

Fauci predicts vaccine ‘open season’ by April

By **Erin Cunningham**, **Paulina Firozi** and **Meryl Kornfield**

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Anthony S. Fauci, the nation’s leading infectious-disease expert, struck a hopeful tone about vaccine availability in the coming months, [predicting Thursday](#) that there could be an “open season” on doses by April.

“By the time we get to April, that will be what I would call, for better wording, ‘open season,’ namely, virtually everybody and anybody in any category could start to get vaccinated,” he [said on NBC’s “Today” show](#). The remarks echoed his [sentiment from days earlier](#) that he expects the pace of vaccinations to improve in the months ahead.

Here are some significant developments:

- ◆ The Biden administration purchased another 200 million doses of the two [coronavirus vaccines](#), [securing sufficient shots by the end of July](#) to cover everyone currently eligible for inoculation.
- ◆ Health officials in D.C., Illinois, and North Carolina announced the areas’ first known cases of the variant B.1.351, which was first identified in South Africa. As of this week, more than 30 states have reported cases of the B.1.1.7 variant.
- ◆ Federal health officials urged Americans to consider [wearing two masks](#) as one of several strategies to better protect themselves against the threat of more contagious variants of the coronavirus.
- ◆ The United States [has recorded](#) more than 27.3 million coronavirus cases and more than 473,000 deaths. Nearly 10 percent of the U.S. population, however, has [received at least a first dose](#) of the two-part vaccines, and rates of deaths and new cases continue to fall.
- ◆ The World Health Organization has recommended the use of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, saying that it is “highly effective and safe” even as at least one trial showed limited efficacy against the dominant variant in South Africa.
- ◆ Amid heightened fears over the threat from new variants, [Germany](#) extended lockdown measures for an additional

11:45 p.m.



Ivy League sports shut down quickly and show little sign of restarting

By [Glynn A. Hill](#)

The Ivy League was a bellwether in the [coronavirus pandemic](#), moving before other college conferences and professional leagues to shut down sports. Getting restarted has proved a thornier debate. Nearly a year later, the eight-team conference is facing a rising tide of frustration as it deliberates whether to hold a spring season.

As the basketball season for other Division I colleges [staggered toward its conclusion](#) and lower-division schools begin spring football campaigns, some college coaches and players fear the Ivy League will skip spring sports entirely.

The conference has given no firm deadline on when it will decide to play or not. Meanwhile, athletes are left to wait, unable to compete and their ability to hold formal practices or access training facilities varying by school.

[Read the full story →](#)

10:51 p.m.



The emotional fallout of the pandemic has been uniquely brutal

The caller was 17, female and speaking barely above a whisper.

“Lately I’ve been mad all day,” she said on a Friday night in late November. “Mad for no reason. Little things make me mad. I’m angry for no reason. I don’t know if it’s covid . . .”

In a bedroom on the other side of the country a long-haired 16-year-old volunteer for a teen crisis hotline listened through headphones and nodded. “That must be such a strange feeling,” she said.

“I cut myself once,” the caller continued. “Four days ago, maybe. Just to feel something different.”

The pandemic has punished people of all ages, overwhelming parents, isolating grandparents, shortchanging kids. But the emotional fallout for teenagers has been uniquely brutal. At just the age when they are biologically predisposed to seek independence from their families, teens have been trapped at home.

[Read the full story →](#)

10:00 p.m.



Los Angeles closes five vaccine sites amid shortage

By [Meryl Kornfield](#)

Los Angeles temporarily closed five of its inoculation sites, including Dodger Stadium, one of the country’s largest sites, because of supply shortages.

Mayor Eric Garcetti (D) announced Thursday that the locations would close the next day until at least Saturday, but the city ran out of doses and shut down early, the [Los Angeles Times reported](#). In a televised briefing, Garcetti called the federal vaccine supply uneven, unpredictable and inequitable, and he expressed concern about the recent, reduced shipment that

Garcetti acknowledged reports that the country's immunization effort has been hampered by "kinks in the supply chain," as the Biden administration inherited a host of logistical challenges and a limited reserve of doses.

Yet the available supply nationally has also increased, Garcetti said. The Biden administration boosted weekly allocations to states by nearly 30 percent, [The Washington Post reported](#).

California has received more than 7.8 million doses and administered 5.1 million, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Garcetti said that if given the supply, his city could complete 5 million vaccinations by July. He argued that increasing the supply to other jurisdictions so they can open more inoculation sites should not come at the expense of cities like his, which have the existing infrastructure to vaccinate their residents.

"We're vaccinating people faster than new vials are arriving here in Los Angeles," Garcetti said, "and I'm very concerned right now."

9:56 p.m.



The arduous path for oxygen to reach the sick in one of Brazil's most remote regions

By [Júlia Ledur](#)

The desperate words of Thalita Rocha went viral on Jan. 14. "We are in a deplorable situation," she said in a video posted to Instagram. "Whoever has oxygen availability, bring it here to the polyclinic. Many people are dying." Rocha's mother-in-law, who had tested positive for the coronavirus, was hospitalized in Manaus, the isolated city in the Brazilian Amazon, when the oxygen supplies ran out that day.

When Rocha learned of the shortage, she asked when the hospital would get more oxygen, only to hear that the director didn't know.

She watched as some patients were resuscitated in the hallways and others suffocated to death. She saw doctors cry. She dropped to her knees and prayed. "It looked like the end of the world."

On Jan. 14 and 15, dozens of Brazilians asphyxiated as authorities scrambled to get more oxygen to Manaus. Rocha's mother-in-law was one of them.

[Read the full story →](#)

8:53 p.m.



The pandemic is shaking up the \$73 billion wedding industry

When the pandemic upended their wedding plans in June, Kristine Vejar and Adrienne Rodriguez moved everything online: dress shopping, cake-cutting, even the vows.

“We decided, what is there to lose? Let’s get married and we can have a big party next year,” said Vejar, 43, who co-owns a yarn shop and natural dye studio in Oakland with Rodriguez. The shift not only allowed them to share their special day with 150 friends and family, but it also “means we’re not \$10,000 in debt right now.”

While the pandemic has led to a [flurry of engagements](#), it also has put in limbo much of the wedding industry — a \$73 billion market, according to [data research firm IBISWorld](#). Most couples — about 80 percent of them — postponed or canceled their ceremonies after the U.S. outbreak began nearly a year ago, said David Wood, president of the Association of Bridal Consultants.

[Read the full story →](#)

7:43 p.m.



Airlines are starting to take flight with fully vaccinated crews

By [Hannah Sampson](#)

Airlines are starting to promote a new perk to bring passengers back nearly a year after the pandemic started: vaccinated pilots and flight attendants.

On Wednesday, Etihad Airways announced it was “the first airline in the world with 100% vaccinated crew on board.” Not to be outdone, Singapore Airlines Group said its three carriers — Singapore Airlines, SilkAir and Scoot — on Thursday would be among the first airlines in the world to operate flights with all pilots and cabin crew vaccinated.

The CEO of United Airlines said last month that he wants to make the vaccine mandatory for employees, which the airline is still considering. Airline and aviation workers in the United States have asked to be given priority for vaccinations, according to [news reports](#).

The moves come as airlines try to recover from the worst year on record for air travel demand. The International Air Transport Association [said](#) demand fell by nearly 66 percent in 2020 compared with the previous year.

[Read the full story →](#)

5:41 p.m.



U.S. secures enough vaccine for 300 million people by the end of July

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