

# Drop in vaccine demand has some places turning down doses

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Louisiana has stopped asking the federal government for its full allotment of COVID-19 vaccine. About three-quarters of Kansas counties have turned down new shipments of the vaccine at least once over the past month. And in Mississippi, officials asked the federal government to ship vials in smaller packages so they don't go to waste.

As the supply of coronavirus vaccine doses in the U.S. outpaces demand, some places around the country are finding there's such little interest in the shots, they need to turn down shipments.

"It is kind of stalling. Some people just don't want it," said Stacey Hileman, a nurse with the health department in rural Kansas' Decatur County, where less than a third of the county's 2,900 residents have received at least one vaccine dose.

The dwindling demand for vaccines illustrates the challenge that the U.S. faces in trying to conquer the pandemic while at the same time dealing with the optics of tens of thousands of doses sitting on shelves when countries like India and Brazil are in the midst

of full-blown medical emergencies.

More than half of American adults have received at least one vaccine dose, and President Joe Biden this week celebrated eclipsing 200 million doses administered in his first 100 days in office. He also acknowledged entering a new phase to bolster outreach and overcome hesitancy.

Across the country, pharmacists and public health officials are seeing the demand wane and supplies build up. About half of Iowa's counties have stopped asking for new doses from the state, and Louisiana didn't seek shipment of some vaccine doses over the past week.

Some are urging federal officials to send more vaccine to places where there's demand — rather than allocate them based on population — including Massachusetts Republican Gov. Charlie Baker, who said on Thursday they could administer two to three times more doses per day if they had more supply.

In Mississippi, small-town pharmacist Robin Jackson has been practically begging anyone in the community to show up and get

shots after she received her first shipment of vaccine earlier this month and demand was weak, despite placing yard signs outside her storefront celebrating the shipment's arrival. She was wasting more vaccine than she was giving out and started coaxing family members into the pharmacy for shots.

"Nobody was coming," she said. "And I mean no one."

In Barber County, Kansas, which has turned down vaccine doses from the state for two of the past four weeks, Danielle Farr said she has no plans to be vaccinated. The 32-year-old said she got COVID-19 last year, along with her 5- and 12-year-old sons and her husband.

Blood tests detected antibodies for the virus in all four of them, so she figures they're already protected.

"I believe in vaccines that have eradicated terrible diseases for the past 60, 70 years. I totally and fully believe in that," said Farr, who works at an accounting firm. "Now a vaccine that was rushed in six, seven months, I'm just going to be a little bit more cautious about what I choose to put into my body."

Barbara Gennaro, a stay-at-home mother of two small children in Yazoo City, Mississippi, said everybody in her homeschooling community is against getting the vaccine. Gennaro said she generally avoids vaccinations for her family in general, and the coronavirus vaccine is no different.

"All of the strong Christians that I associate with are against it," she said. "Fear is what drives people to get the vaccine — plain and simple. The stronger someone's trust is in the Lord, the least likely they are to want the vaccine or feel that it's necessary."

Another challenge for vaccinations in a rural state like Mississippi is that in many cases, doses are being shipped in large packages with one vial containing at least 10 doses.

During a news conference in early April, Republican Gov. Tate Reeves said Mississippi officials have requested that the federal government send the vaccines in smaller packaging so it's not going to waste.

"If you're in New York City, and you're sending a package to one of the large pharmacies in downtown

Manhattan, there are literally millions and millions of people within walking distance most likely of that particular pharmacy," Reeves said. "Well, if you're in rural Itta Bena, Mississippi, that's just not the case."

To combat the hesitancy, Louisiana continues to increase its outreach work with community organizations and faith-based leaders, set up a hotline to help people schedule appointments, and work to find free transportation to a vaccination center. The health department is sending out more than 100,000 mailers on Monday to encourage people to get vaccinated, and robocalls from regional medical directors are going out to landline phones around the state.

