

India syringe maker boosts production to meet virus vaccine demand

September 9 2020, by Abhaya Srivastava



India's biggest syringe manufacturer is ramping up production to churn out a billion units, anticipating a surge in demand for coronavirus vaccinations

India's biggest syringe manufacturer is ramping up production to churn out a billion units, anticipating a surge in demand as the global race to

find a coronavirus vaccine heats up.

While the focus on tackling the pandemic has mostly been on the [development of vaccines](#), experts say medical essentials to administer them are also vital.

Hindustan Syringes—one of the world's largest makers of the item—said it is increasing its output of auto-disable devices (which prevent re-use) from 700 million a year to one billion by 2021 to meet the expected demand.

"Even if 60 percent of the world's population is immunised, it would mean four to five billion syringes would be required," Hindustan Syringes managing director Rajiv Nath told AFP at their factory in northern Haryana state.

There are currently more than 30 candidate vaccines being tested on humans, with governments hoping to deploy one as soon as possible with the [coronavirus](#) wrecking lives and economies.

Shortages of PPE such as masks hampered early responses to the pandemic, and countries have now started building up their stockpile of syringes, vials and needles.

"We may have sufficient capacity for the first wave of vaccines which would only be administered to priority groups," Prashant Yadav, a healthcare supply chains expert at Harvard Medical School, told AFP.



While the focus on tackling the pandemic has mostly been on the development of vaccines, experts say medical essentials to administer them are also vital

"(But) when we get to a large-scale vaccination in late 2021 or 2022 and the dose demand estimates would be greater than 10 billion, that's when [syringe](#) supply starts becoming a constraint."

So far, UNICEF has ordered 140 million syringes from Hindustan for COVAX, a global initiative aimed at ensuring a more equitable distribution of vaccines to poorer nations.

Much of the world's demand for syringes is expected to be met by factories in China and India.

© 2020 AFP

Citation: India syringe maker boosts production to meet virus vaccine demand (2020, September 9) retrieved 27 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-09-india-syringe-maker-boosts-production.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.