



COVID-19 UPDATE January 25, 2021

Global

Total cases- 99,955,863

Total deaths- 2,143,164

United States

Total cases- 25,724,166

Total deaths- 429,644

Global COVID cases are nearing 1 billion and can be expected to pass that mark within the next few days. Worldwide, more than 64 million vaccine doses have been administered, with Israel and the United Arab Emirates emerging as the top leaders in doses administered per 100 people. President Biden is seeking to follow through on his promise of 100 million vaccine doses administered in the first 100 days of his presidency. So far, multiple governors have complained about the lack of doses with timelines extending well into the late spring for the vaccine to be available to general populations.

Biden Administration

- **President Biden** announced a series of executive actions aimed at overhauling the federal response to the coronavirus outbreak.
 - The executive actions include **stabilizing the supply chain for critical medical supplies** and boosting the government's ability to provide **rapid and equitable vaccine distribution**.
- **President Biden** signed an [executive order](#) Thursday directing federal agencies to get schools resources for Covid-19 testing, contact tracing, and vaccination for teachers. The order also calls on the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to provide new guidance on steps schools and colleges on whether and how they can reopen safely.
 - **President Biden** also directed his administration to boost food assistance for needy Americans and leverage federal contracts to improve pay for low-wage workers in executive orders signed Friday at the White House.
 - He also encouraged Americans to begin more frequently wearing a mask, saying the simple precaution over the next 99 days could save 50,000 lives through April.
- **President Joe Biden** says he anticipates that coronavirus vaccines will be delivered to 1 million Americans per day within the next three weeks, and that the medicines should be available to anyone in the nation who wants it by spring.
 - Biden added that he thought the nation would soon get to 1.5 million vaccines per day, noting logistical hurdles that have stalled distribution and left many Americans frustrated they can't get shots.
 - "I feel confident that by summer we're going to be well on our way to heading toward herd immunity and increasing the access for people who aren't on the first on the list,"

Biden said Monday after a ceremony to sign an order to boost government spending on American products.

- **The Biden administration** said the U.S. needs more people to administer Covid-19 vaccinations, in addition to the doses themselves and places for people to get them. “This is a multifaceted challenge -- it’s not just about having supply,” Jen Psaki, press secretary to Biden, said at a White House briefing. The administration is calling for hiring 100,000 public-health workers in part to ensure that there are more vaccinators, she said. “It’s also about having more people who can physically put shots into the arms of Americans, and it’s about ensuring we have places that that can be done
- **President Biden** plans to extend bans on home evictions and foreclosures imposed last year to mitigate the dual economic and health crises spurred by the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - **President Biden** will ask the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** to delay expiration of an order barring landlords from pushing out some tenants for nonpayment of rent. The order calls for the moratorium, set to expire at the end of this month, to be extended through at least March 31.
 - In addition, **Biden** plans to ask the **Departments of Veterans Affairs, Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development** to consider extending foreclosure restrictions and forbearance relief.
- **The U.S.** will ban entry to most non-U.S. citizens who have recently been in South Africa in response to the new Covid-19 strain there.
 - The **Biden administration** will also continue restrictions on travel to the U.S. from Brazil, the U.K., Ireland, and 26 countries in Europe that the Trump administration planned to relax as of Monday.
- **Pete Buttigieg**, President Joe Biden’s pick to run the U.S. Transportation Department says he will focus on preventing the spread of Covid-19 on the nation’s transportation systems if he is confirmed by the U.S. Senate.
- The **Biden administration** has ordered **OSHA** and a subagency to determine whether there’s a need for emergency temporary standards protecting workers from on-the-job Covid-19 infections.
 - If **OSHA** decides an emergency rule is needed, the regulation should be issued by March 15, according to the executive order Biden on signed Thursday. No date was specified for an MSHA rule.
- The **U.S. government**, including the Pentagon, is stepping up surveillance of coronavirus variants to monitor their impact on Covid-19 vaccines and therapeutics, the new head of the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** said.
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** is discussing restoring standards for how health workers can reuse and ration personal protective equipment, **Brig. Gen. David Sanford**, director of the supply chain task force, says in interview with Bloomberg Law.
 - The practices aren’t usually allowed but CDC provided [guidance](#) earlier in the pandemic to provide solutions when enough supplies couldn’t be obtained for the typically single-use items
 - Sanford says he has been in talks on a move to take standards back to pre-pandemic levels and believes if this action is taken there will still be enough supply of PPE for workers

- People may receive their follow-up doses of the Covid-19 vaccines as much as six weeks later if it's not feasible to get them in the recommended interval, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** said.
 - The guidance posted in a Jan. 21 update to the CDC website said a second dose should be administered as close to the recommended schedule as possible, either three weeks for the Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech SE vaccine or four weeks for the Moderna Inc. shot.

