



COVID-19

ESF 15 - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SOCIAL LISTENING REPORT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

SUMMARY

- There are reports of increased skepticism regarding the vaccine among Latinx communities. There is a lack of trust in the guidance and policies being shared by the federal government and some state and local officials. This is causing some to feel more hesitant about receiving the vaccine.
- Many individuals who have received the first round of the vaccine are growing more concerned that supplies will run out before they can receive their second dose, or that they will not be able to obtain appointments for their second dose.
- There is a small amount of local news coverage regarding FEMA funeral assistance. Members of the National Funeral Directors Association report they are anxiously awaiting additional guidance from FEMA about how the program will be implemented. There has also been steady coverage in local media regarding the recent allocation of funds to bolster state vaccine administration capacity.
- There is some debate and disagreement among state lawmakers regarding what populations should be prioritized for the vaccine.
- This afternoon, traditional media has focused on the White House COVID-19 Response Team's press brief. Popular topics covered in the brief included overall action plans, infection risk following detection of new virus strains within U.S. borders, and ongoing concerns about vaccine supplies and accessibility. Today's newspaper front-page headlines covered new vaccination sites, concerns regarding new strains of the virus, and mixed public reaction to the pace of vaccine distribution and administration.

PUBLIC PERCEPTION/SENTIMENT

- Reports of inequitable vaccine distribution is becoming an increasingly hot topic among Latinx communities. ([example 1](#), [example 2](#))
 - Some members of these communities claim there is [hesitation to get vaccinated](#) due to a lack of official information available in Spanish and a large circulation of myths/rumors causing an [overall lack of trust](#) towards government messaging regarding the vaccine.



FEMA

- Many feel reports of inequitable vaccine are intended to be polarizing, claiming that the [states being analyzed in the news reports](#) are predominantly white anyways.
- Debate over double masking has grown significantly due to increased coverage from local news outlets. ([example 1](#), [example 2](#)) There continue to be a large number of people who say they do not plan to wear multiple masks. These individuals often cite concern for breathing or a lack of trust in federal guidance.
- The anti-vaccine sentiment remains strong on social media. Content encouraging people to get vaccines is frequently overwhelmed by comments from accounts [sharing false or negative information](#) related to vaccines.
- A number of people are anxious and confused over [how to schedule their second doses](#) within the vaccine manufacturers recommended time frames.

RUMORS/MISINFORMATION

- Henry County, Tennessee Sheriff's Office is warning residents of a scam in which callers are [requesting personal information and payment](#) to schedule an appointment for COVID-19 vaccination. The public is advised the public not to give personal details nor payment over the phone.
- One Pennsylvania news outlet reports that 'experts' warn [not to take pain relievers before getting vaccinated](#). However, the news article does not specify what kind of experts issued the warning.
- Following news that baseball Hall of Famer Hank Aaron died a few weeks after taking the vaccine, those who are skeptical or against the vaccine have [falsely linked his death to the COVID-19 vaccine](#).

FEMA

- Many news stations and elected officials are sharing the news of FEMA's allocation of funds for vaccine storage and distribution in various states and territories. ([example 1](#), [example 2](#), [example 3](#))
- Elected officials in Virginia are urging the governor and FEMA to [establish a mass vaccination site](#) in Northern Virginia.
 - Officials are also are pushing for streamlining the process and developing a more transparent and equitable system for distribution.
- A few people are relieved and grateful to FEMA staff who are helping at state vaccination sites. ([example 1](#), [example 2](#), [example 3](#))
- There is a low volume of local news coverage on the implementation of [funeral reimbursements](#). A spokesperson for the National Funeral Directors Association said they are eagerly awaiting additional guidance from FEMA.

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Federal Response

- There is a high volume of discussion about President Biden's press conference yesterday with many people focusing on the desire to have 300 million Americans vaccinated by the end of summer. ([example 1](#), [example 2](#))
 - Some people are questioning if children will be included in the 300 million.
- There continues to be a push from elected officials to speed up vaccine delivery and distribution. Many place blame on the federal government saying it is delaying the process. ([example 1](#), [example 2](#))
- National media outlets report the White House will reopen HealthCare.gov marketplaces, currently operating in 36 states, to give those affected by the pandemic an opportunity to sign-up. ([example 1](#), [example 2](#), [example 3](#))

Vulnerable Populations

- The World Health Organization does not recommended the [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for pregnant women](#), unless they are at risk of high exposure.
- CDC Director vows to follow the White House's executive order to bring [equality](#) to those disproportionately burdened by the pandemic.
 - Responses to her post ask the Director to not to forget [disabled people](#), people of color, [high risk and chronically ill people living independently](#), homeless, [immunocompromised](#), [and intellectually disabled](#) among others.

Public Health

- CDC issued more detailed recommendations for COVID-19 vaccine distribution to include [veterinary services](#) in Phase 1-b.
- According to CNN, [a survey published by the Kaiser Family Foundation](#) of more than 1,500 adults found that 41% want the vaccine and at least 6% have already received at least the first dose.
 - Comments under the post are mixed. Several people shared that they want the vaccine or have already received it, while just as many express adverse feelings about the vaccine.

Transportation

- International airports across the country began to implement new policies yesterday requiring all passengers entering the US to [provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test](#).
 - Reports that the government is considering [expanding this policy to domestic travel](#) have been met with mixed emotion. Some are saying it feels unconstitutional others are pleased at the idea of additional precautions being put in place.

Community Mitigation

- CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) reports NFL use of [wearable devices](#) for contact tracing and strict COVID-19 mitigation protocols for high-risk contacts limited the spread of infection.

