

EU reserves 400 mln doses of potential J&J virus vaccine

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vaccine being developed by French firm Sanofi.

"Our citizens' lives and our economy need a safe and effective vaccine against the coronavirus. Today's talks bring us closer to achieving this," European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said.

The EU is using about 2 billion euros (\$2.4 billion) from an emergency fund to strike advance purchase deals with several vaccine makers in a bid to secure enough shots for its population of 450 million.

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The European Union said Thursday it had reserved up to 400 million doses of a potential new coronavirus vaccine being developed by US giant Johnson & Johnson.

Preliminary talks concluded Friday for a first purchase of 200 million doses followed by an equal number later, a statement said.

"The envisaged contract with Johnson & Johnson would provide for the possibility for all EU Member States to purchase the vaccine, as well as to donate to lower and [middle income countries](#)," it said.

The bloc said it was in "intensive discussions" with other manufacturers for potential vaccines.

According to the World Health Organization, nearly 3.7 million cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in Europe since the start of the pandemic, and 218,383 deaths.

On July 31, the European Commission said it had reserved 300 million doses of another potential

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