



June 22, 2021

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

How Vaccine Distribution is Progressing

PRO POINTS

- **More than 370 million doses of Covid vaccine have been delivered to the states, and roughly 84% of those have been administered. Most states are no longer ordering their full allocation from the federal government due to low demand, which has allowed the Biden administration to commit to sending unallocated doses to other countries.**
- **The single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine — which many public health experts hoped would make it easier to vaccinate college students, the homeless and homebound — accounts for less than 6 percent of shots distributed to the states.**
- **President Joe Biden aimed to get one shot to at least 70 percent of adults by July 4, but the country is unlikely to meet that goal.**

HOW WE GOT HERE

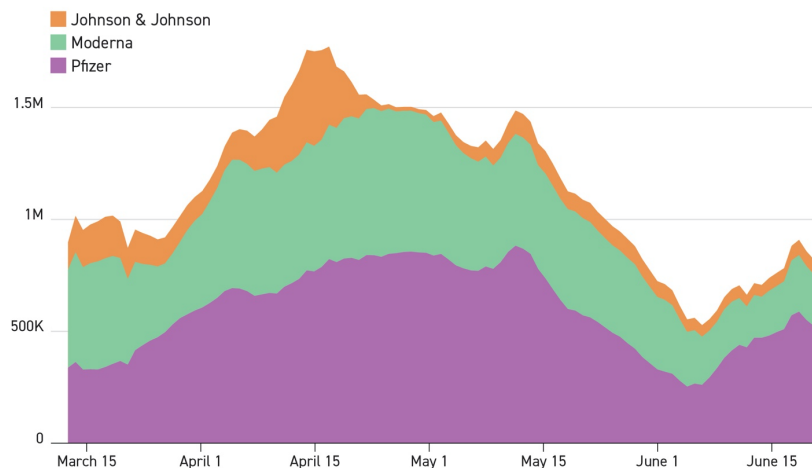
After a rocky start that saw millions of Americans parked on hold or refreshing web pages to get appointments for shots followed by a February snowstorm that hampered delivery, the Biden administration increased vaccine distribution to the states throughout March. By early April, states received nearly 30 million vaccines per week, allocated based on their populations.

Nearly all the vaccine has come from either Moderna or Pfizer, which are producing tens of millions of doses per month. Shortly after the FDA authorized Johnson & Johnson's vaccine in February, the Food and Drug Administration ordered a Baltimore contractor to stop producing it over concerns that millions of J&J shots were contaminated with an active ingredient from the AstraZeneca vaccine the company was also manufacturing. That supply was in limbo until last week, when the FDA ordered 60 million doses be thrown out due to possible contamination. About 10 million doses were cleared for use but demand is so low in the U.S. that those doses could be shipped overseas.

Many states are sitting on stockpiles of J&J, and health officials have been struggling to determine why more of the shot hasn't gone into arms. They believe there could be multiple reasons: Federal health officials paused the use of the shot for 11 days, and the halt came at the same time demand for the vaccine was plummeting in many states.

Pfizer and Moderna have comprised vast majority of U.S. vaccinations

Daily number of completed vaccinations by vaccine type, 7-day moving average



Source: CDC



WHY IT MATTERS

Vaccinations are key to returning the country to normal and significantly reducing the odds that new infectious variants don't lead to a surge in coronavirus cases and hospitalizations.

Johnson & Johnson was eagerly anticipated because it required only one dose and could be stored in a refrigerator. Both Moderna and Pfizer needed to be kept at much colder temperatures and require people to come back for a second dose. That's why many governors were pinning their hopes on the single-dose vaccine for hard-to-reach populations.

But supply began to outpace demand quicker than health officials anticipated. That left the Biden administration and states scrambling to implement new ways of making the vaccine more accessible and incentivizing more Americans to get the shot. The White House has since pivoted away from mass vaccination sites in favor of pharmacies, mobile clinics and pop-up sites. And governors across the country have unveiled new ways of enticing people to get the shot, from million-dollar lotteries to college scholarships, donuts and even marijuana.

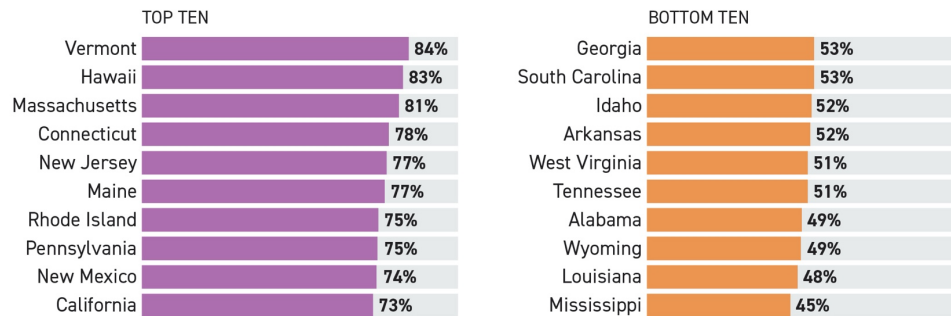
HOW IT'S GOING

Almost two-thirds of all U.S. adults have at least one shot. But the number of Americans receiving their first dose each day is at its lowest levels since early January.

New cases, hospitalizations and deaths are at their lowest levels since the pandemic began, but public health experts fear that regions with low vaccination rates will see Covid-19 outbreaks and unnecessary deaths unless vaccination rates pick up. Further, they warn that allowing the virus to spread through communities increases the chances of it mutating, possibly into a strain that can evade our current vaccines.

Some states have reached their vaccination goal, while others lag

Share of adults who have received at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine, as of June 21



Source: CDC

POWER PLAYERS

- **Jeff Zients:** The White House's Covid-19 coordinator spearheads the administration's pandemic response.
- **Rochelle Walensky:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director is charged with helping states implement their vaccine distribution plans.
- **FDA:** The agency decides whether a coronavirus vaccine gets the green light for emergency use.