Private Sector

- Darden Restaurants, the parent company of Olive Garden and Red Lobster, will offer their [employees paid time off](#) to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

REGION ONE

Supply Chain

- In New Hampshire, people are experiencing issues scheduling their [second shots within](#) the CDC's updated [recommended time frame](#) of 4-6 weeks due limited appointments and lack of supply.
 - Some appointments are having to be set as much as almost 8 weeks after the initial dose. The state advises that appointments will be made available when more vaccines are received.

Vaccine Administration

- Starting Wednesday, January 27, in Massachusetts, [residents 75 and older](#) may schedule appointments beginning in February for a COVID-19 vaccine for the start of Phase 2.
- Some [Stop and Shop locations](#) have been approved to give the Moderna vaccine based on the state's COVID-19 vaccination plan. These locations will begin accepting appointments on February 1.
- In Massachusetts, Eastfield Mall in Springfield is preparing the [old Macy's location](#) to serve as a vaccination site. Scheduling started today, January 27 for 500 appointments.

Vulnerable Populations

- In New Hampshire, for the first time in months there are [no new outbreaks to report](#) at long term care facilities. The governor attributes this, in part, to the implementation of vaccines.
- In Massachusetts, Boston homeless shelters are encountering [a high level of vaccine hesitancy](#), as high as 50% at one location. Health care providers also have concerns about reaching people without cell phones for their second dose.

Public Health

- Maine CDC reported [two new COVID-19 outbreaks](#) at Lisbon Public Works and the Oxford Casino, while investigating 25 cases at Maine Veterans' Home.
- In Massachusetts, the town of Ossipee commissioners (selectmen) temporarily closed their administration building due to a [COVID-19 outbreak in their campus-adjointing jail](#).

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FEMA

- The Ossipee commissioners also reversed their decision to mandate masks in the town hall, despite 21 people related to town hall business contracting the virus.

Community Mitigation

- The Appalachian Trail Conservancy have asked hikers to [postpone plans to cover the Appalachian Trail](#), which runs through 14 states from Maine to Georgia, this year due to COVID-19.
 - Hikers usually stay at shelters in close quarters along the trail which don't allow for the CDC's recommended guidelines for social distancing and washing hands often.
 - The suggestion was made because of concern that thousands of travelers entering many small towns along the trail may [overwhelm local hospital systems](#).
- Chicago, Illinois teachers are threatening to [defy a Chicago Public School's order](#) to return to classrooms on January 27. The Chicago Teachers Union alleges the school system has failed to put in place agreed upon COVID-19 protocols necessary for in-person learning. Teachers are expected to receive their shots in mid-February.

REGION TWO

Vaccination Administration

- People in the Tri-state area are having [trouble getting their second vaccine dose](#) appointment on time, local media reported.
 - In a [Twitter poll](#) hosted by the same local media outlet: 49.5% of people who filled it out claimed to have difficulty getting an appointment for their second dose.
- In Hudson County, New Jersey, the county's executive has expressed frustration saying the county has infrastructure ready for mass vaccination but not enough doses. The county's Health Officer informed that to deal with the problem, they are [not registering individuals unless they have doses](#) available.
- New Jersey will [receive about 130 thousand vaccine doses](#) for each of the next 3 weeks, announced the governor today.
- A New Jersey hospital in Hunterdon County reportedly [vaccinated wealthy donors and their relatives](#) in December before vaccine eligibility was expanded in the state.

Vulnerable Populations

- In Long Island, New York, local leaders said that they're facing an "uphill battle" in convincing minorities to get vaccinated. They're launching new efforts to make sure the minorities [have equal access to the vaccines](#).
- In New York City, local media reported that [early vaccination data](#) from December showed that white people received about five times as many vaccinations while making up 42% of the population. The report also showed that about 40% of recipients didn't mark down their race or ethnicity.

REGION THREE

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Vaccination Administration

- The Governor of Maryland announced the state will open at least [six mass vaccination sites](#) by early February.
 - Yesterday, January 26 he also announced that Six Flags America and Baltimore Convention Center [will be converted into mass vaccination sites](#). Six Flags is expected to be converted February 5.
- In Lehigh County, Pennsylvania a [drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination clinic opened today](#). The clinic opened at Dorney Park and they plan to vaccinate individuals 75 and older.
- In Chesterfield County, Virginia [unregistered residents showed up at a Chesterfield appointment-only vaccine clinic](#). The county's official government page posted a message informing residents of the issue and asking them to be patient.

Vulnerable Populations

- The Pennsylvania State Troopers Association is speaking out against the state's decision to include smokers in the high priority category, urging the state to [reject the CDC's recommendation](#).

Community Mitigation

- In Portsmouth, Virginia the [health department launched a hot line](#) to assist those without reliable internet. The hot line helps residents navigate the COVID-19 vaccination process. They've had over 2,000 call this week alone.

REGION FOUR

Supply Chain

- Mississippi is [expecting to receive around 37,000 doses](#) of COVID-19 vaccine this week from the federal government. According to the state's Department of Health, it is the same allocation the state has received the past few weeks. While the state would like to receive an increase in their allotted vaccines, they share that they are receiving what they expect.

Vaccination Administration

- Local news in North Carolina reports that there is a [discrepancy between the reported amount of administered vaccines](#) versus actual state data. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reports that it has administered 95% of all first-round doses but data shows hundreds of thousands doses have not been administered.
 - The state Association of Health Directors is critical of NCDHHS' decision to prioritize two mass vaccination events at the expense of local health departments.
 - Health directors are also upset that the rerouting of vaccines from local providers triggered thousands of cancelled appointments, which they feel is [slowing down vaccine distribution](#).

