

BIOLOGICAL E. TO RECEIVE MRNA VACCINE TECHNOLOGY FROM WHO

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Vaccine maker Biological E. has been selected to receive mRNA technology from the World Health Organisation technology transfer hub.

After examining a number of proposals from India, the WHO's Advisory Committee on Vaccine Product Development has selected Biological E. as a recipient, the Hyderabad-based firm said on Monday.

The WHO's technology transfer hub has the potential to expand manufacturing capacity for other products as well, including treatments, and target other priorities such as malaria, HIV and cancer. The WHO and partners will work with the Indian government and Biological E to put in place training and support for the company to start producing mRNA vaccines, it said.

"We are very pleased with the trust WHO places in our organisation... this is also a reflection of our world-class processes, scale and effectiveness," Biological E. managing director Mahima Datla said.

The company has been investing in mRNA technologies since last year and the partnership with WHO will enhance its ability to develop next generation vaccines suitable globally, she added.

Its Corbevax is part of the national immunisation programme. It was given emergency use authorisation for children in the age group of 12 to 18 and adults up to 80.

The WHO said the mRNA vaccines use a messenger RNA created in a laboratory to teach the human cells how to produce a protein that in turn initiates an immune response inside the body against a disease. The immune response will fight the actual virus as it gets into the body.

At present, India has no COVID-19 vaccine made on mRNA platform.

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