



Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett

Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, born January 26, 1986 in Hurdle Mills, NC

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett is an African American woman and one of the scientists that led the development efforts of the COVID-19 vaccine. Corbett began leading the research and development for the vaccine at the beginning of 2020 when the virus was discovered to be extremely deadly and spreading around the globe.

Corbett works for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a viral immunologist. She has been working with Moderna to develop the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine.

The vaccine has been proven to be over 90% efficacy against the virus. Moderna's vaccine received emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in December 2020.

Her hometown in Hurdle Mills, NC is approximately one hour north of Raleigh, NC. As a student, she was selected to participate in Project SEED, a program for gifted minority students that allowed her to study chemistry in labs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She interned at the NIH during her undergraduate studies. After graduating, Corbett enrolled in a doctorate program at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she worked as a research assistant studying virus infections and eventually received a PhD in Microbiology and Immunology.

Written by Latosha Dixon