Congress

- **Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer** said he aims to secure passage of the next round of Covid-19 relief by mid-March, just when jobless benefits from the last package will be running out.
 - A bipartisan group of senators, along with the Republican and Democratic leaders of a moderate group of House representatives, on Sunday questioned the White House on President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion stimulus proposal
- **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** has indicated she wants to pass President Biden's Covid-19 relief legislation via the budget reconciliation process in two weeks.

Vaccines and Treatment

- **Johnson & Johnson** has enough data from its late-stage Covid-19 vaccine trial to begin analysis, possibly in a week or two, said **Anthony Fauci**, the U.S. government's top infectious disease doctor
 - J&J had previously said it would have a first chance to review data from its late-stage trial of 45,000 volunteers in the last week of January or the first week of February, consistent with Fauci's timeline.
- **European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen** told EU leaders that **AstraZeneca's** vaccine is expected to get conditional market authorization in the European Union next week and the company plans to begin deliveries in mid-February.
 - AstraZeneca's initial supply of coronavirus vaccine doses to Europe will be smaller than previously expected.
- **Pfizer Inc.** and **BioNTech SE** will supply as many as 40 million doses of their Covid-19 vaccine to **Covax**, a global alliance many poorer countries are relying on to protect their populations. Shipments will start in the first quarter and continue throughout 2021, the companies said in a statement.
- **U.S. governors and mayors** are stepping up their complaints that the federal government is not giving them enough vaccine -- and it could be months before they inoculate those currently eligible.
 - "I'm not as worried about running out as I am about not getting enough," **New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy** said Friday on CNN. He said he could use as much as four times the 100,000 doses the state now is allotted a week.
 - On Saturday, **Governor Andrew Cuomo** said it would take 17 weeks to get through the 7 million New Yorkers eligible to receive the vaccine.
- **Pfizer Inc.** is open to selling doses of its Covid-19 vaccine directly to states trying to boost their supplies, pending approval from the federal government, a company spokesman said on Thursday.
- About one in 400,000 recipients of the **Moderna Inc.** Covid-19 vaccine had a severe allergic reaction to the first shot, according to a study from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released on Friday.

- The research, which tracked 10 cases of anaphylaxis among about 4 million doses administered through Jan. 10, concludes that such reactions to the vaccine still appear to be rare.
- **Moderna** Inc. says it plans to begin human studies of a booster shot for its Covid-19 vaccine to help it protect against a more-transmissible South Africa virus variant, after a lab test showed the shot may be less potent against that strain.

Other

- Some of **New York's biggest employers** are urging local leaders to let them help with the Covid-19 vaccination effort, arguing that the slow rollout is putting the state's economic recovery at risk.
 - **Goldman Sachs Group Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co., Citigroup Inc. and KKR & Co.** were among a few dozen companies that spoke with state's vaccination czar, Larry Schwartz.
- U.S. employees of **Brazilian-owned meatpacker JBS SA and its subsidiary, Pilgrim's Pride Corp.**, will get a \$100 bonus if they opt for the Covid-19 vaccine.
 - **JBS**, the biggest meat producer in the world, is hoping the payment will lead to a high percentage of its 66,000-strong workforce being vaccinated, which will mean fewer outbreaks and disruptions in production.
- The **U.K.** is considering tightening controls at its borders to prevent the import of new strains of coronavirus, which it fears may undermine the success of its vaccination program.
- **Chicago Public Schools** on Sunday delayed elementary school teachers' scheduled return to school this week by two days to Wednesday, after the teachers' union voted to only work remotely, citing safety concerns.
 - Kindergarten through eighth-grade teachers had been scheduled to report to school buildings on Monday ahead of students having the option to return to classrooms on Feb. 1. If an agreement isn't reached and teachers refuse to return to work, this would be the second teachers strike in as many years in the nation's third-largest district.
- Federal standards are needed to verify the validity of tests and vaccines needed for Covid-19 health passes, **Airlines for America**, an industry association whose members include American Airlines and Delta, says in letter to **Alejandro Mayorkas**, President Biden's designate for Homeland Security secretary.