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FEMA

- [Alabama Department of Public Health](#) announced a new no-reservation, first come, first serve drive-thru site for COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Baldwin County to begin on February 2.
- [Alabama State University](#) announced this week that it will serve as a COVID-19 vaccine administration site.

Public Health

- Georgia's public health commissioner expressed to state lawmakers the pandemic is a strain on the Department of Public Health, but [there will not be an increase](#) in the their budget plan, published by the Governor's office, to account for COVID-19 expenses.
 - Some officials feel that public health should be more of a priority and that more funding is needed.
- CDC highlights the need for health depts and schools to weigh the benefits of allowing high contact sports against risk for spread of virus after COVID-19 outbreak linked to [two wrestling tournaments](#) in Florida.
- A Georgia state representative was [removed from Georgia's House chamber](#) for refusing to be tested for COVID-19, which is mandatory. His refusal was due to his frustration that state lawmakers have access to regular testing while many other Americans do not.

REGION FIVE

Supply Chain

- In Wisconsin, a pharmacist charged with intentionally tampering with [dozens of vials](#) of COVID-19 vaccine in attempt to spoil them is facing 20 years in prison after pleading guilty.
 - His actions allegedly caused more than 50 people to be vaccinated with improperly stored doses.

Vaccination Administration

- In Indiana, teachers are protesting the [change in vaccination priorities](#) to people who are high risk due to age over teachers, despite CDC guidelines to treat teachers and grocery store workers as essential workers.
- The Minnesota Department of Health opened a [24-hour vaccine lottery](#) to choose approximately 11,700 residents who are 65 and older to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The Ohio Funeral Directors Association asked the Governor of Ohio to [add funeral directors](#), embalmers and their staff in a list with group 1B.

Community Mitigation

- Wisconsin Senate has voted to [repeal their governor's statewide mask mandate](#). Both legislative chambers have to pass the resolution, scheduled for a vote on January 28.

REGION SIX

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FEMA

Vaccination Administration

- In Texas, local media reported that some individuals who received their first dose, are seeing conflicting information on how to obtain an [appointment for their second dose](#) and are worried about not getting their second dose in time.
- The governor of Texas announced that the state set a [new record for COVID-19 vaccinations](#) in a single day with 114,000 shots were administered yesterday (1/26).
- The [vaccine registration website from Harris County](#), Texas, which had technical problems earlier in the week, was fixed and over 49,000 people have registered despite the site crashing a couple times. Many residents have also been receiving busy signals when calling the county's vaccine registration phoneline.
- New Mexico Governor announced that the state has the [3rd highest rate of COVID-19 vaccine administration](#) in the country.

Vulnerable Populations

- The Texas National Guard teams are scheduled to begin COVID-19 vaccination on Thursday (1/28) in [a new State mobile vaccine pilot program](#) that aims to reach and immunize underserved areas like Starr County and others.
- The city of Corpus Christi, Texas, is deploying its [firefighters to help vaccinate homebound senior residents](#).

Public Health

- In Amarillo, Texas, [COVID-19 hospitalizations are decreasing](#). Area health experts believe vaccinations and masking precautions along with a high number of recoveries are contributing to the decrease in positive cases.

Community Mitigation

- An Oklahoma lawmaker filed a bill that would [require people to wear a mask in public](#) and face fines if one fails to do so.
- In Oklahoma, students in Rector Johnson Middle School and Broken Bow High School who [forget their masks](#) will have to buy one or call their parents. The schools say that giving students masks have depleted their supplies.

REGION SEVEN

Supply Chain

- Missouri Governor Mike Parson plans to [divert unused COVID-19 vaccine doses](#) from pharmacies, designated for long-term care facilities, to mass vaccination sites operated by the National Guard to increase the vaccine distribution rate.
 - This action will not prevent CVS and Walgreens from finishing their work providing vaccinations at nursing homes.

Vaccination Administration

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FEMA

- Missouri launched a [new COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#) to track administered doses. The site shows the total vaccine shots administered and the number of individuals who have received single or double doses, county and demographic information of recipient.
- [University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics](#) (UIHC) will begin their next phase of COVID-19 vaccinations next week to include emergency responders, teachers and people 65 and older.
 - The Governor and UIHC health officials share while [vaccine supply is low](#), they [will be able to administer a steady flow](#) of vaccinations and can handle the administration of the vaccines. Officials want residents to remain hopeful.

Staffing

- Iowa lawmakers are [considering a bill that will allow dentists](#) to administer the COVID-19 vaccine and flu shots. It would require dentists to take four hours of training and prohibit them from allowing dental hygienists or dental assistants from vaccine administration.
 - Legislatures who disapprove feel that there are enough healthcare personnel to distribute the vaccine and that the real issue is the limited supply.

Vulnerable Populations

- In Kansas, local news reports that on January 26, the first day that residents 80 and up were allowed to get the vaccine in Johnson County, they were [waiting in long lines in the cold](#). This was due to people showing up ahead of their scheduled appointments and healthcare workers in need of their second dose. The county said it won't happen again with more staff on site today.
- Kansas state lawmakers disagree on the [state's vaccine administration plan](#) on prioritizing healthcare workers over residents who are 65 and older. Some officials feel the governor's plan makes it harder for older residents to get vaccinated.

