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<b>Regional News</b>	
<b>Hundreds of thousands of doses of virus vaccine headed to Virginia, Maryland, D.C. this week</b>	
<a href="#">The Washington Post</a>	<p>Hundreds of thousands of doses of coronavirus vaccines are beginning to come into the District, but the death toll from the virus continues to build.</p> <p>The District expects to receive more than 30,000 doses this week, substantially in excess of the 10,000 doses that arrived with the arrival of the newly approved Moderna vaccine helps offset reductions in the number of doses of the Pfizer vaccine that are expected to arrive.</p> <p>In the first days of vaccine delivery last week, the city administered more than 4,500 doses of the Moderna vaccine, which was received from the federal government, D.C. coronavirus vaccine program leader Anthony Adams said. The city also received 1,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine from the federal government. Adams said the federal government will allot an additional 4,875 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and 1,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine to the District.</p> <p>The District will also receive 8,775 doses of the Pfizer vaccine from Virginia and 8,000 doses from Maryland, Adams said. After they agreed to share their supply to help vaccinate health-care workers, many of whom are essential workers, Adams said.</p>

District.

The District does not have any agreement in place for receiving further batches for planning and economic development.

Current, former employees say care suffered when this investment firm bought up

Altogether, Maryland was allocated more than 191,000 doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for the state's front-line hospital staff, according to a Monday news release.

The state anticipates that this week it will receive 104,300 doses of the Moderna vaccine from the Administration on Friday. Officials also expect an additional 36,075 doses of the Pfizer vaccine next week.

AD

Maryland nursing home staffers and residents also can expect to get vaccinated in the coming weeks.

Alena Yarmosky, a spokeswoman for Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D), said that the state expects some of its expected 146,000 Moderna doses began arriving Monday.

The coronavirus's deadly march through D.C., Maryland and Virginia continues, with more cases reported. A man in Washington, D.C. is reported to have tested positive for the virus, according to numbers released by the health department.

Virginia reported 4,042 new cases, Maryland reported 2,265 and D.C. 139, slightly more than the previous day. The most deaths reported Monday, with 23, followed by D.C.'s five and Virginia's four.

Since the pandemic began, the greater Washington region has had 590,703 reported cases of the disease caused by the virus. Virginia has reported 310,890 cases and 4,654 deaths. The District has counted 26,740 cases and 742 deaths.

AD

Since the Pfizer vaccine is much more difficult to store than the Moderna vaccine, the city is prioritizing workers, Shah said.

The Moderna vaccine will go to several nonprofit organizations and for-profit companies, including the Community of Hope, Giant Food and Safeway — where workers such as home health care workers and pharmacists will visit long-term care facilities to administer the vaccine to residents.

The general public will not be able to receive the vaccine at pharmacies like those that were first to receive it.

His staff cleans covid-19 hospital rooms. He got the vaccine to build confidence in the health system.

Meanwhile, the demand for coronavirus tests that spiked in the fall has remained high. The city tested 20,700 people last week, an increase of 2,000 from the week before.

AD

The city also clarified some of its requirements for restaurants after Bowser issued an order allowing indoor visits to libraries and museums for three weeks, beginning Wednesday. Ten days ago, at least two sides, officials said. Restaurants will no longer be asked to close outdoor seating areas for snow emergencies, Falcicchio said.

"Some of the protocols that we put in place were a little more stringent than they

somebody is in the middle of a meal.”

Bowser said that the city health department advised a three-week shutdown, and would be extended further into January.

“We have every intention to lift it after the 15th,” he said.

## COVID-19

### Congress passes \$2.3T coronavirus relief, government funding deal

[The Hill](#)

Congress passed a sweeping year-end bill to provide long-delayed coronavirus relief and more assistance.

The Senate voted 92-6 on the \$2.3 trillion package, which includes \$1.4 trillion to fund the first time Congress has passed additional aid since April.

The bill, which passed the House earlier Monday, now goes to President Trump’s desk. ADVERTISEMENT

Passage of the bill follows growing pressure for Congress to act before wrapping up the year. Spiking, states and cities are reinstating lockdown measures, and public health officials are starting to be administered.

