

# Myth vs. reality in COVID Russia

by

**Riley Waggaman**

on

[Off Guardian](#)

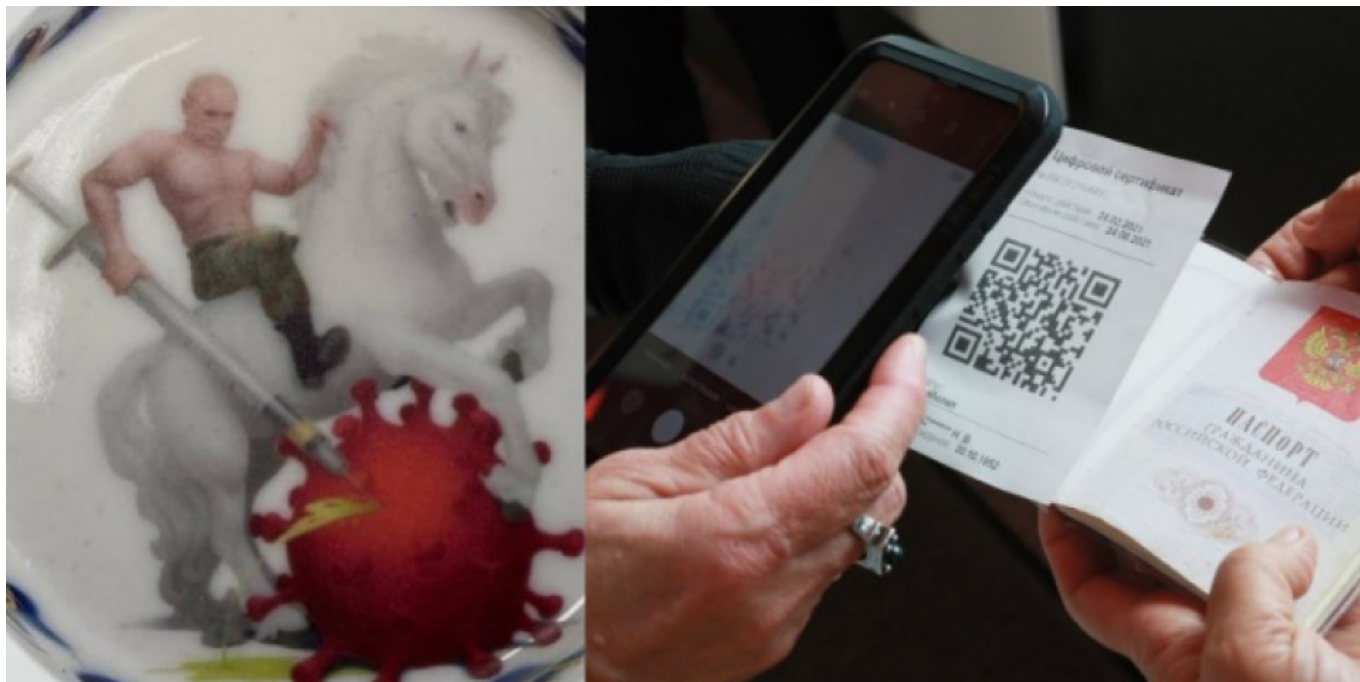


**It's time to part ways with the conscience-soothing fairytales**

*"Sputnik V is safe!"; "Putin is just 'playing along' with the COVID narrative until the petrodollar collapses!"; "Russia is the last bastion of freedom!"*

Alternative media has created an alternative reality about Russia.

The Kremlin has embraced all the same soul-raping "public health measures" currently terrorizing the Western world-and people are either in denial or making excuses.



