



COVID-19 UPDATE January 19, 2021

Global

Total cases- 96,143,100

Total deaths- 2,052,780

United States

Total cases- 24,632,518

Total deaths- 408,687

Global deaths have passed the 2 million mark as the United States surpassed 400,000 deaths, days before President-elect Biden's inauguration. More than 39.7 million vaccine doses have been administered worldwide, while multiple countries are finalizing the approval processes for additional vaccines. In the U.S., Biden's promise of delivering 100 million doses of the vaccine in 100 days is "absolutely a doable thing," Dr. Anthony Fauci said. The Los Angeles area is being especially hard hit, recently passing 2 million cases as the virus variant continues spreading across the country.

Trump Administration

- The U.S. will require proof of a negative Covid-19 test before allowing visitors to fly into the country from other nations.
 - The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** on Tuesday said it approved the new anti-pandemic measure that will take effect on Jan. 26.
- **President Donald Trump** will rescind his coronavirus-related travel bans for non-American citizens arriving from the European Union, the U.K. and Brazil.
 - The **Biden Administration**, on the advice of their medical team, does not intend to lift these restrictions on January 26th.
- Federal assistance for farmers and ranchers struggling during the coronavirus pandemic will be available to more agriculture producers, according to a Friday announcement by the **U.S.**

Agriculture Department.

- Contract producers of swine, broilers, laying hens, chicken eggs, and turkeys that saw revenue drop last year due to Covid-19 are eligible for the **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program**, and producers can collect as much as 80% of their revenue loss
 - Producers of pullets, which are young hens, as well as turfgrass sod are also eligible for payments
- The **Federal Housing Finance Agency** (FHFA) announced that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will extend several loan origination flexibilities until Feb. 28, 2021.
 - Changes are to ensure continued support for borrowers during the Covid-19 national emergency as the flexibilities were set to expire on Jan. 31. Extended flexibilities include: alternative appraisals on purchase and rate term refinance loans, alternative methods for

documenting income and verifying employment before loan closing, and expanding the use of power of attorney to assist with loan closings.

- The **Paycheck Protection Program**, which restarted last week with \$284 billion in pandemic-relief loans for U.S. small businesses, opened to small banks on Friday and all lenders Tuesday.
 - Banks with \$1 billion or less in assets will be able to send in applications for business owners seeking PPP loans for the first time and those applying for a second one on Friday at 9 a.m., the **U.S. Small Business Administration** said.
 - With the new money, businesses will be able to apply for a second loan, but there are stricter rules. Firms can have a maximum of 300 employees, down from 500, and the maximum loan amount this time is \$2 million, a decrease from \$10 million. Applicants also have to prove that revenue declined at least 25% in any quarter in 2020 compared with the previous year. The loans are forgiven when they are used to cover payroll and other approved expenses, including property-damage costs, supplier costs and personal protective equipment for employees.
- The **Trump administration** is expected to encourage states to widen access to Covid-19 vaccines as part of an effort to speed up the immunization campaign. Health officials announced they will push states to expand the shots' availability to anyone older than 65, regardless of underlying conditions, and anyone 16 and older with such a condition.

Incoming Biden Administration

- **President-elect Joe Biden** will ask Congress for \$1.9 trillion to fund immediate relief for the pandemic-wracked U.S. economy, a package that risks Republican opposition over big-ticket spending on Democratic priorities including aid to state and local governments.
 - The proposal would include \$350 billion to help state and local governments, including to support first responders, expand testing, and reopen schools. The proposal would create a national vaccination program, provide funding to expand the health workforce by 100,000 people to conduct outreach and contact tracing, offer \$50 billion to expand national testing, and provide \$40 billion for supplies.
- **Biden** also proposed:
 - Providing a direct payment of \$1,400 per person, in addition to the \$600 provided under the omnibus spending law
 - Expanding emergency paid leave and unemployment programs, while increasing the minimum wage to \$15 and extending a 15% increase of benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
 - Expanding tax credits for children and child care and reducing health insurance premiums, offering grants and investment capital to small businesses, and providing funding to help victims of domestic violence.
 - Dedicating \$9 billion for the federal Technology Modernization Fund and \$690 million for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, among activities to remediate the Solarwinds cyber attack.
- Former FDA chief **David Kessler** will become the top science official at Operation Warp Speed, replacing Moncef Slaoui.
- **President-elect Joe Biden** is expected to announce a \$1 billion national ad campaign to convince Americans to have faith in the Covid-19 vaccines.
 - The campaign would include awareness initiatives and paid media to sell the public on the inoculation effort.

- **President-Elect Joe Biden** proposes overhauling eligibility rules for coronavirus vaccines and opening more sites to receive shots and will encourage states to abandon a complex series of priority groups used to triage vaccinations and instead focus on giving shots to front-line essential workers and anyone 65 and older. He plans to set up community vaccination centers and mobile clinics and “jump-start” an effort to make shots available at pharmacies.
- **President-elect Joe Biden** called on all Americans to wear masks in public for 100 days to combat the spread of the coronavirus, saying it was “stupid” that face coverings had become a political issue.