“None of us think this legislation is perfect, but a big bipartisan majority of us reconvened to the president’s desk. The American people have waited long enough. I’m glad for it,” Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said on Monday ahead of the vote.

The mammoth package, which totaled 5,593 pages, wasn’t publicly released until Monday. The coronavirus legislation is among the largest spending bills ever considered by Congress.

The coronavirus relief portion of the bill doesn’t include the biggest priorities for Republicans: money for state and local governments, respectively.

But it does include \$284 billion for another round of small business aid through the CARES Act, an unemployment boost for 11 weeks, a round of \$600 stimulus checks for those making less than \$75,000 a year, and an extension of an eviction moratorium.

The government funding portion includes \$1.375 billion for 56 miles for Trump’s border wall, \$153 million for programs to improve community relations with police, and a pay raise for the civilian federal workforce. ADVERTISEMENT

Because it’s the final package passing Congress this year, it’s emerged as a legislative package that includes the American Latino and women’s history museums, a long-stalled energy bill, a plan to states eradicate the so-called murder hornet.

The White House has said Trump will sign the deal, with spokesman Ben Williams saying it will “send Americans badly needed financial relief.”

Trump has until Dec. 28 to sign the bill after Congress passed, and he approved, a deal that would serve as a backstop to make sure there isn’t a shutdown while Congress delivers the bill.

It was not guaranteed that Congress would be able to get a deal following months of negotiations between the House and even at times disagreements between Senate Republicans and the White House.

The House passed a \$3.4 trillion coronavirus relief bill in May and a slimmed down version in July, but it was blocked by the GOP-controlled Senate.

Meanwhile, Senate GOP leadership, after hitting “pause” for months, offered a \$1.5 trillion package in a Senate caucus, with McConnell predicting he could lose up to 20 GOP senators. It was new legislation, not a reauthorization of billion packages, which failed upon party lines.

Talks between Democrats and the White House broke down shortly before the election. A bipartisan bicameral group, frustrated with the inability for leadership to break a deal, began meetings and Zoom calls.

"It was just a month ago, I was reminded — Nov. 17, apparently — that I had an opportunity for a dinner and conversation. And while it wasn't pizza, it didn't make any difference what we could do to be responsive to the urgency of the need," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski.

"When we presented the multihundred-page package to the public, to the administration, she added.

The group — composed of members of the House Problem Solvers Caucus and Sen. Tim Wainwright (D-W.Va.) and Murkowski — offered a \$908 billion package divided into two sections, one such as PPP aid and school and vaccine funding.

The second piece included \$160 billion for state and local funding and liability protection. Wainwright was the only Senate Democrat from the group to support the second piece.

Leadership has credited the bipartisan group with helping break the stalemate by  
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The final deal dropped those two most contentious pieces as part of a frenzy of activity on Dec. 15, when McConnell, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) met twice in the Capitol, with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

By Wednesday morning, leadership appeared close, but talks dragged on for days. The deal was not done until Friday night to buy itself more time until Sunday night. A deal was struck on the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act — on Friday night.

In a boon to Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) — who emerged as a second round of stimulus checks, which Mnuchin said some Americans could receive up to \$1,200 the duo was pushing for, neither McConnell's latest proposal nor the bipartisan deal.

Leadership announced a deal on the overall package early Sunday evening, though it was not done until Monday, with the down-to-the-wire effort sparking pushback.

"The Squad" — a coalition of progressives that includes Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) and Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) — voted against the rule setting up the House's order of business.

"This is why Congress needs time to actually read this package before voting on it. The package is 1,200 pages, arrived at 2pm today, and we are told to expect a vote on it in 2 hours. This is not a good idea," she said Monday.

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Meanwhile, fiscal hawks in the Senate grumbled over the burst in year-end spending.

“We are \$27 trillion in debt today. How do we expect a child to have the economic future of the United States?” Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said in a floor speech.

Congress is already turning its attention to the fight next year over a potential sixth wave of the virus.