In New Mexico, state officials are exploring the recruitment of "community champions" — trusted residents of regions with vaccine hesitancy who can address concerns about safety and efficacy. Question-and-answer style town halls are also a possibility. And video testimonials about coronavirus vaccines already have been recorded.

Nirav Shah, director of the Maine Center for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention and the president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, said now that everyone qualifies to get vaccinated, public health officials are encountering three groups: "not able," "not now" and "not ever."

The first group, he said, isn't able to get their shots because there's some kind of barrier. The "not nows" have earnest questions about vaccine safety, efficacy and whether they need the shot.

He said they're not prepared to write off "not ever," but instead are "working to find trusted messengers like doctors, family members, community members" to give them good information.

In Corinth, Mississippi, pharmacist Austin Bullard said a lot of people were waiting to become vaccinated until a one-dose shot became available. The news about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and the risk for blood-clotting — however slim — has scared people about getting any type of vaccination.

"I do feel like there has been more hesitancy across the board since then," he said.

# U.S. to resume J&J COVID vaccinations

**By The Associated Press**  
U.S. health officials lifted an 11-day pause on COVID-19 vaccinations using Johnson & Johnson's single-dose shot on Friday, after scientific advisers decided its benefits outweigh a rare risk of blood clot.

The government uncovered 15 vaccine recipients who developed a highly unusual kind of blood clot out of nearly 8 million people given the J&J shot. All were women, most under age 50. Three died, and seven remain hospitalized.

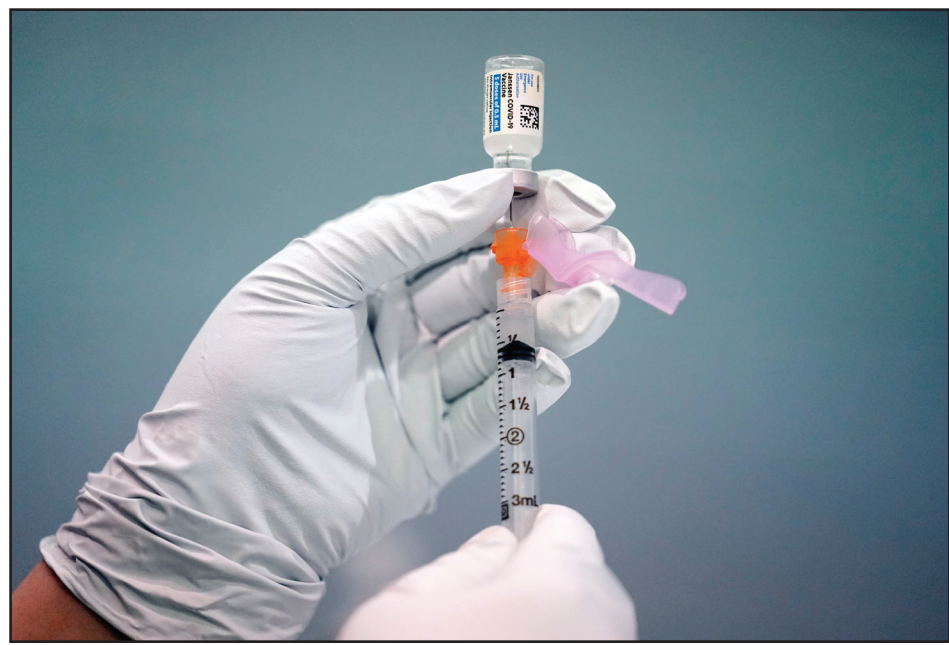
But ultimately, federal health officials decided that J&J's one-and-done vaccine is critical to fight the pandemic — and that the small clot risk could be handled with warnings to help younger women decide if they should use that shot or an alternative.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the J&J vaccine has important advantages for some people who were anxiously awaiting its return. And the Food and Drug Administration updated online vaccine information leaflets for would-be recipients and health workers, so that shots could resume as early as Saturday.

"This is not a decision the agencies reached lightly," FDA Acting Commissioner Janet Woodcock told reporters late Friday.

