



**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 18, 2020

#### People, Perceptions, and Polls

##### POLL

#### **[Why A Big Bloc of Americans Is Wary Of The COVID-19 Vaccine — Even As Experts Hope To See Widespread Immunization.](#)**

There are several demographic groups that are disproportionately hesitant to be vaccinated, which might lead people in those groups to become ill from the virus at higher rates and prevent the U.S. overall from having the kind of widespread immunization from COVID-19 that medical experts and U.S. government officials would like to see. ([FiveThirtyEight, 12/11/20](#))

##### BRIEFING

**[Rapid Review: Vaccine Hesitancy and Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccination.](#)** This brief draws on social science literature and informal interviews with experts to illustrate that vaccine hesitancy is more complex and context-specific, and often reflects diverse, everyday anxieties – not just, or even primarily, exposure to misinformation or anti-vaccine campaigners. ([Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform, 11/20](#))

##### POLL

**[Poll: Americans Are Growing Less Reluctant To Take COVID-19 Vaccine.](#)** About 71% of respondents to the late November and early December survey said they would get a vaccine, up from 63% in an August/September poll. The Kaiser Family Foundation says the increase was evident across all racial and ethnic groups surveyed, as well as both Democrats and Republicans. ([NPR, 12/15/20](#))

*See also:*

- [Americans willing to receive COVID-19 vaccine but divided on timing: POLL \(ABC News, 12/14/20\)](#)
- [Republicans four times more likely than Democrats not to get COVID-19 vaccine: poll \(The Hill, 12/14/20\)](#)

##### PODCAST

**[Vaccine Confidence \(with Heidi Larson\).](#)** Andy is joined by Heidi Larson, Founding Director of The Vaccine Confidence Project, for a conversation about, well, vaccine confidence. They discuss what causes vaccine hesitancy, how to boost confidence in the COVID-19 vaccines, and how to

convert those who are on the fence about taking it. Plus, the particular trust issues among communities of color. ([In the Bubble with Andy Slavitt, 12/16/20](#))

- *See also:* [The missing piece of the puzzle: Getting from vaccine hesitancy to acceptance \(Pandemic Action Network, 12/14/20\)](#)

#### NEWS

[Twitter To Remove Or Place Warning Labels On COVID Vaccine Conspiracy Tweets.](#) The forthcoming crackdowns come as countries around the world have begun delivering vaccine injections to health care workers and those most vulnerable to the disease. ([NPR, 12/16/20](#))

#### NEWS

[From Voter Fraud to Vaccine Lies: Misinformation Peddlers Shift Gears.](#) As Mr. Trump's challenges to the election's results have been knocked down and the Electoral College has affirmed President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s win, voter fraud misinformation has subsided. Instead, peddlers of online falsehoods are ramping up lies about the Covid-19 vaccines, which were administered to Americans for the first time this week. ([New York Times, 12/16/20](#))

#### COMMENTARY

[Behaviorally Informed Strategies for a National COVID-19 Vaccine Promotion Program.](#) Core to any successful strategy is to rebuild trust in the rigor of vaccine trials and the integrity of the approval process. Literature on vaccine acceptance identifies some essential strategies: simple, easy-to-understand language; messaging that emphasizes science over politics; endorsements by diverse and well-regarded celebrities and opinion leaders; and emphasis on facts and evidence over myths and disinformation. ([JAMA, 12/14/20](#))

#### NEWS

[Fauci: 85 percent of the US needs to get the Covid-19 vaccine for "true herd immunity."](#) With Pfizer's vaccine already in use and another from Moderna likely to gain approval from the Food and Drug Administration very soon, public attitudes are starting to improve, and Fauci's goal does not appear so unrealistic. ([Vox, 12/15/20](#))

#### POLL

[KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor: December 2020.](#) The KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor is an ongoing research project tracking the public's attitudes and experiences with COVID-19 vaccinations. Using a combination of surveys and focus groups, this project will track the dynamic nature of public opinion as vaccine development unfolds, including vaccine confidence and hesitancy, trusted messengers and messages, as well as the public's experiences with vaccination as distribution begins. ([Kaiser Family Foundation, 12/15/20](#))

