



CommuniVax

A Coalition to Strengthen the Community's Role
in an Equitable COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign

Weekly Roundup

COVID-19 Vaccine Development, Policy, and Public Perception in the United States

December 11, 2020

Dear CommuniVax Working Group Members & Local Partners,

To those receiving this newsletter for the first time: welcome! We are thrilled to be working with you to better understand the community's role in equitable and effective COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

To keep everyone apprised of COVID-19 vaccine developments in the United States, our team sends out this weekly roundup of relevant news stories, polling data, upcoming events, and resources every Friday.

If you wish to opt out of receiving this newsletter, please respond individually to this message to be removed from the listserv. Please also let me know if you are unable to access an article due to paywall restrictions. Or, if you wish to feature any resources or media coverage of COVID-19 vaccine-related work you are involved in, feel free to contact me anytime at sanjana@jhu.edu.

People, Perceptions, and Polls

OP-ED

[I am getting the COVID vaccine, and this is why other African Americans should as well.](#) Just 42% of African Americans will get a vaccine, compared to 63% of Hispanics, 61% of white adults and 83% of Asian Americans. Overall, 60% percent of Americans will get the vaccine. ([Baltimore Sun, 12/8/20](#))

See also:

- [Some Black and Latino Americans are still hesitant to take the vaccine. Here's what is fueling that distrust \(CNN, 12/7/20\)](#)
- [Black churches are trusted messengers of COVID-19 information to their communities \(EurekAlert!, 12/10/20\)](#)

WEBINAR

[COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence.](#) The session, hosted by the Societal Experts Action Network of the National Academies, will cover the current state of vaccine confidence, reasons for hesitancy,

and best practices for messaging. The webinar will be held on December 18, 11:30 AM EST. Registration is required. ([National Academies, 12/20](#))

NEWS

[Demand for Covid vaccines expected to get heated — and fast.](#) "People talk about the anti-vaccine people being able to kind of squelch uptake. I don't see that happening," Dr. Paul Offit, a vaccinologist with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, told viewers of a recent JAMA Network webinar. "This, to me, is more like the Beanie Baby phenomenon — the attractiveness of a limited edition." ([NBC, 12/7/20](#))

POLL

[Donald Trump Least Trustworthy Source on COVID Vaccine, Poll Finds.](#) At the bottom of the list of 10 sources for information on the vaccine was Trump. Only 32 percent put a "moderate amount" of trust in the president as a source and 68 percent said they trust him "only a little" or "not at all." ([Newsweek, 12/9/20](#))

NEWS

['The Perfect Storm': How Vaccine Misinformation Spread To The Mainstream.](#) Falsehoods have multiplied and can be found anywhere from neighborhood chats to groups for pet owners, because so many people have questions about the COVID-19 vaccines. The hoaxes also have been propelled by groups opposed to lockdowns and mask wearing, and by proponents of Qanon, a fact-defying, pro-Trump conspiracy theory. ([NPR, 12/10/20](#))

See also:

- [Exclusive: Most Americans don't trust social media on COVID-19 vaccine info \(The Harris Poll, 12/20\)](#)
- [Google Adds Knowledge Panels in Search Results for Covid-19 Vaccines to Counter Misinformation \(Gizmodo, 12/10/20\)](#)
- [Rapid Review: Vaccine Hesitancy and Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccination \(Institute of Development Studies, 11/20/20\)](#)
- [Vaccine Approval Looks Imminent, But Distrust, Misinformation Have Experts Worried \(NPR, 12/9/20\)](#)
- [The Lawfare Podcast: The Vaccine Misinformation Cometh \(Lawfare, 12/10/20\)](#)
- [There's no vaccine for lies about the COVID-19 vaccine \(Marketplace Tech, 12/8/20\)](#)
- ['We are talking about people's lives': Dire warnings of public health crisis as COVID-19 vaccine misinformation rages \(USA TODAY, 12/9/20\)](#)

NEWS

[We Can't Message Our Way Out of a Public Health Crisis.](#) As the coronavirus has spread, public officials have spent a lot of time urging people to wear a mask and socially distance, when they can't stay home—and offered not much else. ([The Nation, 12/9/20](#))

