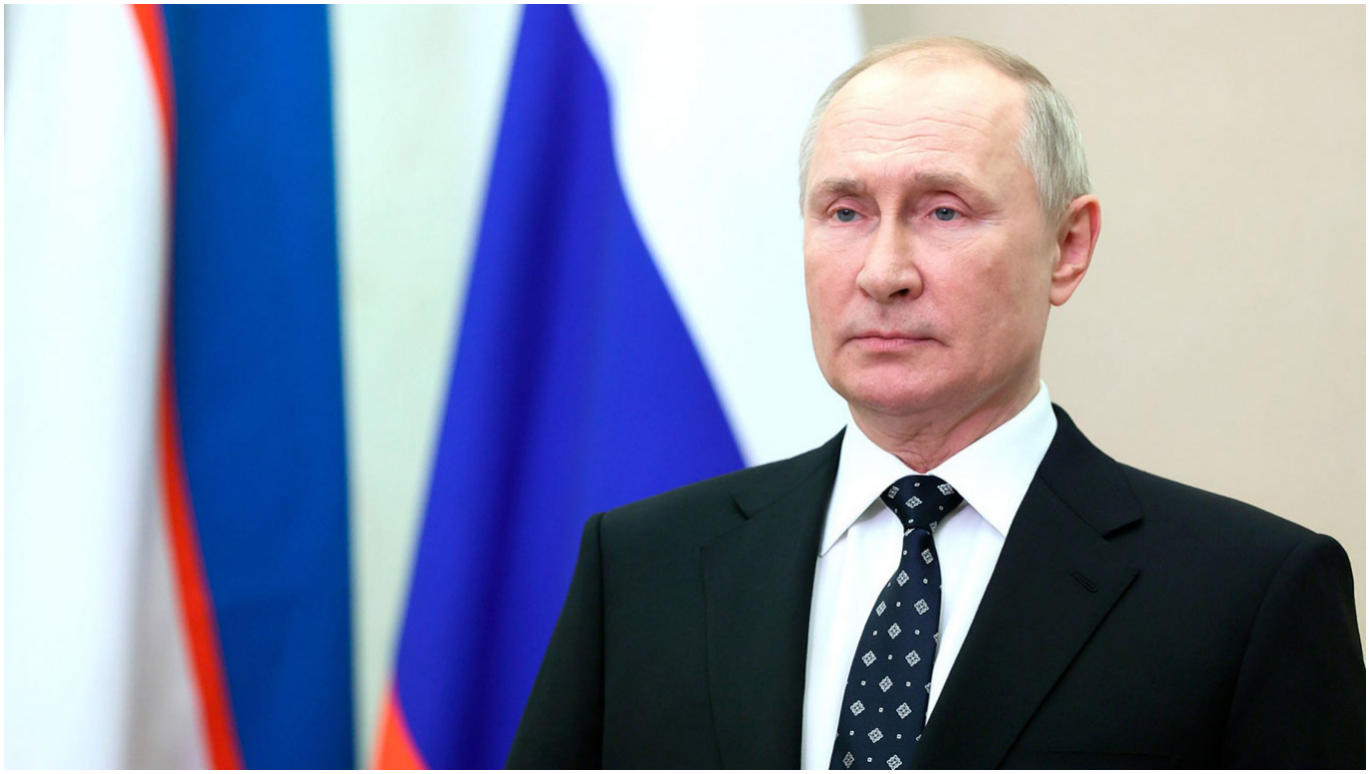
The Moscow Times
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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Putin Says He Took Nasal Spray Covid Vaccine

November 24, 2021



The Russian president said he volunteered to take part in the nasal vaccine trial days after receiving a vaccine booster shot. **kremlin.ru**

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he has received an experimental nasal coronavirus vaccine days after receiving a booster shot as authorities continue to struggle to convince people to get vaccinated.

Putin said on Sunday he had had a third Covid-19 vaccine dose, noting that the injection of the one-dose Sputnik Light booster was painless.

The president also volunteered to take part in trials of Russia's nasal Covid vaccine, he revealed Wednesday.

"I sprayed one [nostril] and the other," Putin said in a televised meeting with top government officials in charge of Russia's coronavirus response.

"I sat there for 15 minutes and it was all over. I felt nothing, simply nothing," the president

said after receiving what he described as a "powder" nasal spray.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov clarified later Wednesday that the nasal spray is a liquid.

Related article: Russia's Putin Gets Covid Booster Jab

"Today, after these two procedures, I already played sports in the morning."

Putin repeated his pleas to Russians both to get vaccinated and re-vaccinated to combat the latest and deadliest wave of the pandemic yet, with more than 1,000 fatalities per day registered in recent weeks.

He added that he was still opposed to mandatory vaccination.

Russia has rolled out several domestically developed vaccines, including the internationally touted Sputnik V, but the campaign to immunize the country has faced several setbacks.

Only 37% of Russians are fully vaccinated, according to monitors, while authorities say Russia's herd immunity has surpassed 50%.

Lawmakers are now racing to mandate digital Covid passes for access to public transport, restaurants and non-essential shops to combat the pandemic's fourth wave and boost vaccinations.

Russia is among the worst-hit countries by the coronavirus pandemic with a total of more than 9.4 million infections and more than 266,000 officially registered deaths.

The Moscow Times' analysis places Russia's total excess death figures since the start of the pandemic at at least 723,000.

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