

Brazil to Cancel Orders for Russia's Sputnik V Vaccine – Reuters

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Brazil plans to cancel its orders for Russia's Sputnik V vaccine, Reuters <u>reported</u> Thursday, as Moscow seeks to shore up domestic supplies in the face of a coronavirus surge fueled by the Delta variant.

Brazil would be the second Latin American country to cancel its Sputnik V order after Guatemala did so this week. Two others, Argentina and Mexico, have complained of seconddose shortages amid Russia's own campaign to kickstart its lagging vaccination drive.

Unlike Guatemala, which faced a delivery delay of a previous Sputnik V order, Reuters reported that Brazil's Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga said its cancelation was due to lapsed deadlines in the registration process with the national health regulator.

Brazil had signed a contract to import 10 million doses from Russia in March. Its pharmaceutical company Uniao Quimica is reportedly still planning to manufacture Sputnik V locally for export to neighboring countries that had approved its use.

Queiroga added that Brazil has also canceled a \$316-million contract for 20 million doses of India's Covaxin vaccine, Reuters reported.

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