United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6250

April 2, 2025

Mr. Richard Gaynor
President, Chief of Research and Development
BioNTech US Inc.
40 Erie Street
Suite 110
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Gaynor:

On May 15, 2020, the White House announced the federal government would invest in a partnership with vaccine manufacturers—an endeavor formally named Operation Warp Speed ("OWS")—in order to swiftly deliver a COVID-19 vaccine.[1] On July 22, 2020, through OWS, Pfizer Inc. ("Pfizer")[2] and BioNTech SE ("BioNTech")[3] entered into a $1.95 billion advance-purchase agreement with the federal government, to be paid upon Pfizer and BioNTech's delivery of 100 million vaccine doses.[4] On December 11, 2020, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine became the first to receive Emergency Use Authorization ("EUA") from the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA"), but it would not receive full FDA approval until August 23, 2021, under the brand name Comirnaty.[5] Comirnaty, as with other COVID-19 vaccines, has since been associated with reports of adverse events following vaccination, such as myocarditis and pericarditis.[6]

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[1] Lauran Neergaard & Zeke Miller, *US begins 'warp speed' vaccine push as studies ramp up,* AP News (May 15, 2020), https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-donald-trump-us-news-international-news-politics-756e5b743058701c4a2ebefd0af1ade4.

[2] For the purposes of this letter, Pfizer Inc. shall also mean any subsidiary owned or controlled by Pfizer Inc., whether owned in whole or in part.

[3] For the purposes of this letter, BioNTech SE shall also mean any subsidiary owned or controlled by BioNTech SE, whether owned in whole or in part.

[4] *Pfizer and BioNTech Announce an Agreement with U.S. Government for up to 600 Million Doses of mRNA-based Vaccine Candidate Against SARS-CoV-2* (Jul. 22, 2020), https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-announce-agreement-us-government-600; *Was the Pfizer vaccine part of the government's Operation Warp Speed?* New York Times (Nov. 10, 2020), https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/10/health/was-the-pfizer-vaccine-part-of-the-governments-operation-warp-speed.html; Emily Czachor, *Pfizer Avoided R&D Funding From Trump's Operation Warp Speed Because of Bureaucracy, Politics*, Newsweek (Nov. 9, 2020), https://www.newsweek.com/pfizer-avoided-rd-funding-trumps-operation-warp-speed-because-bureaucracy-politics-1546110.

[5] Press Release, Food & Drug Administration, *FDA Approves First COVID-19 Vaccine* (Aug. 23, 2021), https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine#:~:text=The%20first%20EUA%2C%20issued%20Dec,trial%20of%20thousands%20of%20individuals.

[6] CDC, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Safety, (Jan. 31, 2025), https://www.cdc.gov/vaccine-safety/vaccines/covid-19.html.

Pursuant to Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), the United States Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (the "Subcommittee") is conducting a review of the development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccines, as well as the adverse events and injuries associated with these vaccines.[7] In order to assist the Subcommittee in its review, please provide the following information and records regarding the development and administration of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

I expect you to fully comply with this request, but I am mindful that your company may choose to mimic the Department of Health and Human Services' ("HHS") past efforts to conceal records about the development, safety, and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines.[8] Any attempt to obstruct or delay responses to this request will result in compulsory process.

Please note, in the requests below, the term Comirnaty shall include all versions of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, including, but not limited to, the version approved under the December 2020 EUA and the final fully licensed COVID-19 vaccine. Unless otherwise stated, the time period for the records requested shall be January 1, 2020 to present.

1. The names and titles, along with the dates they held those titles, of each BioNTech employee involved in the development[9] of Comirnaty;

2. A complete list of entities BioNTech contracted, collaborated, or otherwise worked with on the development and testing of Comirnaty, including, but not limited to, the surveillance or testing of SARS-CoV-2 variants;

3. All communications[10] referring or relating to the development of Comirnaty, including, but not limited to, all communications between or among BioNTech employees or contractors and all communications sent to or by any federal entity, employee, or contractor. This request includes, but is not limited to, communications referring or relating to:

    a. clinical trials for Comirnaty, including, but not limited to, all communications between or among BioNTech, Pfizer or external entities involved in the clinical trials;
    b. the approval of Comirnaty, including, but not limited to, all communications sent to or by HHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, FDA, National

[7] S. Res. 94, 119th Cong. (2025).
[8] Kaelan Deese, *Judge scraps 75-year FDA timeline to release Pfizer vaccine safety data, giving agency eight months*, Wash. Examiner, Jan. 7, 2022, https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/2381224/judge-scraps-75-year-fda-timeline-to-release-pfizer-vaccine-safety-data-giving-agency-eight-months/.
[9] For the purposes of this request, the term "development" refers to any supporting funds, research, analysis, design, or experimentation that contributed to the formulation, testing, and evaluation of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines.
[10] The term "communications" includes any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).

Institutes of Health, Vaccine Research Center at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, or any other federal health agency or department;
c. all communications with the Department of Defense;
d. adverse events associated with Comirnaty;
e. adverse events associated with any COVID-19 vaccine, including, but not limited to, all communications with Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Inc., or any of their subsidiaries;
f. the testing of Comirnaty against SARS-CoV-2 variants; and
g. vaccine-associated enhanced disease(s) and Comirnaty.[11]

4. All communications with search engines and social media platforms referring or relating to adverse events and Comirnaty, including, but not limited to, the following:

   a. Alphabet Inc.; [12]
   b. Meta Platforms, Inc.;[13] and
   c. X Corp. (formerly known as Twitter Inc.).[14]

Please provide the information and records requested by April 16, 2025. To expedite the Subcommittee's review, please submit the information and records responsive to this request as they become available, rather than waiting to provide them all at once. To avoid any unnecessary delays, please carefully review the *Procedures for Transmitting Documents to the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations* and contact the Subcommittee to discuss the method and timing of BioNTech's production.

Sincerely,

Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

[11] For the purposes of this request, records referring or relating to "vaccine-associated enhanced disease(s)" shall include all related terms, including but not limited to vaccine associated respiratory enhanced disease, enhanced respiratory disease or enhanced disease, enhanced illness or enhanced illness syndrome, antibody-dependent enhancement, and all associated acronyms of related terms.
[12] For the purposes of this request, Alphabet Inc. shall also mean any subsidiary owned or controlled by Alphabet Inc., whether in whole or in part, including, but not limited to, Google and YouTube.
[13] For the purposes of this request, Meta Platforms, Inc. shall also mean any subsidiary owned or controlled by Meta Platforms, Inc., whether in whole or in part, including, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp.
[14] For the purposes of this request, X Corp. shall also mean any subsidiary owned or controlled by X Corp., whether in whole or in part, including, but not limited to, any predecessor or successor entity.