Internet Russia (left) is slightly different from Actual Russia (right)

**"There is no compulsory vaccination in Russia!"**

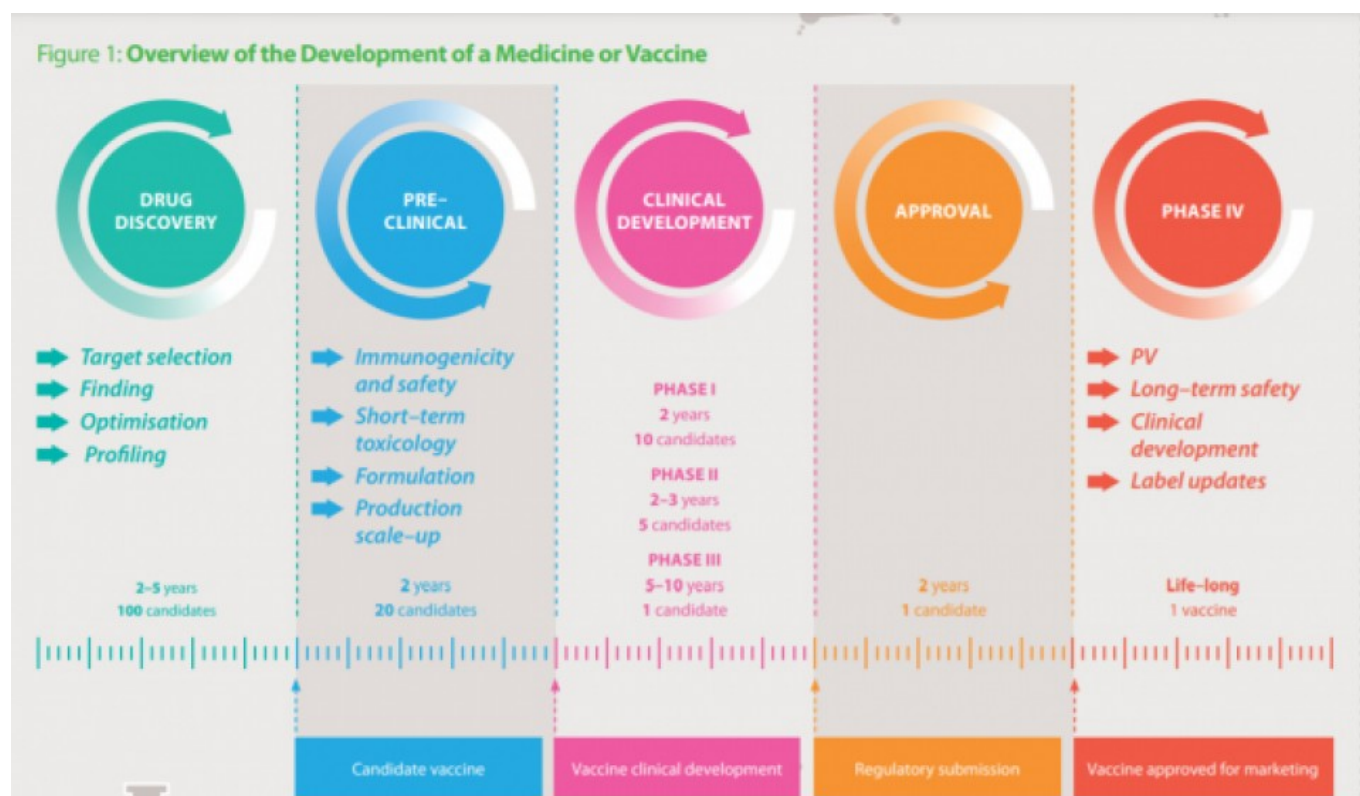
All 85 federal subjects of the Russian Federation now have [rules](#) requiring digital "health" certificates for entry to certain businesses, venues, and public institutions. Many regions are [voiced support](#) for "any measures" that "encourage" Russians to get jabbed-while [are banned](#) from afterschool clubs and other extracurricular activities.

Digital vaccine passports will be [are reserved exclusively for the vaccinated](#) and those with proof of prior infection.

Muscovites over the age of 60 have been [the non-existent results](#) of Sputnik V's "long-term" (ha-ha) safety and efficacy trials-which are scheduled to end on December 31, 2022.

Like other COVID vaccines, Sputnik V has zoomed through clinical trials, with an "interim" report consisting of six months' worth of data [plagued by controversy](#) (as well as an alarming lack of transparency).

Phase III vaccine trials [won't end until 2023](#).



