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PANDEMIC COVID-19 DEC 4, 17:36 Updated by 18:08

## Vaccination the best protection against "omicron" and other strains of coronavirus

One of the leaders of the pharmaceutical company Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Deepak Sapra noted that the dangerous new omicron strain is still under study, but there may be more clarity soon

HYDERABAD / INDIA /, December 4. / Corr. TASS Evgeny Pakhomov /. Timely vaccination, as well as compliance with anti-toxic safety measures, remain the best protection against new dangerous strains of the coronavirus virus, including the omicron strain. This opinion was expressed to a TASS correspondent on Saturday by one of the leaders of the pharmaceutical company Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, which produces Russian vaccines of the Sputnik family in India, head of the API (active pharmaceutical ingredients) and service department at Deepak Sapra.

"For now, prevention and protection through a full course of vaccinations is still the best form of protection for us and our loved ones, along with other recommended safety practices such as appropriate protection, social distance, hand washing, and so on," Sapra said.

He noted that the new dangerous omicron strain is still being studied, but there may soon be more clarity. "It is too early to give definitive comments on the omicron option. It is being studied, and we expect more clarity in a couple of weeks or so on its virulence, transmission, behavior, severity, and so on," said the source.

At the same time, Sapra believes that specialists are now better prepared for new challenges from coronavirus infection.

"The world now seems to be better prepared than we were at the beginning of the pandemic. We now have a full range of treatments for COVID-19, from mild to moderate to severe disease. Our company is also committed to making this full range of treatments available. for as many patients in need in India and around the world as possible, "added a senior representative of the pharmaceutical company.

## Partners in the fight against the pandemic

Sapra believes Russia and India are natural partners in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, given that Russia has created the first registered coronavirus vaccine and India has a strong pharmaceutical industry.

"The Sputnik V vaccine developed in Russia became the first vaccine registered in the world against COVID-19. Given the potential and production success of India in the field of pharmaceuticals and vaccine production, both countries are natural partners in this fight against the COVID-19 pandemic," said the interlocutor of the agency. He added that the company has a long history of relations with Russia, its office was opened in Russia in 1992, and since then the company has been successfully operating.

"When the COVID-19 pandemic began, we, like the rest of the world, were looking for all possible solutions and treatments. We used our successful presence in Russia to form a partnership with the

Russian Direct Investment Fund and deliver the world's first registered vaccine to India. against COVID-19 - "Sputnik V", as well as other vaccines of the Sputnik family, - said the source of the agency.

"These efforts are evidence of the close relationship between the two countries, as well as the cooperation between the governments of both countries," Sapra said.

Dr. Reddy's in February this year applied for a limited use of "Sputnik V" in India. It was approved in April. This company became the main distributor of the Russian vaccine in India, the use of the Russian drug began in this country on May 14. The company is now preparing to produce a single-component vaccine, Sputnik Light. The project is overseen by the Russian Direct Investment Fund.