

# Russia's Lavrov Denies Putin Is Ill

By [AFP](#)

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Russia's President Vladimir Putin congratulates servicemen, civilian personnel and veterans of the FSB Border Guard Service on Border Guards Day, at the Novo-Ogaryovo residence on May 28, 2022. **Mikhail Metzel/POOL/TASS**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Sunday denied speculation that President Vladimir Putin was ill, saying there were no signs pointing to any ailment.

Putin's health and private life are taboo subjects in Russia, and are almost never discussed in public.

Answering a question from France's broadcaster TF1, Russia's top diplomat said: "I don't think that sane people can see in this person signs of some kind of illness or ailment."

Lavrov said that Putin, who will turn 70 in October, appeared in public "every day."

"You can watch him on screens, read and listen to his speeches," Lavrov said in comments [released](#) by the Russian foreign ministry.

"I leave it to the conscience of those who spread such rumors."

Putin, who has been in power in Russia for more than two decades, sent troops to Ukraine on Feb. 24, sending shock waves around the world.

Moscow's offensive has killed thousands of people, sparked the biggest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II and led to unprecedented Western sanctions against Moscow.

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