



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

(/)

May 01, 2023 | Press Release | [Consumer Protection/Scams \(/news/categories/consumer-protectionscams\)](#)

# Paxton Launches Investigation into Gain-of-Function Research and Misrepresentations by Covid-19 Vaccine Manufacturers

Attorney General Paxton launched an investigation into the pharmaceutical companies Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson concerning whether they engaged in gain-of-function research and misled the public about doing so.

Paxton is also investigating whether the companies misrepresented the efficacy of their Covid-19 vaccines and the likelihood of transmitting Covid-19 after taking the vaccines in violation of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act. The investigation will also look into the potential manipulation of vaccine trial data. This investigation concerns potentially fraudulent activity that falls outside the scope of legal immunity granted to manufacturers of the Covid-19 vaccine. It will also review the companies' controversial practice of reporting the metric of "relative risk reduction" instead of "absolute risk reduction" when publicly discussing the efficacy of their

vaccines.

In recent years, certain pharmaceutical companies have had record-breaking financial success, driven in part by sales made from products related to the Covid-19 pandemic. This vested interest in the success of these Covid-19 products, combined with reports about the alarming side effects of vaccines, demands aggressive investigation.

Texas's investigation will force these companies to turn over documents the public otherwise could not access. Attorney General Paxton is committed to discovering the full scope of decision-making behind pandemic interventions forced on the public, especially when a profit motive or political pressure may have compromised Americans' health and safety. Efforts by the federal government to coerce compliance with unjust and illegal pandemic interventions, even at the cost of citizens' employment, means this investigation into the scientific and ethical basis on which public health decisions were made is of major significance.

Given the unprecedented political power and influence over public health policies that pharmaceutical companies now wield, it is more important than ever that they are held accountable if they take dangerous, illegal actions to boost their revenues.

“The development of the Covid-19 vaccine, and the representations made by and knowledge of Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson, are of profound interest to the public’s health and welfare. This investigation aims to discover the truth,” said Attorney General Paxton. “This pandemic was a deeply challenging time for Americans. If any company illegally took advantage of consumers during this period or compromised people’s safety to increase their profits, they will be held responsible. If public health policy was developed on the basis of flawed or misleading research, the public must know. The catastrophic effects of the pandemic and subsequent interventions forced on our country and citizens deserve intense scrutiny, and we are pursuing any hint of wrongdoing to the fullest.”

[Back to Top](#)

---

To read the CID for Pfizer, [click here](#)

[\(https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/images/press/Pfizer%20CID.pdf\)](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/images/press/Pfizer%20CID.pdf).

To read the CID for Moderna, [click here](#)

[\(https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/images/press/Moderna%20CID.pdf\)](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/images/press/Moderna%20CID.pdf).

To read the CID for Johnson & Johnson, [click here](#)

[\(https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/images/press/Johnson%20%26%20Johnson%20CID.pdf\)](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/images/press/Johnson%20%26%20Johnson%20CID.pdf).