Democratic leadership is characterizing the package that passed Monday as a “downside” to the virus, when President-elect Joe Biden is sworn in.

“We advance this bill today as a first step. We have new hope which springs from the fact that we have a president-elect who has to following science. We are ready for the next step,” Pelosi wrote in a letter to the Senate.

But there’s no guarantee more help is on the way or that they’ll be able to get an additional \$100 billion in money and protections from coronavirus-related lawsuits.

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Which party will control the Senate next year will be determined by the two Georgia seats.

Funding deal includes \$696B for Pentagon

The Hill's Morning Report - Congress passes year-end COVID-19 relief...

McConnell is already doubling down on his red line that any coronavirus legislation that includes liability protection is viewed as anathema to Democrats who worry it will hollow out worker safety standards.

"I think liability relief is really important," McConnell said during a Fox News interview. "After the first year of the year, I'm going to insist that liability protection for these workers be included."

## New COVID-19 variants under the microscope as travel bans mount over UK mutation

[UN News](#)

According to news reports, more than 40 countries have now banned arrivals from the United Kingdom because of a transmissible mutation of the new coronavirus, although health officials there stress that the virus will not respond in the same way to the vaccines cleared for emergency use.

“The bottom line is that we need to suppress transmission of all SARS-CoV-2 viruses,” WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a regular press briefing.

“The more we allow it to spread, the more opportunity it has to change”, he added.

In early 2021, \$4.6 billion in additional funding will be needed to purchase COVID-19 vaccines for low-income countries, according to the WHO chief.

“This will ensure health workers and those at highest risk of severe disease are vaccinated, and it will protect economies and stimulate a truly global recovery”, he said.

Charting new courses

As part of the hundred-hundred initiative – a major sprint by WHO, the UN Children's Fund and UN Women in conducting rapid readiness assessments and develop country-specific plans with national governments, 100 countries have already completed assessments and teams are working round the clock to prepare for the global vaccine rollout.

While the pandemic has exploited the world’s vulnerabilities and inequalities, it has also shown that we can come together in new ways to confront it”, said Tedros.

“Every crisis is an opportunity to question the way we do things, and to find new ways to do them better. ‘A gateway’ to a better world.”

For 30 years, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) has published an annual Report, released last week, takes an in-depth look at the COVID-19 pandemic and

While acknowledging that the coronavirus outbreak has led to an unprecedented the regular WHO briefing that that it can, however, be turned into a "gateway" for

He flagged that the equitable distribution of COVID vaccinations requires government ultimate stress test for planetary health" as it will be delivering the "largest public green recovery".

Mr. Steiner doubled down on the belief that empowering people can bring about world.

He reiterated UNDP's commitment to play its part, along with WHO, the UN family Accelerator and the third Sustainable Development Goal's (SDGs) Global Action Plan

**Pfizer and Moderna are testing their vaccines against UK coronavirus variant**

[CNN](#)

Pfizer and Moderna are testing their coronavirus vaccines to see if they work against found in the United Kingdom and other countries, according to company statements. "Based on the data to date, we expect that the Moderna vaccine-induced immunity the UK; we will be performing additional tests in the coming weeks to confirm this Pfizer said it is now "generating data" on how well blood samples from people immunized strain from the UK."

The novel coronavirus has mutated before, and both companies say they've found

The statements from the two companies reflect the increasing global concern about spread through the UK.

Experts are unsure of the importance of this mutation, yet a number of countries, the UK.

The United States has not done so, but the White House is considering requiring a test before arriving in the US, two administration officials told CNN on Monday.

The Moderna vaccine is now in some Americans' arms as Covid-19 cases in the US. The Moderna vaccine is now in some Americans' arms as Covid-19 cases in the US. US Surgeon General Jerome Adams said the UK variant "doesn't change what we need to do." "What's important for people to understand as this doesn't change what we need to do: keep our distances and wait on gatherings, and we need to get vaccines, get vaccinated. Variant or not, the US has failed to limit the spread of Covid-19 as is. The winter season provided a tidy metaphor for this period of the pandemic. The US reported about as more than 115,000 people were hospitalized with the virus, a record high.