REGION EIGHT

Vaccination Administration

- In Sioux Falls, South Dakota [law enforcement and health care professionals](#) were able to receive their second COVID-19 vaccine yesterday. Many essential workers expressed gratitude to receive a second dose and were glad to do their part in protecting themselves and others.
- Utah chose the grocery chains [Smith's and Walmart to help vaccinate the general public](#) when allowed. This is a switch from CVS and Walgreens, which are currently helping vaccinate long-term care facility staff and residents.

Vulnerable Populations

- In Denver, Colorado state and local leaders asked SCL health to work on a mass vaccination [event geared toward communities of color and underserved populations](#). Their goal is to vaccinate at least 5,000 people on Saturday, February 6th.

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Public Health

- The Governor of North Dakota announced this morning that the statewide COVID-19 [risk level will be adjusted from moderate to low beginning](#) at 8 a.m. Friday, January 29th.
- A Washington State resident was arrested last week after prosecutors say he used [social media to peddle untested, injectable COVID-19 “vaccines”](#) on social media. He sold the “vaccines” on Facebook for \$400-\$1,000 and now faces misdemeanor federal charges of introducing misbranded drugs into interstate commerce.

REGION NINE

Vaccination Administration

- In California, Santa Clara County health officials are [withholding COVID-19 vaccines](#) from Good Samaritan Hospital after it broke vaccination eligibility rules.
 - Los Gatos Union School District teachers were instructed, in an email from their Superintendent, to impersonate health care workers to obtain vaccine appointments, displacing eligible people over 65 and health care workers.
- In California, San Diego County is planning for [two new COVID-19 mass vaccination sites](#) in the North and East Counties, and at least five more community sites.
- In California, [Riverside Convention Center](#) is preparing to open as a mass vaccination site.

Staffing

- Local news reports that FEMA has [deployed 66 personnel](#) to Tucson, Glendale, Kingman and Prescott Valley to help accelerate their efforts at vaccine sites.

Public Health

- Nevada officials announced the [COVID-19 UK](#) variant was detected in a specimen from a Las Vegas woman. Some local officials suggest that the state should increase their prevention efforts.

Private Sector

- In California, a group of tech workers created [VaccinateCA.com](#), a database with a map of COVID-19 vaccination sites in the state, since there was not statewide site. It is verified by a group of 200 volunteers who phone bank for information.
- In California, the annual [California Strawberry Festival in Oxnard](#), scheduled for mid-May, is now cancelled due to the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic.

REGION TEN

Vaccination Administration

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FEMA

- A new [pop-up drive-thru clinic](#) opened yesterday in Pierce County, Washington. Washington residents were able to fill out their paperwork and receive the vaccine without leaving their car.
- Health officials in Oregon [provided drivers who were stuck on the road during a snowstorm COVID-19 vaccines](#). The vaccines would have been spoiled if not used.
- In Olympia, Washington a [mass vaccination site opens today](#) at the Spokane Arena. The site will be open by appointment only and the goal is to provide about 500 vaccinations every day.

Vulnerable Populations

- In Washington, the Washington Black Lives Matter Alliance is urging state legislators to take action to address inequity, including [declaring racism a public health crisis](#).
- Local organizations in Idaho are [relaying important information about COVID-19 and the vaccination process to Latinx Americans](#).

Public Health

- In Washington, a biologic entrepreneur was arrested last week after prosecutors say he used social media to [sell untested COVID-19 “vaccines” on social media](#). It is unclear how many were injected.
- In Akutan, Alaska there was a [coronavirus outbreak](#). Numerous employees tested positive for coronavirus at the Trident Seafoods processing plant.

Community Mitigation

- Local media breaks down how [Idaho residents 65 and older that aren't living in long-term care facilities can get the COVID-19 vaccine](#). On February 1, individuals eligible for the vaccine will be able to find appointments in their area from the state website.

TRADITIONAL MEDIA

Federal Response

- National media has frequently reported on vaccine distribution plan developments shared during today's White House COVID-19 Response Team's virtual press brief.
 - Two national outlets emphasized the CDC director's [estimation of 479,000 to 514,000 pandemic-related fatalities](#) by mid-February, adding that despite virus [variants present in 26 states](#), approved vaccines appear to successfully provide protection.
- Multiple national and local outlets highlight several federal agencies warning about vaccine fraud schemes, urging members of the public to not communicate their personal information over the phone. ([example 1](#), [example 2](#), [example 3](#))
- This morning, one national news outlet highlighted [FEMA's recent \\$216 million grant](#) to pay for vaccine storage, transport, distribution and administration services. Congressional representatives had previously stated these areas created a 'supply-demand imbalance.'

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Supply Chain

- Since Monday, coverage regarding state and local [governments complaints of insufficient amount of vaccine doses](#) remains high.
 - In response to community concerns, California's governor has announced changes to the states' current system for receiving the COVID-19 vaccination. The new plan will ["simplify eligibility."](#) The system prioritizes healthcare workers, residents aged 65 and older, teachers, childcare workers, emergency responders, and food and agriculture workers. Afterward, the state will reportedly prioritize eligible vaccine recipients by age.
 - Pennsylvania's governor is reportedly attributing vaccine accessibility difficulties to supply overpromises from the prior White House administration. The governor also states that a [decentralized vaccine signup system](#) should serve more efficiently.
- This morning, one U.S. Virgin Islands news outlet reported FEMA will reimburse the island government for costs related to storing, handling, and distributing the vaccine. The article proceeds to highlight U.S. [Virgin Islands currently operates 32 territorial facilities](#) and receives just under 3,000 vaccine doses per week.
- One national radio outlet's online platform reported N95 masks remain in short supply due to limited retailers. This report has been widely reposted by various local television outlets. The original story references the White House's invocation of Defense Production Act to boost critical medical supplies as well as urging the general public to wear masks. ([example 1](#), [example 2](#), [example 3](#))

Vulnerable Populations

- In Dallas, Texas, one outlet reported Tuesday night that [caretakers and family members](#) confined to their homes remained worried about the lack of access to a vaccine. An associate medical director of [Prospero Health](#) said there has yet to be formalized plans on how to vaccinate the thousands of homebound Texans.
- In Washington state, cities and county governments are organizing vaccination teams to help those who cannot access a medical clinic for treatment. Vulnerable communities referenced include [Rainier Valley, Kent, SeaTac, Covington, Maple Valley and South King counties](#).

