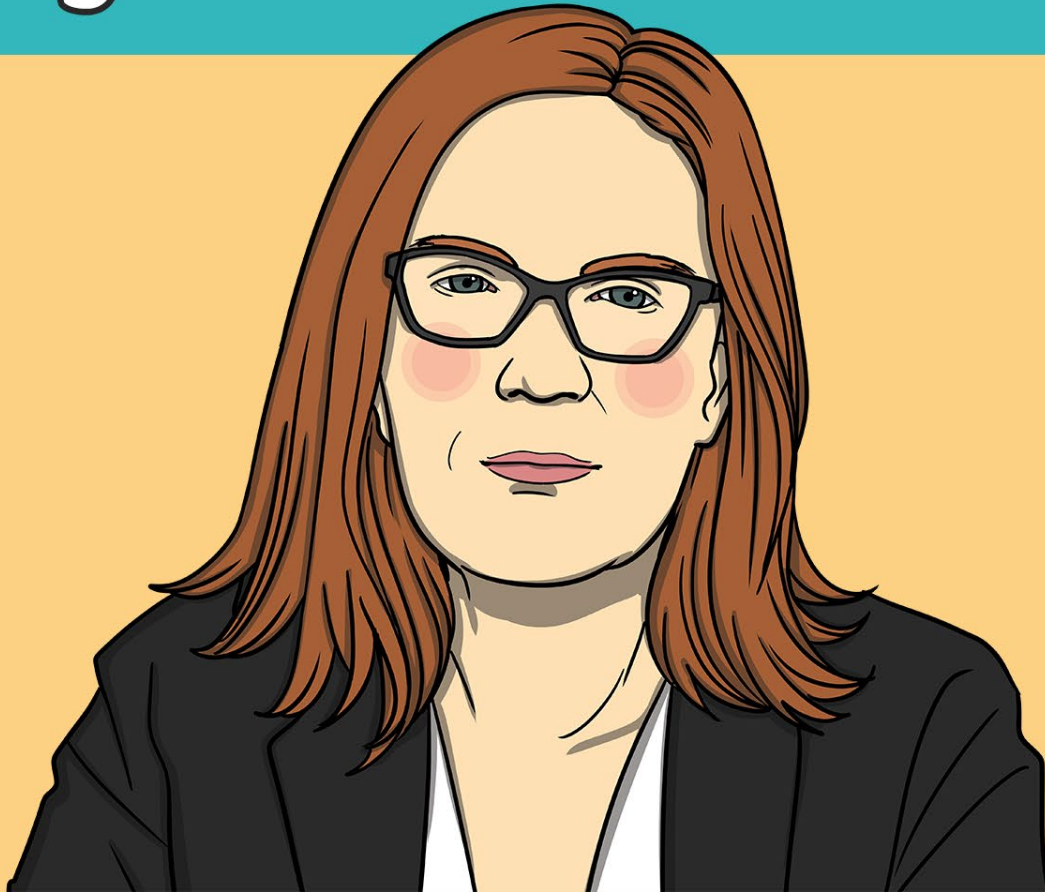


Who Is Professor Gilbert?



Who Is Professor Gilbert?

Professor Sarah Gilbert is a scientist.

She was born in 1962 in Kettering, England.

Professor Gilbert has helped make a vaccine for COVID19.

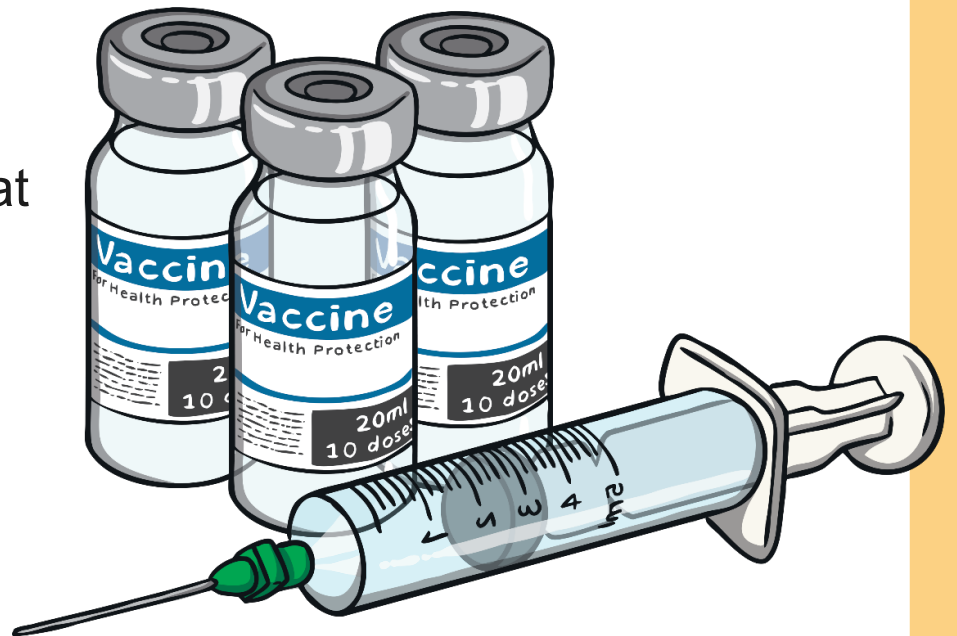


What Is a Vaccine?

Some germs, like viruses, cause diseases.

A vaccine is a medicine that is put into your body. It helps your body learn how to fight germs that might make you ill.

If you get a vaccine against a virus, it helps to protect you from the disease caused by that virus. We call this giving your body immunity.



Incredible Vaccines

Most people are given vaccines when they are children. This means they have immunity from lots of diseases.



In the past, a lot of people in Britain used to catch a disease called polio. It could make people very sick, paralyse them or even kill them.

From the 1950s, a vaccine was given to people in Britain.

The last time someone caught polio in Britain was nearly 40 years ago.

Professor Gilbert

Professor Gilbert specialises in making vaccines.

She is a professor at Oxford University.

She also runs a company which makes vaccines. She spends time researching **vaccines** for different viruses and diseases.



Becoming a Scientist

Professor Gilbert went to the University of East Anglia in England.

She then did a PhD at the University of Hull. This is usually the highest university degree that you can complete.



While she was at Hull, Professor Gilbert almost gave up studying science for something else. Luckily, she decided to carry on and become a scientist.

Creating Vaccines

In the 1990s, Professor Gilbert began to work at Oxford University. She studied a disease called malaria.

Then she began to work on vaccines against malaria, ebola and other deadly viruses.



Coronavirus

The coronavirus was discovered in December 2019.

In early 2020, Professor Gilbert began to work on a vaccine for it.

Her team in Oxford worked on the virus and designed a vaccine in just one weekend!

They started testing their vaccine on volunteers in April 2020. Vaccines have to go through lots of tests to make sure they are safe for people.



A Coronavirus Vaccine

After months of tests, Professor Gilbert's Oxford coronavirus vaccine was a success!

Many hope that the vaccine will stop people from becoming ill with coronavirus and help life to return to normal.



