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COVID-19: Four Pfizer vaccine volunteers develop Bell's palsy - Read details here

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Highlights

- Four volunteers who were administered Pfizer vaccine in the trial stage developed Bell's palsy.
- Bell's palsy is a form of temporary facial paralysis.
- The US FDA regulators said it was still unclear how Bell's palsy was caused in these volunteers due to Pfizer vaccine.

As the United Kingdom started inoculating people with the coronavirus vaccine developed by Pfizer-BioNTech, four volunteers who were administered the vaccine in the trial stage developed Bell's palsy, according to US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulators. Bell's palsy is a form of temporary facial paralysis.

The US FDA regulators, however, noted that it was still unclear how Bell's palsy was caused in these volunteers due to Pfizer vaccine. The US regulators stressed that doctors should closely monitor the side effect of the vaccine and continue to watch on how many people it strikes.

The person suffering from Bell's palsy develops temporary weakness or paralysis of the facial muscles. The paralysis usually occur when a nerve that controls the muscles becomes inflamed, swollen or compressed.

Meanwhile, [Pfizer chief executive Albert Bourla](#) on Wednesday (December 9) noted that the pharma giant did not "cut any corners" while rolling out the vaccines.

The vaccine has "been tested in the exact same way as we are testing any vaccine that is circulating out there," Bourla asserted, adding, "this vaccine actually was tested, because of the scrutiny, with even higher standards in terms of how we do things."

"Always there are people who are sceptical about vaccines, but I have to say they are wrong," the Pfizer CEO said.

Earlier, the medicine regulator in the UK has advised that people with a history of significant allergic reactions should avoid getting shot of Pfizer vaccine after two people reported adverse effects.

National Health Service medical director Stephen Powis said that two NHS workers reported anaphylactoid reactions after getting vaccinated.

"As is common with new vaccines the MHRA (regulator) have advised on a precautionary basis that people with a significant history of allergic reactions do not receive this vaccination, after two people with a history of significant allergic reactions responded adversely yesterday," Powis said.

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