Healthcare System Stress

- Ahead of North Carolina governor's press conference update this afternoon, the state's healthcare systems and county health departments are reportedly [fighting to acquire limited doses](#). The state is also expected to receive its first federal shipment of vaccines today.
- In Washington state, [Overlake Medical Center and Clinics'](#) chief development officer, emailed donors who gave more than \$10,000 to the Eastside Hospital System that they will receive 'special access' to coveted vaccine slots. The email gave the donors an access

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FEMA

code to register for appointments 'by invite' only. Overlake reportedly shut down online access to the invite-only clinic after getting a call from Governor Jay Inslee's staff.

Public Health

- This morning, [Palm Beach County, Florida's commissioner](#) has strongly criticized the state governor for deciding to designate Publix grocer's pharmacies as sole distributors in the county. The county's commissioners also expressed discontent of enabling the private sector instead of public health officials to vaccinate residents as well as the fear of a dose shortage after February 5th.
- This afternoon, one local outlet references CDC's recently released analysis on allergies to both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which concludes [low anaphylaxis risk](#).

Private Sector

- Late this morning, Moderna has confirmed the company is discussing the [possibility of delivering another 100 million vaccine doses](#) later this year. This would bring the total commitment of vaccine dose purchases from Moderna to 300 million.
- At least one national outlet reports [CVS pharmacy will start offering in-store vaccinations in "New York, Indiana and Massachusetts,"](#) expecting to deliver 25 million each month. The article references the federal government previously tapping CVS and Walgreens to help vaccinate nursing home residents.



FEMA

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

WEDNESDAY, January 27, 2021

SPokane, Washington

Spokane, Washington

CORONAVIRUS VACCINATION

VACCINATIONS BEGIN TODAY AT THE ARENA

Online appointments — up to 500 a day — required through CHAS Health; only 3,000 shots on site for those eligible

By Arielle Dreher and Laurel Demkovich

The rush continues Wednesday as the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena begins vaccinating eligible people who register for one of the 3,000 vaccine shots.

CHAS Health will open its online scheduling tool for health care workers, first responders and residents 65 and older at 9 a.m. Wednesday. The shots are also available for people who are 50 and older who live in multigenerational households, such as grandparents living in the same home as grandchildren.

Residents are asked to take the survey Phase Finder assessment and bring proof of their eligibility and identification.

SPokane, WA



“Why not prioritize those who are teaching in person?”

Jeremy Shuy

Spokane Education Association

Teachers worry about going back to school without shot

SPS chief says

The Dallas Morning News

Dallas, Texas, Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Dallas, Texas, Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Dallas, Texas, Wednesday, January 27, 2021

HEALTH CARE

Biden to reopen ACA marketplace

If harmed by pandemic, anyone eligible for coverage can sign up

By AMY GOLDSTEIN

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is scheduled to take executive action as early as Tuesday to reopen federal marketplace enrollment.

Can Act health plan and to lower monthly premium burden by paying Medicaid. The order will be Biden's first step since taking office to help Americans gain health insurance, a prominent campaign goal that has assumed mounting significance as the pandemic ravages the economy.

See HEALTH Page 6A

DALLAS CITY COUNCIL

Vaccination frustration

Leaders struggle to get on the same page about giving shots regularly

By EVYETON BAILEY JR.

Dallas officials say residents remain confused by the COVID-19 vaccination process. The council members said Monday that they were dealing with their own frustrations over

public and internal communication about the rollout. Several council members said they were confused about how and when people can get vaccinated at the Fair Park pop-up, as well as the mayor's tendency to reveal updates via news release, were causing lapses in informing people and contributing to residents not being helped as quickly as possible.

The confusion is going to get worse, and there could be some

anger, said council member David Holt. “Quite frankly, I don't think we're all on the same page, and it's pretty obvious we're not.”

“I just don't think we're doing a very good job,” he said. “The city and county are trying to ensure that the most vulnerable residents are able to register for and receive COVID-19 vaccines, but the demand for vaccines is far greater than the supply.”

See VACCINATION Page 6A

EAST BAY TIMES

POWER OUTAGES EXPECTED

Atmospheric river storm ‘an all-hands-on-deck situation’



A memorial in Love Creek Road in Ben Lomond on Tuesday remembers Trevor McCueley, 7, and his brother Kelly, 5, two of the 22 people killed in the San Lorenzo Valley during the 1962 flood.

Help on the way: PG&E

CENTRALIZED DISTRIBUTION

State to handle vaccine rollout

System includes network of providers, inoculation sites and new website

By Nico Savard

Frustrated by the sluggish pace of California's COVID-19 vaccine program, state officials are taking charge with a streamlined new system they say will deliver shots to residents more quickly than the fragmented and localized model they have now.

They'll need to pick up the pace. President Joe Biden said Tuesday his new administration is ramping up delivery of vaccines to states by as much as 50% next week. Biden said the administration has purchased more than 300 million Americans.

