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## BREAKING CITY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 / 11:18 PM / UPDATED 3 DAYS AGO

## Japan's Shionogi to make 1 mln doses of new COVID-19 treatment by early 2022

By Reuters Staff



TOKYO, Sept 29 (Reuters) - Japan's Shionogi & Co Ltd said on Wednesday it plans to make at least 1 million doses of a new antiviral treatment for COVID-19 for domestic use by March 2022.

The company plans to submit the drug, a protease inhibitor known as S-217622, for regulatory approval in Japan by the end of this year, Chief Executive Isao Teshirogi said at a briefing.

Shionogi started Phase II/III trials of the drug in Japan on Monday. The company is also planning global late-stage trials ahead of filings in the United States and Europe.

The drug can be taken in pill form and is intended for patients in the early stages of COVID-19, compared with antibody treatments that have to be infused by medical staff and are reserved for more serious cases. (Reporting by Ritsuko Shimizu and Rocky Swift in Tokyo; Editing by Christopher Cushing)

## BREAKINGVIEWS

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