

Daily Updates

UK approves Pfizer and BioNTech's vaccine

The United Kingdom approved Pfizer and BioNTech's vaccine yesterday meaning that the first doses of the vaccine will be administered next week.

While the United States isn't set to approve the vaccine until late next week, this news makes it almost a certainty that the vaccine will be approved next week by officials here at home.

The other reason it is only a matter of time before the vaccine is approved is because the final phase 3 results show that the vaccine is 95% effective in preventing COVID-19 infection, and only one case in the two earliest trials had major symptoms, even in older adults.

Much like the United States, the UK has also ordered 40 million doses, enough to vaccinate

20 million of their people. UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock said an initial 800,000 doses would be available next week. As CNN reports, the UK has been following the data very closely as well.

In a statement, the health department said the approval "follows months of rigorous clinical trials and a thorough analysis of the data by experts at

the [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)] who have concluded that the vaccine has met its strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness.

It is only a matter of time until the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves it, presumably next Thursday when they meet to discuss its approval. Therefore, the United States

should only be a week behind the United Kingdom, but both countries will do a majority of the vaccinating next year.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/02/uk/pfizer-coronavirus-vaccine-uk-intl-hnk/index.html>

COVID-19 vaccine and children

As we near the approval of a COVID-19 vaccine, many may have noted that all the test groups only contain adults. Some children have recently been put into trials, but that puts the trials for children months behind adults.

If you are the parent of a young child, this can be both frustrating and oddly, completely

understandable. Children are less effected by the virus, but can still have serious effects and they may have to wait until the end of 2021 to get vaccinated. Getting the majority of adults vaccinated by next summer will drastically reduce its spread, but children will still have to get vaccinated.

Children began being tested in trials two months ago, and to date the Pfizer and BioNTech vaccines are the only ones being administered to children ages 12-17.

According to the Chicago Tribune, the main reason

that companies didn't start testing the vaccine on children is pretty straight forward.

But just like for adults, it will take months for researchers to learn if a vaccine is safe for youngsters, who have different immune systems than older individuals.

"We wouldn't start injecting 5-year-olds before we knew what this vaccine did in adults," Dr. William Schaffner, professor of preventive medicine and infectious diseases at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, told ABC News in October.

Children, while not at as high of risk, can still contract it and spread it to others, obviously even when children are asymptomatic or just have minor side effects.

"As a pediatrician, I think vaccine is important for children once the clinical trials have been conducted, once the information is available for vaccine utilization in children and once there's approval for that age group," Landers said via MSN.com.

But some health experts have begun to push for vaccines for children as the NPR reported has already been in the works since November.

Earlier this month, the American Academy of Pediatrics called on researchers to broaden their trials to include more children, warning of a significant delay in access to a vaccine should they not act quickly.

For many parents of children, it will be difficult to fully resume "normal" roles in society and the workforce if our kids aren't able

to return safely to school, day-care, and other regular activities. While getting those most vulnerable vaccinated first is essential, it may be a few extra months for some people to return to ordinary activities if they still need to care for children until an approved vaccine is available.

Sources: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/coronavirus/ct-biz-covid-19-child-vaccine-20201130-px4qgg4v7neyzhk7d-guwyjcozi-story.html>, <https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/when-will-covid-19-vaccine-be-available-for-children/ar-BB1byFEJ>, and <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/11/27/939341531/a-covid-19-vaccine-for-children-may-still-be-many-months-away>

FOND DU LAC
**FOOD BOX
DISTRIBUTION
EVENT**





NOVEMBER 24TH & DECEMBER 9TH
FDL HEAD START PARKING LOT
10 AM- 7 PM

THIS EVENT IS FOR THE FOND DU LAC COMMUNITY
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Fond du Lac COVID-19 testing results

Fond du Lac Human Services COVID-19 situational update as of Dec. 1, 2020:

Of the 2557 patients tested at Min No Aya Win (MNAW) and Center for American Indian Resources (CAIR):

• 2397 negative tests

- 22 Pending tests (sent to external lab)
- 122 positive tests
- 59 on Reservation

Total tests: 2557

Total sendout: 1067

Total in-house: 1490

MNAW total: 2046

CAIR total: 511

Total negative: 2397

Canceled by Mayo: 14

Canceled by provider: 2

Total positive: 122

Sendout pending: 22