#### NEWS

[Pence Gets Televised Vaccination to Show Confidence in Shot.](#) Pence and his wife Karen Pence received the first of two doses of Pfizer Inc.'s vaccine at an office building on the White House compound. Surgeon General Jerome Adams also received the vaccine and made a specific plea to the African American community to trust its efficacy. ([Bloomberg, 12/18/20](#))

## PODCAST

[\*\*COVID-19 Q&A featuring Drs. Josh Sharfstein and Caitlin Rivers.\*\*](#) Why do COVID-19 vaccines require two doses? Will I still have to wear a mask and social distance once I get the vaccine? If my friends and I had COVID, can we get together for the holidays? Are people who wear a face covering with their nose exposed at higher risk of getting COVID? Dr. Josh Sharfstein and Dr. Caitlin Rivers answered frequently asked questions about COVID-19 and vaccines. ([Public Health On Call, 12/18/20](#))

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## R&D

### NEWS

[\*\*FDA scientists endorse Moderna Covid-19 vaccine, as documents provide new hints on efficacy.\*\*](#) The FDA reviewers said that the two-dose vaccine “was highly effective” in preventing symptomatic Covid-19 from occurring “at least 14 days after the receipt of the second dose.” ([STAT, 12/15/20](#))

*See also:*

- [Sponsor Briefing Document, Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee \(FDA, 12/17/20\)](#)
- [F.D.A. Panel Endorses Moderna’s Covid-19 Vaccine \(New York Times, 12/17/20\)](#)

### OPINION

[\*\*How to Expand Access to COVID Vaccines without Compromising the Science.\*\*](#) There is another way to make an unapproved vaccine available to those who need it without undermining a trial. It’s called “expanded access.” Expanded access enables any clinician to apply on behalf of their patient to the FDA for a drug or vaccine not yet approved. ([Scientific American, 12/17/20](#))

- *See also:* [COVID-19 vaccine trial ethics once we have efficacious vaccines \(Science, 12/11/20\)](#)
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## Policy

### OP-ED

[\*\*Build trust in vaccines by investing in community workers.\*\*](#) As we head into a brutal winter, the news of COVID-19 vaccines gives many a glimmer of hope. But we can’t be complacent. If we hope to reopen schools, revive the economy, and enable families to reconnect without fear, we must all take greater responsibility to protect our nation’s health and promote equity. ([The Hill, 12/14/20](#))

### RESEARCH

[\*\*Reserving coronavirus disease 2019 vaccines for global access: cross sectional analysis.\*\*](#) This study provides an overview of how high income countries have secured future supplies of covid-19 vaccines but that access for the rest of the world is uncertain. Governments and

manufacturers might provide much needed assurances for equitable allocation of covid-19 vaccines through greater transparency and accountability over these arrangements. ([BMJ, 12/15/20](#))

- *See also:* [With First Dibs on Vaccines, Rich Countries Have 'Cleared the Shelves' \(New York Times, 12/15/20\)](#)

#### COMMENTARY

**[Vaccination as a Condition of Employment: Evaluating Legal Risks of Mandatory Vaccine Policies During the Pandemic.](#)** With coronavirus vaccines receiving their emergency use authorizations from the FDA and being rapidly rolled out, employers will need to evaluate a mandatory vaccination policy that balances employee rights with novel business realities and pre-existing legal frameworks lacking clear guidance in the face of COVID-19. ([Lexology, 12/16/20](#))

#### BLOG

**[Vaccine Passports: A Stamp of Inequity.](#)** We must make sure that, in our scramble to reopen the economy, we do not overlook inequity of access to the vaccine; how personal health data in newly minted digital systems operate as gatekeepers to workplaces, schools, and other spaces; and the potential that today's vaccine passport will act as a catalyst toward tomorrow's system of national digital identification that can be used to systematically collect and store our personal information. ([Electronic Frontier Foundation, 12/16/20](#))

*See also:*

- [Covid Vaccine: Businesses Hope Immunity Passports will Boost Economies \(Bloomberg, 12/16/20\)](#)
- [Proof of vaccination will be very valuable — and easy to abuse \(Washington Post, 12/15/20\)](#)

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## Public Health Practice

#### STATEMENT

**[Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Production and Distribution Working Well.](#)** "Pfizer is not having any production issues with our COVID-19 vaccine, and no shipments containing the vaccine are on hold or delayed. This week, we successfully shipped all 2.9 million doses that we were asked to ship by the U.S. Government to the locations specified by them. We have millions more doses sitting in our warehouse but, as of now, we have not received any shipment instructions for additional doses. ([Pfizer, 12/17/20](#))

