

Russia Begins Final Trials of Sputnik V Coronavirus Vaccine

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Russia began first deliveries of the Sputnik V vaccine for the general public this week. **Sergei Kiselyov / Moskva News Agency**

Russia has launched Phase 3 trials of its highly touted coronavirus vaccine to determine the jab's long-term safety and effectiveness, authorities said Wednesday as questions surrounded the results of its Phase 1 and 2 trials.

Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said 31,000 out of the announced 40,000 volunteers have been recruited for the study, the state-run TASS news agency [reported](#). Deputy Moscow Mayor Anastasia Rakova [said](#) that more than 35,000 Muscovites applied to take part in the trials, according to Interfax.

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Neither official specified how many people have taken the adenovirus-based viral vector

vaccine so far Wednesday.

Rakova added that the volunteers will receive a second shot of the same vaccine within 21 days of the first.

Russia [began](#) first deliveries of the Sputnik V vaccine for the general public this week.

A number of Russian state firm executives, cabinet members, city officials and party leaders have announced in recent weeks that they had received the vaccine.

The announcement comes after a group of prominent scientists highlighted “strange patterns” in the data published in the scientific journal *The Lancet* last Friday. The data included duplicate values for different groups of patients who had been tested with different formulations of the vaccine, the scientists told *The Moscow Times*.

The head of the state-run Gamaleya institute that developed the vaccine has also disclosed plans to develop a new vaccine that would [double one's protection](#) from both Covid-19 and the flu.

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