

COVID vaccine inhaled through the mouth launched in China

January 23 2024, by Cara Murez



China announced Wednesday that it has started giving its citizens a

COVID booster that can be inhaled through the mouth.

The [oral vaccine](#) was distributed in Shanghai. A [video](#) appeared on Chinese state media, showing people holding a translucent white cup with a short nozzle to their mouths. Text accompanying the video said a person slowly inhaled the mist, held his breath for five seconds and was finished within 20 seconds, the *Associated Press* reported.

Advantages to an inhaled vaccine could include appealing to someone afraid of needles and the concept of priming the area of the body where the virus often enters.

Dr. Vineeta Bal, an immunologist in India, said large droplets would prime the mouth and throat. Small droplets would travel further into the body, the *AP* reported.

The vaccine was developed by Cansino Biologics, a Chinese biopharmaceutical company, and is an aerosol version of the company's one-shot adenovirus vaccine. It was [approved](#) in September by Chinese regulators after completing trials in China, Hungary, Pakistan, Malaysia, Argentina and Mexico, the *AP* reported.

It was offered as a [booster dose](#) for people who had already received initial vaccines, according to an announcement posted on an official city social media account, the *AP* said.

An earlier nasal vaccine, developed in the United States, has been approved by regulators in India, but not distributed yet. It is [licensed](#) to Indian vaccine maker Bharat Biotech, the *AP* reported.

Other nasal vaccines are being tested globally, according to the World Health Organization.

More information: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more on [COVID-19 vaccines](#).

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Citation: COVID vaccine inhaled through the mouth launched in China (2024, January 23)
retrieved 6 May 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-01-covid-vaccine-inhaled-mouth-china.html>

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