

Daily Updates

No severe illnesses reported during Moderna's vaccine trial

Moderna just completed its final phase of their COVID-19 vaccine trial and has filed for emergency use of the vaccine, stating that the vaccine trials have shown that no one receiving the vaccine has gotten severe symptoms of COVID-19.

In the final phase of the trial, 30,000 people were given either the vaccine or a placebo, and only 11 people who received the two doses of the vaccine became ill with COVID-19 versus 185 in the group who received the placebo. That's a 94.1% efficacy rate, which is impressive as just a few months ago the top scientists were hoping for something in the ballpark of 75%.

The trial also had 0 severe cases, but 30 severe cases in the placebo group. The company plans to file for emergency use today, just days after Pfizer and BioNTech filed for theirs last week.

"I would still like to see all of the actual data, but what we've seen so far is absolutely remarkable," Paul Offit told Science (Sciencemag.com), who is a vaccine researcher at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia but is also a member of an independent committee of vaccine experts that advises the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The technology behind the Moderna vaccine, as well as the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, is relatively new, but has shown great results as Science has reported.

Moderna's vaccine against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, relies on a novel technology that uses messenger RNA (mRNA) to code for a protein called spike that studs the surface of the pathogen. Pfizer and BioNTech have developed a similar mRNA vaccine against COVID-19 and also reported excellent results, with an efficacy of 95%, in the final

analysis of their 45,000-person trial. In that study, which ended after 170 cases of COVID-19 were identified, only 10 severe cases occurred, and just one was in the vaccinated group.

A grand total of 75,000 people were studied in these groups, and to only have 1 severe case of those vaccinated is very encouraging for those of us who need a bit of hope right now. The vaccines from both groups were said to be equally effective across all different groups, ethnicities, and genders. The studies had more than 7,000 over age 65, 5,000 in high risk groups, and 11,000 people of color. With 23,000 of those who have been affected more greatly by COVID-19 and only 1 severe case makes that results even more encouraging.

Pfizer/BioNTech, the first to complete trials, also didn't take money as part of Operation Warp Speed. They did however sell advanced doses of their vaccine, so

that as soon as one is approved, the U.S. Government will have access to hundreds of millions of doses. Moderna, who did take money from Operation warp speed, really needed the money according to Science.

Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel says all of the federal money went toward staging the clinical trials, and that without it, progress surely would have been delayed. Investors in May contributed another \$1.3 billion to help the young company, which has no products on the market, build facilities to produce its vaccine.

The vaccine advisory commit-

tee will convene Dec. 10 to discuss in depth the data from the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. Bancel said that the FDA also stated they plan to convene again Dec. 17 for the Moderna vaccine and would make a decision within 24-72 hours after the reconvening of the committee.

We are on the verge of multiple vaccines being available. Patience will now be key over the next couple of months.

Source: <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/11/absolutely-remarkable-no-one-who-got-modernas-vaccine-trial-developed-severe-covid-19>

The 45th and 46th presidents pressure congress for COVID-19 stimulus

President Donald Trump (45) and President-elect Joe Biden (46) have agreed on almost nothing in the last 5 years since Trump began campaigning, but over the weekend the two came together to urge congress to pass more COVID-19 stimulus money.

The last stimulus bill, which had been authorized in March, was \$2 trillion and gave each American \$1,200. Since that bill was passed Democrats and Republicans have argued over how to pass more stimulus money.

GOP wants to pass a smaller bill aimed at aiding small busi-

nesses, which would be in the ball park of \$500 billion dollars. Democrats want to pass a larger bill, \$2.2 trillion which would be geared towards unemployment relief (bringing back the \$600 a week in unemployment payments) as well as more money to ordinary Americans for \$1,200. The bill would also aid small businesses and state and local governments that are struggling during these difficult times.

Complicating matters further, Congress will break again Dec. 11 for the rest of the year and will need to determine a govern-

ment spending bill for 2021 otherwise we will be headed once more to another government shutdown. The 2017 government shutdown really hurt the country and doing so again during a pandemic would be absolutely irresponsible and dangerous to our country.

Today, following a break for the holiday, congress will reconvene to discuss these matters. Many people depend on money to survive that another COVID relief bill would offer during these times of unprecedented unemployment and struggle.



Community Center Food Pantry

Residents will be assigned to their community center for food distribution. An application must be completed in order to receive. If there are any questions please contact your assigned community center contact.

Pick Up dates:

- November 18th
- December 2nd
- December 10th
- December 16th
- December 23rd

Time:

1:00pm to 7:00pm

Deliveries will be made for Elders without transportation on a later date.

- Mel Diver
Cloquet Center
(218) 878-7589
- Brenda Shabiash
Sawyer Center
(218) 878-8194
- Bryan Bosto
Brookston Center
(218) 878-8048

FDL Band Members only.