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky added that the pause should increase confidence in vaccine safety, showing "that we are taking every one of those needles in a haystack that we find seriously."

The U.S. decision — similar to how European regulators are rolling out J&J's shot — comes after advisers to the CDC debated in a day-long meeting just how serious the risk really is. Panelists voted 10-4 to resume vaccinations without outright age restrictions, but made clear that the shots must come with clear warn-



**In this March 26 file photo, a member of the Philadelphia Fire Department prepares a dose of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination site setup at a Salvation Army location in Philadelphia. With the U.S. pause of the vaccine, authorities are weighing whether to resume the shots the way European regulators decided to - with warnings of a "very rare" risk. New guidance is expected late Friday, April 23, after a government advisory panel deliberates a link between the shot and a handful of vaccine recipients who developed highly unusual blood clots.**

ings about the clots.

"I think we have a responsibility to be certain that they know this," said Dr. Sarah Long of Drexel University College of Medicine, who voted against the proposal because she felt it did not go far enough in warning younger women.

The committee members all agreed the J&J vaccine "should be put back into circulation," panel chairman Dr. Jose Romero, Arkansas' health secretary, said in an interview after the vote. "The difference was how you convey the risk ... It does not absolve us from making sure that people who receive this vaccine, if they are in the risk group, that we inform them of that."

European regulators earlier this week made a similar decision, deciding the clot risk was small enough to allow the rollout of J&J's shot. But how Americans ultimately handle J&J's vaccine will influence other countries that don't have as much access to other vaccination options.

Dr. Paul Stoffels, J&J's chief scientific officer, pledged that the company would work with U.S. and global authorities "to ensure this very rare event can be identified early and treated effectively."

At issue is a weird kind of blood clot that forms in unusual places, such as veins that drain blood from the brain, and in patients with abnormally low levels of the platelets that form clots. Symptoms of the unusual clots, dubbed "thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome," include severe headaches a week or two after the J&J vaccination — not right away — as well as abdominal pain and nausea.

The government initially spotted six cases of the rare clots, with nine more cases coming to light in the last week or so. But even the first handful of reports raised alarm because European regulators already had uncovered similar rare clots among recipients of another COVID-19 vaccine, from AstraZeneca. The AstraZeneca and J&J shots, while not

identical, are made with the same technology.

European scientists found clues that an abnormal platelet-harming immune response to AstraZeneca's vaccine might be to blame — and if so, then doctors should avoid the most common clot treatment, a blood thinner called heparin.

That added to U.S. authorities' urgency in pausing J&J vaccinations so they could tell doctors how to diagnose and treat these rare clots. Six patients were treated with heparin before anyone realized that might harm instead of help.

Dr. Jesse Goodman of Georgetown University closely watched Friday's deliberations and said people should be made aware of the clotting risk but that it shouldn't overshadow the benefits of COVID-19 protection.

## Unfazed—

(Continued from page 1)  
cards together or supporting each other through tough times.

"They help each other with life's challenges," Stevens said.

Their encouragement played out just moments before, as face-mask clad volunteers gathered around Mary to hear an update about a friend who was currently in surgery.

Along with those friendships, Stevens said volunteering often provides retirees with a sense of purpose, plus social time and opportunities to stay active.

"We need them just as much as they need us," she said.

The Stierhoffs agreed they've "been lucky" that volunteering continues to play a large role in their lives.

"My son told me, 'You've gone from delivering TVs to delivering meals,'" Mary said. "It's just how your life evolves."

# Angel

(Continued from page 1)  
Dickerson said her brother's wish is a perfect example.

Their family spent many spring break trips in Marco Island when they were younger, she said. Once they had children of their own, they continued to vacation there but have not been able to travel to the area in several years.

Dickerson said some of her and her brother's favorite memories are of watching the sunset on the beach, surrounded by their families.

Buechner said The Angel Foundation wanted to ensure Nicol and his family could relive those memories and create new ones.