POLL

[Americans increasingly willing to get COVID-19 vaccine: Poll.](#) A new Gallup poll published Dec. 8 shows that Americans' willingness to get the COVID-19 vaccine has ticked up to 63%. ([ABC, 12/10/20](#))

See also: [Americans want to see Fauci get vaccine before they do: poll \(Harris Poll, 12/4/20\)](#)

POLL

[Employers are 'the spearhead' to get people vaccinated: PR executive.](#) Many Americans are ready to take the vaccine, but some express wariness and may need convincing. According to a Yahoo Finance The Harris Poll survey conducted in October, 63% of Americans have concerns and 77% said they would comparison shop. ([The Harris Poll, 12/20](#))

R&D

NEWS

[F.D.A. Advisory Panel Gives Green Light to Pfizer Vaccine.](#) With this formal blessing, the nation may finally begin to slow the spread of the virus just as infections and deaths surge, reaching a record of more than 3,000 daily deaths on Wednesday. The F.D.A. is expected to grant an emergency use authorization on Saturday, according to people familiar with the agency's planning, though they cautioned that last-minute legal or bureaucratic requirements could push the announcement to Sunday or later. ([New York Times, 12/10/20](#))

See also: [Pfizer and BioNTech Receive FDA Advisory Committee Vote Supporting Potential First Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccine to Combat COVID-19 in the U.S. \(Pfizer, 12/10/20\)](#)

NEWS

[What are the ingredients of Pfizer's covid-19 vaccine?](#) Reading the ingredient list is like looking at the side of a cereal box, except that you need a degree in organic chemistry to understand it. We got help from various scientists and biotech entrepreneurs to understand what each of the ingredients does and make some educated guesses about others. ([MIT Technology Review, 12/9/20](#))

NEWS

[Blunders Eroded U.S. Confidence in Early Vaccine Front-Runner.](#) A pattern of communication blunders by AstraZeneca has damaged the company's relationship with regulators, raised doubts about whether its vaccine will stand up to intense public and scientific scrutiny and, in at least one instance, slowed the vaccine's development. ([New York Times, 12/8/20](#))

See also:

- [Scandal Dogs AstraZeneca's Vaccine Partner in China \(New York Times, 12/7/20\)](#)
- [Oxford COVID-vaccine paper highlights lingering unknowns about results \(Nature, 12/8/20\)](#)

- [AstraZeneca to work on Covid vaccine combinations with Russia's Sputnik V developers \(CNBC, 12/11/20\)](#)
- [AstraZeneca vaccine details published in Lancet, but data suggests need for more trials \(Washington Post, 12/8/20\)](#)

NEWS

[Pfizer Says Some Vaccine Documents Accessed in EMA Hack.](#) The companies said that none of their systems had been breached in connection with the incident and that they are “unaware that any study participants have been identified through the data being accessed.” ([Bloomberg, 12/9/20](#))

OP-ED

[The placebo paradox: Why a COVID-19 vaccine trial participant might drop out.](#) The dilemma of how to treat COVID-19 vaccine trial participants, once emergency use authorizations are granted, potentially pits vaccine makers against regulators. ([Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 12/9/20](#))

NEWS

[Johnson & Johnson cuts size of Covid-19 vaccine study due to prevalence of disease in U.S.](#) The more virus there is in the U.S., the more likely it is that participants will be exposed to it, meaning researchers will be able to reach conclusions based on a smaller trial. ([STAT, 12/9/20](#))

RESEARCH

[Safety and Efficacy of the BNT162b2 mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine.](#) A two-dose regimen of BNT162b2 conferred 95% protection against Covid-19 in persons 16 years of age or older. Safety over a median of 2 months was similar to that of other viral vaccines. Article blurb. ([New England Journal of Medicine, 12/10/20](#))

Policy

NEWS

[Covid-19 Vaccine Passports Could Help Life Return to Normal, but Experts Urge Caution.](#) Such proposals raise ethical and political considerations about whether it is wise or just to divide citizens into new categories based on their vaccination status. ([Wall Street Journal, 12/8/20](#))