THE NEWS-TIMES

WEDNESDAY, January 27, 2021 | SINCE 1851 | \$5.00

Conn. to get more vaccine

Biden sending federal staff to state to help set up clinics

By Kaitie Munson

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden said Tuesday he will increase the amount of COVID-19 vaccine sent to states by 10 percent and will send federal staff to states including Connecticut, to help set up vaccination sites.

Biden said he had placed more orders with Pfizer and Moderna, a move that will bring more doses to Connecticut at a time state officials have said the supply

levels have been problematic. Connecticut will receive 53,200 doses next week, the state Department of Health confirmed, while shipments have averaged about 40,000 doses over the past several weeks — although last week's total was over 60,000 in a one-time bump-up.

Nationwide, the federal government will oversee the shipment of 10 million vaccine doses next week, up from 9 million the week before, Biden said.

Connecticut nears 7,000 coronavirus-related deaths

By Tina O'Neill, Peter Vukobratovic and Ken O'Neil

WEDNESDAY — Connecticut is on the verge of eclipsing 7,000 official deaths attributed to COVID-19 — less than a month after surpassing 6,000 — even as hospitalizations for the virus remain relatively stable and hundreds of thousands of people have received their first shot of the vaccine.

“It's hard to get an exact explanation. I think we might still be looking at some impact

one dollar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

newsminer.com

Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

Inside Today

Denali Junior Nordic Ski program gets kids outdoors. » A3

COVID UK variant detected in Alaska

By Alena Nalden

CHENAY, Alaska

• More than 101,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered

• Alaska continues to see decline in cases, deaths but new strain spreads easier

While state officials are opening up more appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations and preparing to receive more vaccine doses in February, at least one Alaskan was infected by the new United Kingdom variant of the virus that causes COVID-19, state epidemiologist Dr. Joe McLaughlin said during a Tuesday news conference.

“Any breach in protocol means a high likelihood of transmission,” he said. “So the more times you go around without a mask and interface with other people or don't watch that six-foot distance and don't wash your hands, that means that's just a higher likelihood the virus

is going to make its way into your system.” The Anchorage resident who tested positive for the new strain of the virus had recently traveled to a state where the variant has already been detected. A couple of days after the resident returned to Alaska, the patient started experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. On Dec. 17, received positive test results on Dec. 22 and isolated after that.

Another person living with the individual also tested positive for COVID-19, and while it is likely the two contracted the same strain since they live in one household, health officials are still assessing the second

test, hoping to get it done within next week. Both individuals have recovered by now. “We are hopeful that the transmission stops with these two individuals but we can't say that for sure,” McLaughlin said. “Because this variant is spreading quickly, in Great Britain, globally and the U.S. as well, it is highly likely we will see new variant in Alaska in the near future.”

Nationally, 24 states registered 203 cases of the U.K. variant, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cited in the news release. The CDC has warned that this variant could become

COVID • A5

The Boston Globe

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

so many
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Mass. vaccine program expands

75 and older can sign up; shots will start Monday

By Martin Fierman and Travis Anderson

A quieter White House. Discipline. COVID tests. A daily press briefing. But the deep partisan division remains

MONDAY, JANUARY 25 — Making his mark

One of the first orders of business for President Biden has been to reverse initiatives of the prior administration. Here, Biden struck down a ban on transgender people serving in the military.

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The Seattle Times

WINNER OF 11 PULITZER PRIZES
INDEPENDENT AND LOCALLY OWNED FOR MORE THAN 125 YEARS

SEATTLETIMES.COM

Washington will soon get more COVID-19 vaccines, Inslee says



The Modesto Bee

Stanislaus County remains hard-pressed by COVID-19

By KEN CALHOUN
calhoun@modbee.com

Stanislaus County's health officer said Tuesday the county continues to struggle with the coronavirus pandemic, even though the state lifted a regional stay-home order Monday. The state decision was based on a projection that hospitals

Open schools as soon as possible, say CDC officials

PRECAUTIONS | Emphasize masks, social distancing to limit transmission.

By BOND CARVER KARR
The New York Times

Open schools. Close indoor dining. When to keep schools open, and how to do so, has been an issue plaguing the response by the United States to the pandemic since its beginning. President Joe Biden vowed to "keep our children in safe

vacine clinics are set up to vaccinate 80,000 to 100,000 residents per week. With a nationwide shortage of coronavirus vaccines, however, the county can ask the state for only about 4,400 doses per week.

The clinic at Modesto Care Plaza administered 1,090 doses Monday, and 1,136 doses were injected at the Stanislaus State University clinic in Turlock. The county expected to give 800 first doses to people who showed up at Outdoor's clinic Tuesday. A fourth hub in Patterson is expected to open later this week.

SEE STANISLAUS, 7A

Napa Valley Register

Making a gutsy move
Napa Valley Register opens at First Street Napa

Flash flood watch
Napa warns of flood risk [www.nvregister.com](#)

Napa grad on Lasorda
Neidinger pitched for Dodgers [www.nvregister.com](#)

WINDS SUBSIDING WITH RAIN 54-46 FORECAST 84 | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021 | [napavalleyregister.com](#) | \$1

County is stuck in 'deep purple'

Challenges are daunting for Napa to move to less restrictive red tier

By BARRY BERLING
berling@napavalleyregister.com

Napa County continues to be stuck in purple and focused on making the big leap to red and beyond. The Bay Area's five-and-a-half week stint under a red COVID-19

VOICE OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN EMPIRE

THE DENVER POST

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021 NOT AS COLD WITH SUNSHINE 43°-23° -58A • © THE DENVER POST • 12 PAGE 100 CENTS PER COPY (TAXES)

COVID-19 VACCINE Frustrations grow in state

Limited supply, confusion hurting rollout for residents 70 and older

By Jessica Seaman
The Denver Post

After getting on every waitlist she could find, Julie Tully finally secured an appointment to get the first shot of a COVID-19 vaccine last week.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

At least six cases of a mutant, more contagious COVID-19 strain from the United Kingdom have been confirmed in Georgia, but Georgia has no way of knowing how many more are out there.