The outbreaks are also not confined to any one region, as in earlier in the pandemic over the past week are Tennessee, California and Rhode Island, according to data. Yet just as the days are set to get longer and spring's renewal nears, so too is the push of the vaccine have been administered, according to the US Centers for Disease Control the coming months.

**Dr. Fauci says variant is probably in US**

[CNN](#)

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, says the variant is probably already in the US.

"You have to make that assumption," Fauci told PBS Newshour's Judy Woodruff on Monday. "When you see something that is pretty prevalent in a place like the UK, there are people traveling throughout the world, I would not be surprised if it's already here."

"Certainly it's not yet the prevalent one, the way it seems to have assumed that prevalent one right now, and I'm sure sooner or later we're going to run into it and find it," he added. "What we know -- and what we don't -- about the UK coronavirus variant is that it's different. What we know -- and what we don't -- about the UK coronavirus variant is that it's different."

Mutations in the virus are not out of the ordinary, and most have no noticeable impact. The UK variant is more transmissible, but Fauci said it doesn't seem to have any impact on the vaccine. Fauci said he thinks a UK travel ban is premature because there's not enough evidence of mandatory testing of travelers from the UK.

Some researchers who are examining the genome of the UK variant told CNN they worry it could diminish the effectiveness of the vaccine.

"You could imagine some modest hit in vaccine efficacy, which wouldn't be good," said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci. Bedford, an associate professor in the vaccine and infectious disease division of the National Institute of Health. Other experts, though, have been skeptical of any impact on the vaccines.

"It doesn't make people more sick and it doesn't seem to have any impact on the vaccine's effectiveness," Fauci said.

Moncef Slaoui, chief scientific adviser for Operation Warp Speed, said during a news conference that the new variant is more transmissible.

"There is clear evidence that there is more of it in the population," he said. "Whether it's due to the fact that we now are able to sequence all the time and see the virus, while we were not, or they were not, looking for this particular variant."

The CEO of BioNTech, which collaborated with Pfizer on their vaccine, said he has no doubt that his vaccine could work against the new variant, but full data will be available in two weeks.

"We don't know at the moment if our vaccine is also able to provide protection against the new variant, but our immune response by this vaccine also can deal with the new virus variant," Ugur Sahin said.

"We have scientific confidence that the vaccine might protect, but we don't know how long it will take weeks from now to get the data."

**Social Media**

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**Delaware**

**Delaware's COVID-19 vaccine call center opens Friday**

[WDEL](#)

The state's COVID-19 vaccine call center will open Friday, December 18, 2020.

Anyone with specific questions about the vaccine can call 302.672.6150 or email [vaccine@delaware.gov](#).

The call center will be operation from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The vaccine call center is closed on Sundays and on traditional holidays like Christmas and New Year's Day.

Individuals can visit [de.gov/covidvaccine](#) for up-to-date information about the COVID-19 vaccine. The Department of Public Health will also make vaccine-related data available on its My Healthy Choice website in the coming days.

**Maryland**

**Fake COVID-19 testing sites cropping up in Baltimore, Maryland AG warns**

[Baltimore Sun](#)

Officials are warning of fake COVID-19 testing sites boasting free results in Baltimore. The Maryland attorney general's office said in a news release Monday.

"Providing personal information, such as Social Security Numbers, to individuals who are not authorized to collect it is a risk, but increases your chances of becoming a victim of identity theft," Attorney General Scott M. Rosen said.

The illegal, unlicensed "Free COVID-19 Testing" tables "are not following CDC guidelines and are collecting information from persons for COVID-19, and they could be placing consumers at risk," Monday's release said.

The attorney general's office said they were aware of two locations: one outside a shopping center and another at Westside Shopping Center on Frederick Avenue.



The sites are also taking consumers' social security numbers, driver's license information — all boons to identity thieves.

Anyone who received a test at one of the unlicensed pop-up sites should get a new test at [covidtest.maryland.gov](https://covidtest.maryland.gov), the news release said.

