

June 7, 2021

### Summary

The United States has 33,365,965 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 597,700 reported related deaths. The White House sent out its first shipment of surplus COVID-19 vaccine doses abroad last Thursday, the beginning of an effort to share 80 million doses by the end of June. The first priority for doses will be Latin America and the Caribbean, South and Southeast Asia, and Africa.

Vaccination rates continue to decline, jeopardizing the Biden administration's goal of vaccinating 70% of adults by Independence Day. Fewer than one million Americans are being vaccinated each day. Experts attribute the slowdown to numerous factors, including regional differences in vaccination rates, lagging vaccinations among Black Americans, and personal trepidations about the vaccine among holdouts. This comes amid calls by some experts to accelerate the vaccination rate of teens following a CDC report showing increased rates of COVID-related hospitalization for adolescents aged 12-17 in March and April.

Three companies are in the late stages of developing protein subunit vaccines, which help simulate the body's immune response to COVID in a different way than the vaccines currently in use. A vaccine of this type produced by Novavax could be submitted to regulators in quarter three 2021.

Case numbers in the United States continue to decrease, although reporting from Memorial Day weekend is lagging. Before the holiday weekend, new cases dropped below 22,000 per day, on average, for the first time since June 2020. Six states in the New England region, including Maine and Vermont, have seen cases fall by 60 percent or more since mid-May.

As of June 6, New York reported 9 deaths, 799 hospitalizations, and 206 COVID-19 patients in intensive care. Approximately 463, or .66%, of the 70,635 tests administered in New York were positive for COVID-19. New York has administered 19,538,790 doses of the vaccines to patients; 54.7% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 47.3% are fully vaccinated. Governor Cuomo announced that the "Vax and Scratch" program—which provides free New York State lottery tickets to individuals 18 and over—will be extended next week at ten state mass vaccination sites.

## **U.S. Government Updates**

- [\*The White House Says It Has Started Shipping Surplus COVID-19 Vaccines Abroad\*](#), June 3
  - The White House sent out its first shipment of surplus COVID-19 vaccine doses abroad last Thursday, the beginning of an effort to share 80 million doses by the end of June.
  - The first priority for doses will be Latin America and the Caribbean, South and Southeast Asia, and Africa.
- [\*Vaccination rates fall off, imperiling Biden's July Fourth goal\*](#), June 6
  - The Biden administration's goal of ensuring that 70 percent of American adults are vaccinated by July 4 is endangered by declining vaccination rates nationwide.
  - Anthony S. Fauci, the government's top infectious-diseases expert, said on a White House-organized call with community leaders on Friday: "You're left with a group that you may need . . . trusted messengers who go out there and explain to them why it's critical for themselves, for their family."

## **Vaccines and Therapeutics**

- [\*A New Type Of COVID-19 Vaccine Could Debut Soon\*](#), June 6
  - Multiple pharmaceutical companies are in the final stages of developing "protein subunit" vaccines. These vaccines work by introducing COVID's protein spike directly into the immune system; in contrast, Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson give the immune system a blueprint to create COVID's protein spike.
  - Novavax is the furthest along. Its vaccine comprises lab grown protein spikes, along with an adjuvant that enhances the immune system's response. A large scale trial is currently underway in the United States and Mexico, and executives at the company expect to file for authorization with regulators in third quarter 2021.
  - Sanofi also developed a vaccine using lab grown protein spikes, but after small studies returned mixed results last year, the company continued work on the vaccine. With recent small studies yielding positive results, the company is gearing up for larger studies.
  - Medicago is producing its vaccine through farms of tobacco plants genetically engineered to create COVID's protein spikes. Large studies are underway.
- [\*Vaccination rates fall off, imperiling Biden's July Fourth goal\*](#), June 6
  - According to an analysis by the Washington Post, the United States is now averaging fewer than one million vaccinations per day, a decline since April's peak daily rate of 3.4 million vaccinations per day.
  - Current vaccination trends make it unlikely the Biden administration will achieve its goal of vaccinating 70% of the US adult population by July 4. Officials would now need to sustain a vaccination rate of 4.2 million adults per day to hit the target.
  - The article cites numerous reasons for declining rates, including slower vaccination rates in some regions of the country and among Black Americans, as well as resistance from vaccine holdouts, who see less urgency in getting vaccinated as the pandemic continues to recede or fear the vaccine's side effects.
- [\*Biden's vaccine push fails to gain traction with African Americans\*](#), June 7
  - As of June 7, less than a quarter of Black Americans have received their first vaccination, according to available federal data.
  - Experts cite numerous factors for dwindling vaccinations in Black communities: distrust due to historical problems with racism in public health, accessibility of the vaccine, community outreach, messaging issues, and more.

