

Studies clash on Russian vaccine's efficacy against omicron

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A medical worker administers a shot of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine at a vaccination center in Moscow, Russia, Friday, Dec. 10, 2021. Credit: AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin

The developer of Russia's Sputnik V said Friday that its vaccine provides

the best protection against the omicron variant of the coronavirus, disputing a Western study that found Sputnik produced "no neutralizing activity" against the new variant.

The Gamaleya Institute and the Russian Direct Investment Fund, which bankrolled Sputnik V and its one-shot version called Sputnik Light, said in a statement that a preliminary laboratory study showed Sputnik V had "the best virus neutralization results against [omicron](#) in comparison with other vaccines".

Russian President Vladimir Putin praised Sputnik V efficiency against omicron earlier Friday.

"Our Sputnik V is working well, and, perhaps, even more effective against the omicron than other vaccines used," the president said during a congress of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

Meanwhile, international researchers from the University of Washington and the Swiss drugmaker Humabs Biomed SA said in a study published Tuesday in pre-print and yet to be peer-reviewed that data they analyzed showed conflicting results.

The study, which used samples from [health care workers](#) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, who received Sputnik V, showed "no neutralizing activity against omicron."

The Gamaleya Institute disputed the foreign research findings, claiming they resulted from the use of "wrong serum samples".

"A recently published small study addresses Sputnik vaccine's efficacy against omicron [variant](#) deliberately using serum samples that are not representative," the Russian center's statement said.

Russia has so far reported 25 cases of the omicron variant in the country, according to Deputy Prime Minister Tatiana Golikova.

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