Sputnik V: zooming past all the unnecessary red tape

Alexander Redko, chairman of the St. Petersburg Professional Association of Medical Workers, [announced](#) it was prematurely ending enrollment for Sputnik V trials, arguing that it would be unethical to administer placebo shots when a proven, life-saving vaccine was already available to the public.

"Everything has now been proven, while the pandemic is ongoing," Alexander Gintsburg, director of the Gamaleya Center-which developed Sputnik V-explained, just [being threatened](#) with exorbitant fines and prison time.

"The fact is that nothing is registered in Russia at all. Therefore, it is very difficult to understand how many serious complications there are. There are many cases, and we can say that they are related to the vaccine. There is a lot to say. Or you can stick your head in the sand and say that there is nothing at all," Pavel Vorobyov, Chairman of the Moscow Scientific Society of Physicians, [revealed](#) that Russia's flagship vaccine was the nation's leader when it came to causing adverse reactions, beating Sinopharm and AstraZeneca by significant margins (the full report [Duma Deputy Mikhail Delyagin](#) argued in an August op-ed that the government's own data suggested that mass compulsory vaccination had no clear neutralizing effect and [claimed](#) 80% of jabbed Russians falling ill with the virus had purchased fake certificates and were lying about their vaccination status.

Gintsburg's tall tale inspired some colorful commentary in Russian media. As [conceded](#) that the government had completely failed to convince the public that Sputnik V was safe and effective.

"There are few answers to the questions why those who are vaccinated are ill, why those who are vaccinated die, why there are problems and complications after the vaccinations themselves," the high-ranking lawmaker said.

The total lack of transparency has spurred the [compared](#) concerned citizens to terrorists.

The Kremlin and its credulous cheerleaders maintain that there's no need to worry about long-term safety because Sputnik V is based on the Gamaleya Center's proven, time-tested viral vector-based



delivery platform. For example, Kirill Dmitriev, the [in an op-ed published by RT:](#)

*Russia has benefitted from modifying for COVID-19 an existing two-vector vaccine platform developed in 2015 for Ebola fever, which went through all phases of clinical trials and was used to help defeat the Ebola epidemic in Africa in 2017.*

But on Sputnik V's website, we [was declared Ebola-free in June 2016](#) following an outbreak two years earlier. By the time Gamaleya's magic Ebola slurry arrived in Guinea (as part of a clinical trial), there was no Ebola left to fight. In February of this year, Guinea [famously fearless and objective Russia Desk.](#)

By the way: why would Dmitriev (and Sputnik V's own website) brag about injecting 2,000 Africans as part of a clinical trial held a year after Guinea was declared Ebola-free? Well, because that's basically Gamaleya's greatest triumph - before inventing Sputnik V in record-time.



Alexander Gintsburg, widely credited with ending Guinea's horrific 2017 Ebola epidemic

Sputnik V is the Gamaleya Center's first "viral vector-based" vaccine to receive emergency use authorization outside of Russia. Gintsburg-who has been the director of Gamaleya since 1997-has yet to bring a fully approved vaccine to market, despite multiple attempts.

In fact, Gintsburg's first vector adenovirus vaccine, AdeVac-Flu, [published](#) by fontanka.ru in July 2020.

With such an impressive track record, it's hardly surprising that the Gamaleya Center [presented a keynote address](#) at the World Economic Forum-his first speech before the esteemed international body since 2009.

Beginning his address with a very friendly and intimate "dear Klaus," Putin recalled how he first met Mr. Schwab in 1992 and since then had regularly attended events organized by the Fourth Industrial Revolution visionary.



Putin used this very important speech to call for "*expanding the scale of testing and vaccinations*" around the world, describing COVID as an existential threat that required close international cooperation. The entire global economy will need to be rebuilt from the ground up by central banks, because the virus is just so deadly and destructive:

*[T]he key question today is how to build a program of actions in order to not only quickly restore the global and national economies affected by the pandemic, but to ensure that this recovery is sustainable in the long run, relies on a high-quality structure and helps overcome the burden of social imbalances. Clearly, with the above restrictions and macroeconomic policy in mind, economic growth will largely rely on fiscal incentives with state budgets and central banks playing the key role.*

Is that how you say "Build Back Better" in Russian?

We're all trapped in the same oligarch-controlled