

Australia inks \$1.7B worth agreement for COVID-19 vaccine

08 September 2020 | News | By Manbeena Chawla

Secures onshore manufacturing agreements for 2 COVID-19 vaccines



A free COVID-19 vaccine will be available progressively throughout 2021 in Australia, if promising trials prove successful, following a \$1.7 billion supply and production agreement between the Australian Government and pharmaceutical companies.

Under the agreement, the [University of Oxford/AstraZeneca](#) and the [University of Queensland/CSL](#) will provide more than 84.8 million vaccine doses for the Australian population, almost entirely manufactured in Melbourne, with early access to 3.8 million doses of the University of Oxford vaccine in January and February 2021.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said both vaccines would need to be proven safe and effective, and meet all necessary regulatory requirements, prior to being made available to the public.

“Australians will gain free access to a COVID-19 vaccine in 2021 if trials prove successful,” the Prime Minister said.

“By securing the production and supply agreements, Australians will be among the first in the world to receive a safe and effective vaccine, should it pass late stage testing.

“There are no guarantees that these vaccines will prove successful, however the agreement puts Australia at the top of the queue, if our medical experts give the vaccines the green light.”

Health Minister Greg Hunt said Australians would be among the first in the world to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, once it is available.