#### DATA

**[More Than 1.1 Million People Have Been Vaccinated: Covid-19 Tracker.](#)** About half of those doses are being distributed this week, according to a state-by-state breakdown of shipments released by the U.S. government. The other half are being held in reserve until three weeks from now, when those who got the vaccine will get the second shot of the two-dose inoculation. ([Bloomberg, 12/18/20](#))

## WEBINAR

**[Challenges in COVID Vaccine Allocation & Distribution.](#)** With COVID vaccines starting to roll out across the country, hear from experts on how to identify priority groups for vaccine allocation, advance population health and equity, meet the real-world challenges of vaccine distribution, and address vaccine hesitancy. The webinar will take place on Friday, January 8, 2021, 12-1:30 PM CST. Registration is required. ([University of Minnesota, 12/20](#))

*See also:*

- [California May Consider 'Historical Injustice' When Allocating COVID-19 Vaccine \(NPR, 12/16/20\)](#)
- [CDC Panel May Answer Which U.S. Workers Will Get Vaccine Next \(Bloomberg, 12/18/20\)](#)

## NEWS

**[Vaccines Are Here. We Have to Talk About Side Effects.](#)** There has not, to this point, been a coordinated national campaign that reassures people the vaccine not only works, but is safe to take and will not cause long-term illness. Planners and health researchers are getting concerned that it is already getting late to start. ([Wired, 12/17/20](#))

- *See also:* [Vaccine Rollout Hits First U.S. Snags With Delays, Allergic Case \(Bloomberg, 12/16/20\)](#)

## Q&A

**[What does success look like for the Covid-19 vaccine effort?](#)** Administration of Pfizer-BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine officially began on Monday. It was a joyous kickoff to a massive, arduous effort to vaccinate over 100 million Americans. But how will we know if the vaccination effort is actually going according to plan? ([STAT, 12/15/20](#))

## NEWS

**[Getting Covid Vaccines to People Will Cost States Billions They Don't Have.](#)** State leaders say they must hire medical workers, provide community outreach and education, set up vaccination clinics and ensure storage capacity for vaccines. Some states are also concerned about having enough supplies, such as gloves and gowns, to protect health-care workers as well as people getting vaccinated. ([Wall Street Journal, 12/13/20](#))

*See also:*

- [Don't repeat the mistakes of past vaccine distribution efforts \(STAT, 12/15/20\)](#)
- [Will there be enough syringes to deliver Covid-19 vaccines? \(Quartz, 12/15/20\)](#)
- [First nursing home residents get COVID-19 vaccine as rollout expands \(CBS News, 12/17/20\)](#)
- [Navajo Nation receives 1st shipment of COVID-19 vaccine \(AZ Central, 12/14/20\)](#)
- [It's not just doctors and nurses who are getting the first vaccines. Some housekeeping staff are at the top of the list \(CNN, 12/15/20\)](#)

## Q&A

**[Pregnancy and the Vaccine: Experts Weigh In on Your Questions.](#)** As of December 11, the FDA will allow pregnant and lactating women to access the vaccine, even if it hasn't been tested on

them, but it remains unavailable for anyone under 16. Because we are so early on in the vaccine timeline, the answers for many questions remain to be seen. ([Vogue, 12/15/20](#))

#### NEWS

**[Hospitals Discover a Surprise in Their Vaccine Deliveries: Extra Doses.](#)** In a statement, the Food and Drug Administration said that, “given the public health emergency,” it was acceptable to use every full dose left over in each vial. The agency said it was consulting with Pfizer to determine “the best path forward” and advised health officials not to pool doses from multiple vials. ([New York Times, 12/16/20](#))

- *See also:* [Labeling confusion led to wasted doses of Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine in first days of rollout \(STAT, 12/16/20\)](#)

#### NEWS

**[What the Dippin’ Dots ‘cold chain’ can teach us about COVID-19 vaccines.](#)** Distributing a coronavirus vaccine is going to be tricky—and it’s also going to be a lot like shipping a container of Dippin’ Dots ice cream. Here’s how the ice cream makers do it, and what vaccine distributors can learn from their chill process. ([Popular Science, 12/15/20](#))