MEETING

[Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee December 17, 2020 Meeting Announcement.](#) On December 17, 2020, the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research's, Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee will meet in open session to discuss Emergency Use Authorization of the Moderna, Inc., COVID-19 Vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 18 years and older. ([FDA, 12/20](#))

NEWS

[U.S. Ranks Behind EU, Australia, U.K. in Vaccine Buys But Says It Will Meet Goal.](#) Thirty-one countries around the globe have reserved more Covid-19 vaccine per capita than the U.S., according to a Bloomberg analysis of country vaccine agreements. ([Bloomberg, 12/9/20](#))

See also:

- [U.S. Government May Find It Hard To Get More Doses Of Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine \(NPR, 12/10/20\)](#)
- [Trump to sign order aimed at prioritizing Covid-19 vaccine shipment to Americans \(CNN, 12/7/20\)](#)
- [U.S. could face months of vaccine shortages amid global competition \(Politico, 12/8/20\)](#)

NEWS

[Some States Balk After C.D.C. Asks for Personal Data of Those Vaccinated.](#) The Trump administration is requiring states to submit personal information of people vaccinated against Covid-19 — including names, birth dates, ethnicities and addresses, raising alarms among state officials who fear that a federal vaccine registry could be misused. ([New York Times, 12/8/20](#))

BLOG

[Increased Reimbursement May Help Overcome Barriers To Administration Of Seasonal And Routine Vaccines.](#) Given barriers to vaccine administration, growing concerns about vaccine uptake in light of COVID-19, and findings from the survey, increased reimbursement for vaccine administration fees is a potential solution to help offset costs for the resources necessary to improve the rate of routine and seasonal immunizations. ([Health Affairs, 12/9/20](#))

Public Health Practice

EXPLAINER

[What We Know About the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan.](#) This is an overview of the U.S. plan thus far, the hurdles that remain, the vaccines themselves, and various other concerns and questions. ([New York Magazine, 12/9/20](#))

See also:

- [DOD Officials Announce Distribution Plan for Initial Batch of COVID-19 Vaccine \(Department of Defense, 12/9/20\)](#)
- [Tribal Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations Choose How They Will Access the COVID-19 Vaccine \(Department of Health & Human Services, 12/1/20\)](#)
- [Countdown to a Coronavirus Vaccine \(The New Yorker, 12/6/20\)](#)

- ['Kind Of A Chess Game': For States, Distributing COVID-19 Vaccine Poses Myriad Hurdles \(NPR, 12/9/20\)](#)
- [Toolkit: Where and When Can I Get the Vaccine? \(In the Bubble with Andy Slavitt, 12/7/20\)](#)
- [At Hospitals, A Race To Save 'Hundreds Of Thousands' Of Lives With New Vaccine \(NPR, 12/9/20\)](#)

RESEARCH

[Why the Government Shouldn't Pay People to Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19.](#) This post argues that, even if potentially viable, this idea is undesirable against the backdrop of a pandemic marked by the intertwined phenomena of health misinformation and mistrust in public health authorities. ([Bill of Health / SSRN, 12/1/20](#))

See also: [Why paying people to get the coronavirus vaccine won't work \(The Conversation, 12/11/20\)](#)

NEWS

[How To Make Sure People Come Back For Their Second COVID-19 Vaccine Dose.](#) Simple strategies like booking follow-up appointments at the time of the first dose, or sending reminders via text, phone or email, have been found to be effective in increasing the likelihood that patients complete the HPV vaccine course, and may be useful tools for making sure patients get both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. ([FiveThirtyEight, 12/10/20](#))

NEWS

[Here's Why Vaccinated People Still Need to Wear a Mask.](#) The Pfizer and Moderna trials tracked only how many vaccinated people became sick with Covid-19. That leaves open the possibility that some vaccinated people get infected without developing symptoms, and could then silently transmit the virus — especially if they come in close contact with others or stop wearing masks. ([New York Times, 12/8/20](#))