

Calling for a halt to gene-edited babies, World Health Organization stops short of ‘all-out moratorium’

The world's largest public health authority has weighed in with the most authoritative statement yet on the use of [Crispr](#) to alter the DNA of human babies. Eight months after a rogue Chinese scientist revealed he had secretly created [the world's first gene-edited children](#), the World Health Organization is asking countries to put a stop to any experiments that would lead to the births of more gene-edited humans. On [August 2], the WHO's director-general put out [a statement](#) urging “that regulatory authorities in all countries should not allow any further work in this area until its implications have been properly considered.”

While stopping short of the all-out moratorium that many scientists [called for](#) in the hours and days after Chinese scientist He Jiankui revealed his controversial work in November, the WHO's position is a strong rebuke of He's work. But whether it will prove a powerful deterrent to any who would hope to follow in his footsteps remains to be seen.

...

“Unlike a moratorium it invites conversation, and that's really critical right now because there's no doubt in my mind that the interest in human germline editing is not going away.” [said CRISPR co-creator Jennifer Doudna].

Read full, original post: [The World Health Organization says no more gene-edited babies](#)