

Vaccinated Siberian Medics Get Coronavirus

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The Altai region has the 18th-highest number of coronavirus infections out of Russia's 85 regions.
Sophia Sandurskaya / Moskva News Agency

At least three medics who received Russia's vaunted Sputnik V vaccine have contracted the coronavirus in Siberia as part of a vaccination drive of at-risk groups, regional authorities [said](#) Tuesday.

The adenovirus vector-based vaccine's developer had previously suggested that recipients infected with Covid-19 may have received a [placebo](#) during final clinical trials. Authorities are administering Sputnik V to a select group of medics and teachers nationwide in parallel with Moscow, where the vaccine is undergoing 40,000-volunteer trials.

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Officials in the Altai region reported that three out of the 42 medics who received the two-dose Sputnik V vaccine have been infected with Covid-19, according to the state-run TASS

news agency.

“The sick doctors’ immunity likely didn’t have time to form by the time they encountered the Covid-19 pathogen,” the Altai region’s administration said.

“Only that could have caused the doctors’ infection,” it added.

The Altai region, which in absolute terms has the 18th-highest number of coronavirus infections out of Russia's 85 regions, is scheduled to receive a second batch of 2,000 Sputnik V vaccines in early 2021, TASS reported.

Following a similar announcement by Pfizer and BioNTech, Russia’s Health Ministry said Monday that Sputnik V is more than 90% effective. The percentage is based on data collated from vaccinations of the public rather than from the vaccine's ongoing Phase 3 trials, Reuters reported.

Sputnik V faces equipment shortages that could delay it from entering mass production, President Vladimir Putin [said](#) earlier in November as reports suggested that developers have paused clinical trials due to the shortages.

A record number of Russians have gotten infected and died of Covid-19 in recent weeks as authorities have gradually imposed targeted restrictions to slow its spread and raised hopes of mass vaccination.

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