

House of Representatives Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis Hearing
“The Urgent Need for a national Plan to Contain the Coronavirus:”
July 31, 2020

Questions for the Record

Rep. Jamie Raskin

Written Questions Submitted by Hon. Jamie Raskin to Dr. Robert Redfield:

***Question 1.* Even in the best case scenario, we are apparently months away from widespread distribution of a safe and effective vaccine. What are your thoughts on the use of live attenuated vaccines in general—and the Sabin Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) in particular—as a way to boost immune responses and induce non-specific protection against COVID-19, while work on a targeted vaccine continues?**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defers to the National Institutes of Health on this response.

***Question 2.* Is the NIH, NIAID, or any other U.S. government entity currently studying the potential use of OPV, the tuberculosis vaccine BCG, or any other existing live attenuated vaccination, either as a stopgap or bridge measure, for therapeutic use (including to reduce severity of COVID-19), or to otherwise protect vulnerable populations? If so, when do you expect to see the results of these studies? If not, why not? Why isn't this advisable given the fact that OPV is widely available and has a proven safety record with very limited adverse reactions?**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defers to the National Institutes of Health on this response.