



## TOP TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS WEEK'S COVID VACCINE ROLL-OUT

1. **First doses have arrived:** The first doses of the vaccine have arrived in Georgia!
  - a. The number of doses in the first batch Georgia is receiving is estimated to be 84,800.
  - b. Wellstar is a distribution hub and received an initial shipment of 3,900 on December 16.
2. **It seems to be effective:** More than 43,000 people participated in the vaccine trials and results strongly indicate 95% efficacy, which was a significant factor in the emergency use authorization (EUA) being approved.
  - a. Documented side effects have been statistically limited and mild, and consistent with temporary side effects from other vaccines.
3. **Pfizer's coming first:** The Pfizer vaccine is the first vaccine to be shipped and distributed.
  - a. Moderna doses should come later this month, pending FDA EUA.
  - b. Both Pfizer and Moderna require two doses for efficacy.
4. **Frontliners will be first to receive the vaccine:** Healthcare workers – especially those working tirelessly on the front lines of the pandemic – will be the first to get the vaccine.
  - a. Frontliners across Wellstar Health System will start to receive the first doses this week, starting with our Emergency Departments, ICUs, Urgent Cares, Skilled Nursing Facilities, paramedics (1st responders), and adult & pediatric primary care offices.
  - b. The next phases will include essential workers and individuals age 16 and older.
5. **Trust is rising:** With more information available about the vaccines during the trials, American willingness to receive the vaccine has risen since September.
  - a. A recent study from Kaiser Family Foundation shows that willingness to take the vaccine has risen from 63% to 71% among Americans.
6. **It's a team effort:** We will need 60-80% of the population to get the vaccine as it is more widely distributed, in order to achieve levels of immunity in our communities.
  - a. The more people who receive the vaccine in the first phases of distribution, the closer we will all be to herd immunity.
7. **It's voluntary:** Health systems will not mandate the vaccine, which was approved by the FDA for EUA, for their staff.
8. **It's free:** The vaccine will be free via an injection in the arm; medical offices may charge an administrative fee or a medical visit fee once it rolls out to the broad population.
9. **Immunity takes time:** Vaccines typically take a couple of weeks after the second dose to work within your system before you exhibit disease immunity.
  - a. It can take up to five weeks after receiving the first dose to achieve levels of immunity.
  - b. If you become infected just prior to getting the vaccine or become exposed to COVID-19 while your vaccine is still taking effect, you may still get the virus, but trials have shown that symptoms are generally not as severe in those cases.
  - c. You cannot catch COVID-19 from the vaccine, due to the way it was developed.
10. **Safety still counts:** Getting the vaccine does not mean we can cease the "3Ws" safety measures.
  - a. With the significant uptick in cases and surge in hospitalizations across the country, we must lean into safety measures now more than ever to help keep our communities safe.
  - b. Small gatherings are one of the biggest drivers of transmission and increase in cases.
  - c. The best treatment we have for the coming months is prevention through safety measures practiced consistently.

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