- The White House and other groups are accelerating efforts to boost vaccinations among Black Americans, including through community- and faith-based initiatives. Similar initiatives have yielded recent success with Hispanic Americans, who now account for more than a quarter of all vaccinations in the country.
- Black Americans in some areas are comprising an increasingly larger share of hospitalizations and deaths. The Biden administration and experts are concerned that a failure to vaccinate more communities will continue this trend and leave Black Americans vulnerable to new strains of the virus.

### **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

- [\*COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review\*](#), April 30
  - CDC summarized key COVID-19 disease indicators for last week.
  - As of June 4, the seven-day average number of daily new cases reported was 14,349. This is a 35.2% decrease compared to the previous week's average, and an overall 94.3% decrease compared to the national peak on January 8, 2021.
  - As of June 3, 297.7 million vaccine doses have been administered in the United States. Overall, approximately 169.1 million people in the United States have received at least one dose of vaccine, which is 50.9% of the population. Approximately 136.6 million people are fully vaccinated, which is 41.2% of the population. The seven-day average number of reported vaccine dose administrations was 1.0 million, a 38.2% decrease compared to the previous week.
  - As of June 1, the seven-day average of new daily hospital admissions was 2,574, a 17.8% decrease compared to the previous week's average.
  - As of June 2, the seven-day average of reported deaths was 325 per day, a 21.6% decrease compared to the previous week's average.
- [\*'Much of this suffering can be prevented': CDC urges parents to vaccinate their teens after report shows rising hospitalization rates\*](#), June 4
  - According to a report published by the CDC, hospitalization rates for adolescents 12-17 increased between March 1 and April 24.
  - 204 adolescents were hospitalized due to the virus between January 1 and March 31. Of these patients, 30% were "perfectly healthy," while 70% had one or more underlying conditions. More than 30% required intensive care, a disparate majority of which were Black and Latino adolescents.
  - Prior to the FDA's authorization of the Pfizer vaccine on May 10, health providers were not permitted to vaccinate teens aged 12 to 15. Many experts, including CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, are now urging parents to vaccinate their teens in response to this new study. Other experts point out the low hospitalization rates for teens relative to adults and warn that research into the vaccines' effects on adolescents is still inchoate.

### **New York State**

- [\*New York State COVID-19 Updates\*](#), June 7
  - New York reported 9 deaths, 799 hospitalizations, and 206 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on June 6, 2021.
  - Approximately 463, or .66%, of the 70,635 tests administered in New York on June 6 were positive for COVID-19.

- As of June 6, New York has administered 19,538,790 doses of the vaccines to patients; 54.7% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 47.3% are fully vaccinated.
- Governor Cuomo [announced](#) that the “Vax and Scratch” program—which provides free New York State lottery tickets to individuals 18 and over—will be extended next week at ten state mass vaccination sites. The sites are open for walk-ins and appointments from June 7 to 11. Participants could win a grand prize of up to \$5 million.

### **New York City**

- [New York City COVID-19 Updates](#), June 7
  - Mayor Bill de Blasio [announced](#) the launch of a pilot program of pop-up vaccine clinics at four schools in the Bronx, followed by additional locations at schools in Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan. As part of the program, all New York City kids 12 and older will be able to get the Pfizer vaccine and no health insurance is required to receive a vaccine. Students 12-15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and ID is required to prove their age.

### **International**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi of [India](#) said in a nationwide address Monday that the federal government would play a bigger role in procuring vaccines on behalf of states. Less than 4 percent of India’s 1.4 billion people have been fully vaccinated.
- [Uganda](#)’s president has introduced new lockdown measures in an effort to tackle surging coronavirus cases nationwide. President Yoweri Museveni announced the closure of all schools and universities for 42 days starting Monday and suspended public gatherings and prayers in mosques and churches. Public transportation between and across districts will also be barred for 42 days, starting Thursday to allow students who are in school to get home.
- In [Germany](#), anyone 12 or older is now officially eligible for a vaccine appointment. The country had been prioritizing the elderly, those with medical conditions and frontline workers. So far, 45.7 percent of the population has had one dose, with 21.3 percent fully vaccinated.
- Restaurants, pubs and cafes in [Ireland](#) reopened on Monday for outdoor drinking and dining as the country makes its way out of one of the strictest and most sustained lockdowns in Europe.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [Annual Meetings, Compensation and COVID-19: Where Things Stand](#), April 13
- [Managing Volatility in a Pandemic? Document your Derivatives Transactions Appropriately](#), April 13
- [California Authorities Issue a Wide Range of Rules and Guidance on COVID-19](#), April 10
- [HHS Initiates Initial \\$30 Billion Distribution of the \\$100 Billion Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund](#), April 10

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