Ga. won't say where virus strain found

U.K. mutation believed to be 30% more deadly than common virus.

By Johnny Edwards
ajc.com

At least six cases of a mutant, more contagious COVID-19 strain from the United Kingdom have been confirmed in Georgia, but Georgia has no way of knowing how many more are out there.

Palladium-Item

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021 | RICHMOND, IND. PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Northeastern admin charged

Green accused of giving alcohol to minors after 11-month investigation

By Mike Emery
richmond.com

WENCHESTER — A Northeastern Wayne School administrator is accused of providing alcohol to minors.

'Ready, willing, able' to increase vaccinations

Wayne County Health Department has been administering 600 coronavirus vaccine doses per week at the former Elder-Berman building, and is claiming to the state that it has the ability to deliver twice that amount if it receives more doses.

Couple accused of robbing 2 men at gunpoint

RICHMOND — A Richmond couple has been charged with robbing two men at gunpoint Monday.

Wayne County asks state to double doses

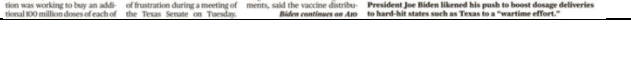
Wayne County Health Department has been administering 600 coronavirus vaccine doses per week at the former Elder-Berman building, and is claiming to the state that it has the ability to deliver twice that amount if it receives more doses.

Biden pledges surge in vaccine to states

Push to inoculate 300M by early fall does little to lessen frustration of Texas leaders

By Jonathan Drew and Zeke Miller
houstonchronicle.com

While it wasn't on the agenda, several state lawmakers expressed their frustration about federal calls from senior citizens struggling to get access to vaccine doses.



President Joe Biden walked his push to boost drug deliveries to hard-hit states such as Texas in a "warrior effort."

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THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY

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ShopRite shifts drug business to CVS

By Joseph N. Stefano

The Pillbox is in

Pharmacies in 62 ShopRite stores from Connecticut to Maryland are closing over the next month and remaining customers to nearby CVS pharmacies as the drugstore business continues to consolidate into a few giant chains. ShopRite-owned Walgreens Food Corp., based in Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County, has sold its customer lists to the Rhode Island-based CVS Pharmacy drug-store chain and transferred them to CVS locations.

For example, patients who picked up prescriptions from the ShopRite at 32nd and Parkside in West Philadelphia are being sent to the CVS at 49th and Market streets, nearly two miles away. Customers at an East Falls ShopRite are being sent to a CVS in Manassas.

The closings include 22 in the Philadelphia area and parts of South Jersey and Delaware, according to a list provided by CVS. An additional 147 ShopRites will have pharmacies, spokeswoman Danielle Emmer said.

For years, food markets aggressively added pharmacies to their stores, seeing them as draws for customers. But the stores have lately been closing them, lacking

'We need supply'



First lady Tommy Murphy, left, watches AtlanticCare nurse Elisea Ruiz vaccinate Miriam Ramos, of Pleasantville, on Tuesday at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

N.J. first lady tours Atlantic City mega vaccination site

By Michelle Brunetti

Staff Writer

One of those mega centers, The Meadowlands Arena site in East Rutherford, Bergen County, closed for a day Tuesday due to a lack of vaccine supply.

ATLANTIC CITY — A long-making push to speed up the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in Atlantic City is getting a boost from the state's first lady, who toured a mega vaccination site Tuesday.

First lady Tommy Murphy, left, watched AtlanticCare nurse Elisea Ruiz vaccinate Miriam Ramos, of Pleasantville, on Tuesday at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

Phillies re-sign catcher Realmuto

Philadelphia and the two-time All-Star agree on a \$115.5 million, five-year contract. BY

IMPEACHMENT DISMISSED DEFEATED But the Senate vote shows the trial of former President Donald Trump will not be an easy road.

SunHerald

State 'unconquerable' amid virus, disasters says Reeves

By Emily Wagstaff-Peterson

Uncollected Press

MISSISSIPPI is "unconquerable" after a year dominated by the coronavirus pandemic and natural disasters including tornadoes that cut wide paths of destruction last Easter Sunday, Republican Gov. Tate Reeves said in his State



Tate Reeves

of the State speech Tuesday. Speaking on the south steps of the Capitol, Reeves made a few policy proposals. He renewed his call for eliminating the state's personal income tax and said he would sign a bill to increase teachers' pay. He called on legislators to make "wise investments" in workforce training, although he did not offer specific proposals. And he vowed that Mississippi will vaccinate people against the coronavirus as quickly as possible.

"We need to crush this virus and get back to our way of life," Reeves said, according to a prepared text of his speech. "The virus is still here, and it cannot be solved by ignoring it. We have to defeat it, because Mississippians are done. We're done burying loved ones who were lost to this virus. We're done with stressed hospitals. We're done with the fearful talk of lockdowns and shutdowns. We're ready for community again."

Reeves served eight years as state treasurer and eight as legis-

tenant g sworn in in his first office we pandemics cases for March. "I am is uncon Tuesday but that's been tes natures, 4 ty." The g released als in Nc the 4% tax brad slings c



Irent Muen, a CVS pharmacist, second from left, spoke with residents of the Mississippi State Veterans Home in Jackson on Jan. 9 about receiving the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination.

