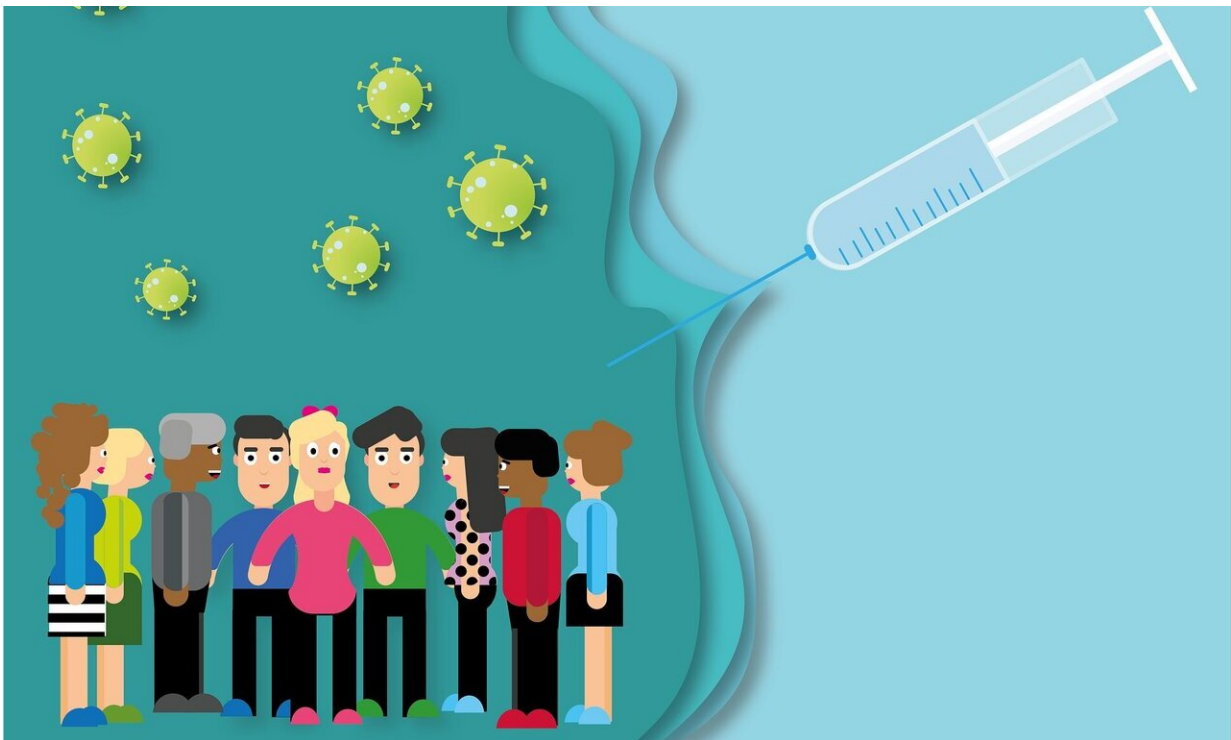


Uzbekistan begins phase 3 trials of Chinese vaccine

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Uzbekistan on Thursday said large-scale trials of a Chinese-made coronavirus vaccine would begin this week among its population.

Vaccine maker Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical has delivered 3,000 doses of the [vaccine](#) and 3,000 placebos to the Central Asian

country for phase 3 testing, the Uzbek innovation ministry said in a statement.

The trials involving 5,000 adults will begin on Friday.

Innovation Minister Ibrokhim Abdurakhmonov and Deputy Minister Shakhlokhon Turdikulova received the vaccine last month along with members of their families, a ministry spokeswoman told AFP.

Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical won approval from the Chinese authorities for first-phase human trials of its vaccine in June.

Phase 3 [trials](#) are also planned for Indonesia, Pakistan and Ecuador, a Zhifei press release said in November.

Zhifei's founder Jiang Rensheng has seen his personal worth triple to \$19.9 billion this year according to an annual Chinese rich list published in October.

Uzbekistan, a country of around 34 million people, in September placed an order for 35 million doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine.

The country has recorded 74,498 [coronavirus](#) cases with 71,740 recoveries and 611 deaths.

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