### Autopsies in Maryland show much higher rate of COVID-19 than expected

[Baltimore sun](#)

A new study suggests that far more Marylanders have been infected with COVID-19 than reported in any area except for New York City.

Johns Hopkins University researchers reported Monday that their look at 500 autopsies found 10% had antibodies for COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

The findings, published Dec. 15 in the journal *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*, is the first study produced by the body to fight infection.

"This study is significant because it includes people who may not otherwise be captured," said an associate professor of epidemiology in the Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health. "The spread by incorporating antibody testing in decedents."

The Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is required to perform autopsies on homicide, suicide or drug overdose, as well as those who die suddenly or unexpectedly.

The study found the COVID-19 antibodies were more prevalent in the blood of Hispanics in the Baltimore area in June.

Althoff also found the same proportion of people with antibodies died in car crashes. He said it could be "a unique sentinel population" for infections, meaning they may be representative of the general population.

As a comparison to the autopsy findings, the Maryland Department of Health reported 1,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state, out of a population of just over 6 million.

### Moderna Vaccines To Arrive In Maryland This Week, Gov. Hogan Says

[CBS Baltimore](#)

Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine is set to arrive in Maryland this week.

Gov. Larry Hogan announced Monday the Moderna vaccine, which was granted emergency use authorization, is being shipped to recipients in Maryland.

The state will receive 104,300 doses of the Moderna vaccine in the week of December 14, when it received 50,700 doses of the Pfizer vaccine in the week of December 14, when the state received the Pfizer vaccines this week.

This means the state now has 191,075 total doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

"As laid out in our statewide vaccination plan, our earliest vaccinations are focused on our nursing homes," said Governor Hogan. "We encourage our hospitals and local health departments to get their workers vaccinated as safely and quickly as possible."

Gov. Hogan's office said they now have enough doses allocated to vaccinate 90% of the state's nursing home staff and residents.

Nursing home staff and resident vaccinations are expected to begin in the coming days.

"Everybody in this country wants to return to normal life. The fastest way for us to get there is to get our workers vaccinated," said Brennan, CVS Chief Medical Officer.

## Pennsylvania

### Pennsylvania, New Jersey Leaders Urging Residents To 'Stand United' In Fight Against COVID-19 As Concern Grows Over Poss

[CBS Philly](#)

Hundreds of thousands of health care workers in the tri-state area are receiving the vaccine from both Pfizer and Moderna but there is a glitch with some deliveries.

Pennsylvania and New Jersey are getting fewer vaccines this week than they were

Christmas is just days away and officials are worried holiday gatherings will cause a

This as Pennsylvania and New Jersey are seeing a slight virus plateau, the numbers the rollout is hitting a few glitches.

New Jersey will get about 100,00 fewer doses of the COVID vaccines than expected

"They say it was an honest mistake," New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said Monday.

But New Jersey also missed a federal deadline by one day to start giving vaccines in Dec. 28.

"The information about anticipated doses and shipments of both Pfizer and Moderna

Pennsylvania is getting 67,000 fewer doses of Pfizer vaccine this week, the secretary said, fluctuating.

"Since the first doses vaccine arrived in Pennsylvania one week ago 17,700 health care workers said.

This week both Pfizer and Moderna will now be delivering vaccines throughout the

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory panel voted Sunday that the vaccine and essential workers. This includes teachers, first responders, and grocery store workers

"A lot of populations are vying to get into that next head of the line on the 1-B group

Officials in both states are worried about holiday celebrations causing another spike

"If you insist on having that gathering this year you are taking a real risk that when your loved ones gathered," said Gov. Murphy.

Next week, CVS and Walgreens will start on-site vaccinations for residents and staff

### Philadelphia Unveils New COVID-19 Mobile Testing Truck

[CBS Philly](#)

The city of Philadelphia unveiled a new mobile COVID-19 testing truck on Monday that allows people to simply walk-up and be tested.

But Philadelphia Health Commissioner Dr. Tom Farley says getting tested does not mean no gatherings.