Weekly vaccine allocation remains consistent

Health. Mississippi has a population of around 3 million. The department reported Tuesday that Mississippi had 1,452 new confirmed cases of the virus as of Monday evening. The department also reported

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By Marg

substantive

A New running deputy's stolen v walking demand County i in refas The is and ana in the ar Tracks, 2 Monday Autho felony el property cle theft; failure is when an nary enforcer enface The ei shortly a vehicle i walked i County i At the Truck in car boys their vel

CITIZEN TIMES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021 | CITIZEN-TIMES.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

NC transitioning to mass vaccination sites



North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper and Donald Spennergrass of Carboro talk after Spennergrass received a coronavirus vaccine as Gov. Cooper tours a large-scale vaccination site at UNC's Friday Center in Chapel Hill Jan. 19. UNC Hospitals hope to administer 2,500 first COVID-19 vaccine doses at the Friday Center by the end of this week.

where nearly 16,000 people were vaccinated over the weekend. Other mass vaccination sites also are opening. But UNC Health on Monday said the 10,000 doses it will now receive this week is less than half of what it expected, and far less than the 30,000 doses it

Study reveals PTSD in firefighters

Data: More than 20 likely have disorder

Joel Burgess

Asheville Citizen Times

via News Network

ASHEVILLE — More than 20 Asheville firefighters likely have traumatic stress disorder, a study that is causing the emergency to doubt their own abilities as once job-hunters, a recent study. Presented Jan. 21 to the post study said barriers to finding treatment for the potential debilitating condition range from concerns to fear of negative impacts, according to data gathered. That was seven years a death of Asheville Fire Dept. Captain Jeff Brown in a 2013 Mission Hospital, an event the department.

"It is still hard to have to study between my health, my physical health, rather than with a job that I fell in love with job that I am passionate about at," said former Asheville firefighter Bentley Andrews, who during a comment session at a presentation.

Andrews said she parting the study, then two years he granted medical retirement to her experiencing "severe sleep and debilitating anxiety." The study's recommendations were decreasing shift other barriers to treatment creative supports and resources.

Akron Beacon Journal

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021 | BEACONJOURNAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

SCHOOLS HOPE TO BEGIN TEACHER VACCINATIONS



Andre Skrentskiy teaches a German language class Tuesday at Nordonia High School. The district is working with Summit County Public Health to vaccinate teachers when possible. PHOTOS BY KAREN SCHUELVAKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Later curfew could be just ahead

From Staff Reports

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio's overnight COVID-19 curfew could be rolled back or lifted in coming weeks if hospitalizations continue to decline. The coronavirus patient count has eased significantly in recent weeks. Summit County hospitals and other across the state, boosting official hopes that bars and restaurants could resume longer hours as long as life tions aren't surging.

Ohio's current curfew, which extends from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., ends this weekend. Gov. Mike DeWine could roll it back to 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. as soon as Thursday.

DeWine announced that if the

See CURFEW, Page 5A

Shortage of doses may delay the vaccine in Summit County districts

Alan Ashworth, Jennifer Pignatelli and Krista S. Kane

Akron Beacon Journal

All school employees in Summit County were slated to be first in line in



US to increase vaccine supply

Jonathan Drew and Zaki Miller

Associated Press

Knoxville NEWS SENTINEL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021 | KNOXNEWS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Vaccines promised, never delivered

Tenn. leaders say Trump's failure to supply pledged doses is slowing down state's progress

Brett Keim for the Knoxville News Sentinel via USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

The Tennessee government at one point expected to get as many as 400,000 coronavirus vaccine doses from the Trump administration's supposed vaccine reserve, which would've been a windfall for a state with untapped distribution capacity and limited supply. Tennessee's top health official said Tuesday that the state was not getting the promised doses.

Instead, state leaders were stunned earlier this month when it was revealed the federal reserve was empty. Tennessee got no surge of doses from the release of the reserve and, separately, is still waiting for increased vaccine supplies that federal officials promised would start this week, said Health Commissioner Dr. Lisa Finney.

"We were all under the impression there was this big reserve and they were going to flood the market with it," Finney told USA TODAY NETWORK. "The reserve. We had calculated internally, just internal calculations, that we could get up to 400,000 — like this big influx."

See VACCINES, Page 5A

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PORTAGE DAILY REGISTER

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Badgers eye spark

UW looks to gain steam at Maryland

Blinken confirmed

Biden's pick for secretary of State seal of approval

Wallen breaks out

Country star's new album se records upon release

Educators among in line for vaccine

Grocery stores group homes also get priority

Some older adults not getting vaccine message

Regular internet use, online accessibility a challenge for seniors

Registered nurse Debbie Willigmyer jabs the arm of laboratory technician Sarah Jagger, who received a COVID-19 vaccination Thursday at St. Joseph's Health St. Clare Hospital in Baraboo.

BRIDGET COOKE, DAILY REGISTER

They're not communicating with older people, the people who really need to have that vaccine, you know," she said of Arlene Kanno, who lives near Wisconsin Dells. In Columbia hospital systems and officials about it at all," she added. "That is a major problem."

A few other residents in Sauk and Columbia counties have called the News Republic and

The News Leader

SDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021 | NEWSLEADER.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

THE BUZZ

Quick move

COVID-19 variant found in Virginia

First case of UK B.1.1.7 reported in northern part of state

Monique Calleso

Shutterstock Images: iStockphoto.com

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