Vaccines and Treatment

- **The Covid-19 variant** that emerged in the **U.K.** and sparked concerns of faster spread could become dominant in the U.S. as soon as March, U.S. public-health researchers said in a report.
 - Steps should be taken to reduce its transmission, including increased genomic surveillance and adherence to public-health measures like testing and mask-wearing, **the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** said Friday. “Increased SARS-CoV-2 transmission might threaten strained health-care resources, require extended and more rigorous implementation of public-health strategies, and increase the percentage of population immunity required for pandemic control,” the report said.
- At current vaccination rates, the U.S. won’t hit 75% immunity -- the estimated level at which viral transmission will virtually halt -- until **2024**, according to London-based consulting firm **Airfinity Ltd.** However, if **President-elect Joe Biden’s** administration is able to sufficiently ramp up vaccination rates to meet anticipated levels of production, herd immunity could be reached this August, Airfinity estimated.
- **Johnson & Johnson’s** highly anticipated single-dose Covid-19 vaccine may not be authorized for use until March, weeks later than U.S. officials have suggested. Johnson & Johnson’s experimental one-shot Covid-19 vaccine generated a long-lasting immune response in an early safety study, providing a glimpse at how it will perform in the real world as the company inches closer to approaching U.S. regulators for clearance.
 - More than 90% of participants made immune proteins, called neutralizing antibodies, within 29 days after receiving the shot, according to the report, and participants formed the antibodies within 57 days. The immune response lasted for the full 71 days of the trial.
 - J&J’s vaccine offers advantages in ease of distribution and administration. J&J’s shot will likely protect people with a single dose, and can be stored at refrigerator temperatures for three months; the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines must be frozen.
- **Pfizer Inc.** has notified countries around the world that it will deliver fewer doses of its Covid-19 vaccine in the next three to four weeks as it works to renovate a factory in Belgium.
- **AstraZeneca** pledged to deliver 2 million doses a week of its coronavirus vaccine for the U.K. before mid-February as it ramps up production to help fuel the country’s immunization campaign.
- **Los Angeles County** said it would open five more large-scale Covid-19 vaccination sites, including ones at famed concert venue the Forum, Six Flags Magic Mountain amusement park and the Pomona Fairplex, site of the county fair. The sites will each be able to accommodate about 4,000 people a day. They are in addition to the Dodger Stadium facility, which the county opened Friday.
- **New York State** is opening up vaccinations to those age 65 and older, as well as the people with compromised immune systems, Governor Andrew Cuomo said.

- **New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio** said the city will run out of vaccines by next week due to supply shortages.
 - **New York** will get 50,000 fewer doses next week from the federal government than it did the week before, despite increasing the number of people eligible for the vaccine this week, Governor Andrew Cuomo said in a briefing on Friday.
- **California** will start offering vaccine shots to residents 65 and older, joining New York, New Jersey and other states that are loosening requirements under new guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- **California's state epidemiologist** recommended that distribution of more than 300,000 doses of Moderna Inc.'s vaccine be paused in the state after some people who received it had possible severe allergic reactions.
- The **European Union's executive arm** will urge member states to set a [target](#) for vaccinating at least 70% of the bloc's population by this summer, according to a draft of the latest pandemic response recommendations due to be released Tuesday.

Other

- The **U.K.** said it will close its travel corridors, meaning all visitors from overseas will require a negative coronavirus test within 72 hours of travel to enter Britain. Visitors may be checked when they arrive in the U.K. and could face substantial fines if they don't comply, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said at a televised press conference on Friday.
- **Brazil** granted approval for the emergency use of AstraZeneca Plc and Sinovac Biotech Ltd vaccines against Covid-19, allowing the country to kick-start deploying shots as the virus roars back in Latin America's largest economy.
 - Health regulator Anvisa cleared the vaccines in a Sunday meeting, citing the recent significant increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in Brazil and the lack of alternatives for treatment of the disease
- **France** is "very reluctant" to back any move by the European Union to create vaccination passports that would allow people who have been inoculated against Covid-19 to travel, according to Clement Beaune, junior minister for European Affairs. "It's premature" to discuss using a document of this type to allow travel within Europe, at least until the vaccine is widely available, he said
- On Friday, at least three more states, including **Utah, Oregon** and **Illinois**, reported cases as the Centers for Disease and Prevention warned that it could become the dominant strain in the U.S. as soon as March. More than 15 states have reported cases, some involving people with no history of travel.
 - Louisiana became the latest state to report a case of a more transmissible variant of the coronavirus first found in the U.K. The infected person reportedly had a history of travel outside of Louisiana, a statement from Governor John Bel Edwards' office said Saturday.
- **Apple** is closing more than 20 retail stores across **Texas, Georgia and North Carolina** after Covid-19 cases continued to spike. The technology giant is also temporarily closing its stores in the Washington, D.C., area ahead of the Presidential inauguration next week.
 - The company closed more than 50 stores in California last month. Many in Utah, Tennessee, Arizona and South Carolina also remain closed. It has also shut several stores in London.

