

Australia to roll out trial for TB vaccine against COVID-19

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The trial has been endorsed by the Director-General of the WHO

Professor Kathryn North AC, Director of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) in Melbourne, Australia, has announced its infectious disease researchers are preparing to roll-out a multi-center randomised controlled clinical trial of the BCG vaccine against COVID-19.

The trial has been endorsed by the Director-General of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom, who has called for global support and assistance in the fight against COVID-19.

The proposed trial is based on an [existing MCRI trial](#), which has allowed rapid but thorough human ethics approvals, and involves sites across Australia.

The first sites to be announced is The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. More sites are expected to be announced in coming days.

Professor North said, "The Federal and State Health Departments, together with Australian and international philanthropists, have shown a willingness and capacity to step up to fund a number of COVID-19 related trials".

"Using rapidly sourced and immediately deployable funds, we will be relentless in our pursuit of preventions and treatments for this unprecedented pandemic. These trials will allow the rapid advancement of the most promising candidates to clinical practice, giving us the most number of shots on goal against COVID-19 as possible."