

Cigarette maker BAT announces US vaccine trial launch

December 16 2020



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British cigarette maker BAT said Wednesday that its US biotech division Kentucky BioProcessing will launch trials of a potential coronavirus vaccine, developed using tobacco plant technology.

The group said the US Food and Drug Administration has approved its application for a [vaccine candidate](#), paving the way for an initial phase one clinical trial in 180 adults.

Study results are expected in mid-2021, when the group hopes to progress to a phase two trial on the project, which is being run on a not-for-profit basis.

"The candidate vaccine has been developed using KBP's innovative fast-growing plant-based technology," it said in a statement, adding enrolment for the trial will begin shortly.

"This unique approach has a number of possible advantages, including the rapid production of the vaccine's [active ingredients](#) in around six weeks, compared to several months using conventional methods.

"The candidate vaccine also has the potential to be stable at [room temperature](#), which could be a significant advantage for healthcare systems and public health networks worldwide."

BAT, whose best-selling cigarettes include Dunhill and Lucky Strike, acquired Kentucky BioProcessing with its 2016 purchase of US group Reynolds.

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Citation: Cigarette maker BAT announces US vaccine trial launch (2020, December 16)
retrieved 26 April 2024 from
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-12-cigarette-maker-vaccine-trial.html>

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