

Johnson & Johnson temporarily halts COVID-19 vaccine output: Report

February 8 2022



Johnson & Johnson temporarily halted output of its COVID-19 vaccine at the only plant capable of commercial production, according to a report. Credit: AFP

Johnson & Johnson has temporarily suspended production at a key plant manufacturing the COVID-19 vaccine, the New York Times reported

Tuesday.

The facility in the Dutch city of Leiden halted output late last year, according to the report, which cited people familiar with the decision.

J&J, without confirming or denying the report, said it has continued to fulfill delivery commitments, a company spokesman said.

The factory, which is currently making an [experimental vaccine](#), is expected to resume production of the COVID-19 [vaccine](#) again in a "few" months, the Times reported.

J&J currently has "millions of doses of our COVID-19 vaccine in inventory," according to the J&J spokesman.

"We continue to fulfill our contractual obligations in relation to the Covax facility and the African Union," the company spokesman said.

J&J has projected sales of \$3 billion to \$3.5 billion in 2022 for its COVID-19 vaccine, much less than the \$32 billion forecast by Pfizer for the same period.

But the J&J vaccine has been sought after in developing countries because, unlike other options, it does not require transportation at very cold temperatures. Also, the vaccine was originally billed as a single-shot inoculation.

Additional plants are being outfitted to make the vaccine, but production is not expected until late spring, the Times said.

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Citation: Johnson & Johnson temporarily halts COVID-19 vaccine output: Report (2022,

February 8) retrieved 26 June 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-02-johnson-temporarily-halts-covid-vaccine.html>

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