The organization is providing a rental house and assisting with a rental car, gas and food for the family while in Florida.

Dickerson said she is especially excited that The Angel Foundation is providing a professional photographer to take portraits of her family on the

beach at sunset. She said they also hope to search for seashells and watch dolphins together.

Ultimately, though, Dickerson said the most important part is the opportunity to "all come together."

"Whatever we think of when we're there, we're going to do," she said.

No matter what an individual's wish entails, Buechner said they are granted entirely through the generosity of others.

She noted that every wish is funded by donations and 100% of donations to The Angel Foundation go toward client's wishes. All staff and administrative costs are covered through funding from the United Way, Buechner explained.

She said "people always want to help" make another person's final dream come true.

"When you can make it happen, that's the best feeling in the world," Buechner said.

# AGENDAS

**MARYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Agenda for Meeting of April 12, 2021 at 7 p.m.**  
This Council Meeting is open to the public via Zoom. Interested parties may attend this meeting at https://zoom.us (Meeting ID: 956 4503 9776 Password: 673860) or join via teleconference by calling 877-853-5257 toll-free.

- Call to Order:**
- Pledge of Allegiance:**
- Invocation:**
- Roll Call:**
- Approval of Minutes:** April 12, 2021 minutes
- Proclamation:** Historic Preservation Month
- Administrative Report:**
- Design Review Board Report:**
- Planning Commission Report:**
- Report of Clerk of Council:**
- Hearing of Citizens:**
- RESOLUTIONS:**
- Third Reading (Title Only):** To authorize participation in the ODOT road salt contracts awarded in 2021 and declare an emergency.

**ORDINANCES:**  
**First Reading (Title Only):** To authorize supplemental appropriation for the Storm Sewer Capital Improvement Fund (570570-557001) in relation to Hickory Gate drainage improvements and modify the 2021 Annual budget.

**First Reading (Title Only):** To authorize supplemental appropriation for the Capital Improvement Fund (225225-557001) in relation to the lowboy and excavator lease and modify the 2021 Annual budget.

**First Reading (Title Only):** To rezone parcel numbers 2900062040000, 2900050260010, and 2900050260020 from Village Residential District (VRD) to Open Space District and to rezone parcel numbers 2900301130000 and 2900190320000 from Suburban Residential District (SRD) to Agricultural Residential District (ARD).

**Second Reading (Public Hearing):** To amend Section 142.03(a)(28) and 142.041(a)(1) of the Income Tax Section of the Marysville Codified Ordinances.

**Second Reading (Public Hearing):** To authorize supplemental appropriation for the Safety Expenses Fund (Fund 575004) in relation to police officer and dispatcher wellness and modify the 2021 Annual Budget.

**Second Reading (Public Hearing):** To authorize supplemental appropriation for the Communications Director Fund title only (Fund 511013) in relation to the new Communications Director position and modify the 2021 Annual Budget.

**Third Reading (Title Only):** To authorize the sale of public service items valued over \$1,000.

**Comments of the City Manager and council persons and general discussion:**

**Adjourn:**

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P.O. Box 226 - 207 N. Main St., Marysville, Ohio 43040  
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Phone No.  
(937) 644-9111 (Business office) Fax No. (937) 644-9211  
(937) 642-6397 (Newsroom) (937) 642-5656 (Display Ads)  
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## LOTTERY

CLEVELAND (AP)  
These Ohio lotteries were drawn Friday:

Mega Millions  
Estimated jackpot: \$277 million

Pick 3 Evening 9-5-7  
Pick 3 Midday 4-3-9

Pick 4 Evening 4-4-2-4  
Pick 4 Midday 0-5-2-9

Pick 5 Evening 6-0-8-0-1  
Pick 5 Midday 1-3-0-1-9

Powerball  
Estimated jackpot: \$104 million

Rolling Cash 5  
10-15-18-33-35  
Estimated jackpot: \$110,000