

# Vaccine Capacity Musical Chairs

By Devan Patel, Senior Director of Business Development,  
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Last week Moderna announced that their COVID-19 vaccine candidate is estimated to be 94.5% effective in clinical trial. This comes a week after we received similarly good news from Pfizer on their vaccine candidate.

My initial thoughts are WOW! In a year when the hits keep coming, this is news worth celebrating. My colleagues and I at Pii were confident that a vaccine would be developed quickly, but we were quietly confident, not wanting to overstate what we knew the pharmaceutical industry was capable of achieving. The speed at which this milestone was accomplished is remarkable considering pharmaceutical development is typically measured in years, not months. It is times like this that I am proud to be part of this industry.

My next thoughts were related to vaccine manufacturing capacity. In my role at Pii I speak with everyone who reaches out to us for manufacturing services. It is an exciting role as I hear about innovative scientific concepts that have been years, sometimes decades, in their development. In the past six months, I've spoken to more vaccine developers than I have in the previous eight years, all of them searching for production capacity.

From the developer's perspective it is like global musical chairs. For those non-COVID-19 vaccine developers, the priority given to the pandemic has created tenuous conditions for their own vaccine production. Many are concerned that they will be affected if manufacturing capacity they are counting on is used, understandably so, for COVID-19 vaccine production.

With the good news from Pfizer, Moderna, and many other organizations completing their clinical trials and vaccine production, and distribution being maybe only weeks away, does this mean the music has stopped and it is time to grab a chair?

Let me know your thoughts on the state of non-COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing capacity.



## About the Author

Devan has held roles of increasing responsibility in Business Development and Project Management leading key development and commercial programs for Pii for both the orals and injectables. With his leadership, Pii has built a world-class organization consistently characterized by superb customer experience. Over the years, Devan has used his knowledge and technical skills to play a vital role for the operations team, managing key initiatives for the Parenteral/Sterile business unit, including managing the overall scheduling and planning of all Aseptic Operations. His collaborative style when working with cross-functional teams across Pii's business units and ability to anticipate problems before they occur as raised the role of project management to an artform. Devan delivers a positive, outcomes-focused experience for our client-partners, from initial contact through successful completion of each project.

Devan earned his Bachelors in Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics from the University of Maryland and a M.B.A. from Johns Hopkins University.

## About Pharmaceutics International (Pii)

Pharmaceutics International, Inc. (Pii) is a US-based contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) with a passion for solving problems efficiently with the highest quality standards. Pii's Hunt Valley, Maryland campus includes 70 manufacturing suites with 4 integrated aseptic filling lines delivering quality, safety, and efficiency. The professionals at Pii have extensive experience with vaccine manufacturing, small and large molecule compounds, developing and manufacturing complex parenteral drugs, extended-release formulations, non-aqueous injectable drug products, and lyophilization.