
Russia testing MULTIPLE prototype Covid-19 vaccines

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Russia's research center of virology and biotechnology, known as the Vector Institute, is testing multiple different vaccine prototypes against Covid-19 in a race to find a cure for the virus behind a global pandemic.

This week, it "began immunogenicity studies in sensitive laboratory animals... of all developed vaccine prototypes," said consumer watchdog agency Rospotrebnadzor in a statement on Friday. The composition, dose, route of administration of the future vaccine will be determined [through the tests]. Scientists expect that the introduction of the vaccine will be possible in the fourth quarter of 2020.

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Russia consumer rights watchdog Rospotrebnadzor reveals images of the new #coronavirus, the genome of which was deciphered by Russian scientists. Its particle size is 100-120 nanometers. Images were taken by negative contrast method on a JEM-1400 transmission electron microscope.

The Russian Health Ministry's Research Institute of Influenza previously said a

prototype vaccine could take between four and six months to develop, with a three-year timetable for the final product, but researchers at the institute suggest it could come much sooner.

The World Health Organization – which declared Covid-19 a pandemic last week – has estimated a 12 to 18 months timeframe to roll out a vaccine, with early trials starting within four months.

[Also on rt.com Moscow mayor announces first Russian coronavirus death: autopsy later reveals it was blood clot](#)

As of Friday, Russia has confirmed 199 cases of the coronavirus, with the total jumping by some 35 percent on the previous day. The country's first death linked to the virus was announced on Thursday, but an autopsy later revealed that a 79-year-old woman with pre-existing health conditions had actually died of a blood clot.

Worldwide, Covid-19 is on track to hit 250,000 cases this week, killing over 9,800 people in scores of nations since the outbreak began in the Chinese city of Wuhan last December.

While there is no vaccine and few effective treatments to date, more than 85,000 patients have recovered from the illness, many of them in China.

[Also on rt.com Covid-19 vaccine: Difficult, uncertain and far-off, microbiologist says](#)