argue that mRNA vaccines are not vaccines...”

- **Right-wing covid-19 pandemic deniers are using your "vaccine" definition to argue that mRNA vaccines are not vaccines:** Here is the definition from the CDC website: Vaccine: A product that stimulates a person’s immune system to produce immunity to a specific disease, protecting the person from that disease. Vaccines are usually administered through needle injections, but can also be administered by mouth or sprayed into the nose. The phrase “to produce immunity” was interpreted to mean “complete” or “perfect” immunity. This was twisted to claim that the existing covid-19 vaccines were not vaccines because they only prevented severe illness. I think it would be more accurate to say that a vaccine function is “to stimulate an immune response” to be clear that perfect immunity is not what defines a vaccine.

After taking some suggestions, the CDC’s Lead Health Communication Specialist went up the food chain to propose changes to the definitions: “I need to update this page Immunization Basics | CDC since these definitions are outdated and being used by some to say COVID-19 vaccines are not vaccines per CDC’s own definition.”

**From:** Downs, Alycia E. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 11:56 AM  
**To:** Morelli, Valerie (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <vxm4@cdc.gov>  
**Subject:** Need to update vaccine definition on website

Hi Valerie,

I need to update this page [Immunization Basics | CDC](#) since these definitions are outdated and being used by some to say COVID-19 vaccines are not vaccines per CDC's own definition.

Could you take a look at the attached work doc and let me know if this looks okay to you? The mRNA language was pulled from the COVID-19 website.

Cynthia and Allison Fisher have both reviewed but I would really appreciate your help with this.

Alycia

Getting no response, there was a follow-up e-mail a week later: "The definition of vaccine we have posted is problematic and people are using it to claim the COVID-19 vaccine is not a vaccine based on our own definition."

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021 8:25 AM  
**To:** Morelli, Valerie (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <vxm4@cdc.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Need to update vaccine definition on website

Hi Valerie,

I know you are busy so I really appreciate your help. The definition of vaccine we have posted is problematic and people are using it to claim the COVID-19 vaccine is not a vaccine based on our own definition. Does the updated version look okay to you? Thank you!

Currently posted:

**Vaccine:** A product that stimulates a person's immune system to produce immunity to a specific disease, protecting the person from that disease. Vaccines are usually administered through needle injections, but can also be administered by mouth or sprayed into the nose.

Update to:

**Vaccine:** A preparation that is used to stimulate the body's immune response against diseases. Vaccines are usually administered through needle injections, but some can be administered by mouth or sprayed into the nose.

The change of the "vaccination" definition was eventually approved on August 31. The next day, on September 1, they approved the change to the "vaccine" definition from discussing immunity to protection (seen below).

**From:** Morelli, Valerie (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)  
**Sent:** Wed, 1 Sep 2021 17:06:14 +0000  
**To:** Downs, Alycia E. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Need to update vaccine definition on website

If this is for the general public I am good with the change

**From:** Downs, Alycia E. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <gfy4@cdc.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 1:00 PM  
**To:** Morelli, Valerie (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <vxm4@cdc.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Need to update vaccine definition on website

**Does this definition need to be updated as well?**

**Vaccination:** The act of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease.

To something like:

**Vaccination:** The act of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce protection from a specific disease.

There you have it. Affirmative action for the multinational corporations. Why have them improve their vaccines when you can just change the definition of vaccine to fit their ineffective vaccines?

Congrats to all the skeptics out there – you raised enough hell that the the CDC went and tried to change reality.

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