"It doesn't help to just tested beforehand. People think testing somehow is going to keep together with other members outside their household or they can travel. It didn't help," said.

The mobile testing site is a collaboration between the city health department and

**Pennsylvania offers help to those battered by COVID-19 anxiety and loneliness**

[ABC 27](#)

With the holidays just around the corner, state officials want you to spend time with loved ones that can lead to anxiety, loneliness, and substance abuse. But there are options for help.

State officials ask Pennsylvanians to be extra mindful of not only our mental health but also our communication is important to help us all feel connected.

The Pa. Department of Human Services mental health support and referral helpline is available at 1-800-273-8255.

The national suicide prevention lifeline is available at 1-800-273-8255.

The hotline is staffed 24/7 by trained counselors who can offer free, confidential support. You can call or text "pa" to 741-741.

According to the centers for disease control and prevention, the most dangerous time for mental health is during the holidays.

Department of Drug and Alcohol (DDAP) secretary Jen Smith said "that opioid epidemic is still a major concern in our commonwealth. we continue losing far too many Pennsylvanians due to drug-related deaths."

The DDAP has a Get Help Now helpline for callers looking for treatment options. The helpline is available at 1-800-273-8255.

There is also an anonymous chat service offering the same information.

**COVID-19 In Pennsylvania: Restaurants Rally To Reopen Indoor Dining In Defiance Of Gov. Wolf's Coronavirus Orders**

[CBS Pittsburgh](#)

As we head into one of the busiest weeks for the restaurant industry, most are closed due to COVID-19 and unemployment. On Monday, dozens of restaurant owners, bartenders and servers gathered in Pittsburgh to rally for indoor dining.

"It's an obligation. I have an obligation to my employees. They have bills to pay, rent to pay, and families to support," said Sloan.

Sloan owns Our Station House. He traveled from Cambria County to show his support for indoor dining.

"I can say with a fair amount of certainty that the majority of places are playing by the rules," Sloan said.

The big issue from this group is that they do not have a choice in the state shutdown. In Allegheny County Health Department, they continue to stay open for indoor dining.

"I feel like everything going on right now is wrong and I feel like we need to stand up and say COVID isn't hurting people, but viruses and bacteria are like dust, you can't avoid them. You feel you need to stay home and you go out if you feel you need to go out, but choices are being taken away from us," Sloan said.

In Greene County, the District Attorney is giving those restaurant owners a choice between staying open or closing. In Allegheny County, the health department is giving those restaurant owners a choice between staying open or closing.

KDKA spoke with some business owners in Waynesburg who are open and thankful for the support from the local Board that could fine them so they are keeping it small.

KDKA did reach out to the Allegheny County Health Department about the business owners' concerns. A spokesperson said the department doesn't have the authority to padlock doors, but they can issue fines.

[Virginia](#)

**University of Virginia model projects early February coronavirus peak in Virginia**

[WDBJ7](#)

Folks across our hometowns continue to adapt to pandemic living.

But new modeling suggests we aren't out of the woods quite yet.

"We take the recent trend and project that forward," said Bryan Lewis, University

Lewis says the UVA model has a new peak projected for coronavirus cases in the s  
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Across our region that timing varies - but most of our hometowns are projected to  
model's projection of an early February statewide peak.

The post-Thanksgiving surge is what's leading to that projection.

"We're assuming that basically the last couple of weeks of experience, including th  
throughout," said Lewis.

Health officials nationwide are encouraging folks to limit the number of people in  
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Lewis says the peaks on these models could drop with those adjustments.

"So as we encourage people to have much smaller gatherings, we'll decrease the o  
might be a little bit more controlled," said Lewis.

Lewis says vaccines are accounted for in the model, but because their distribution  
much.

"It pushes in the trajectory just a little bit. It does lead to some reduction in overall  
end up happening," said Lewis.

The model suggests we could see 98,000 new statewide cases in the first week of  
summer peak.

### Report: It may take Virginia years to recover from pandemic

[WSLS](#)

A new report from Old Dominion University says that it will likely take years for the  
from the devastating coronavirus pandemic.

The project comes from the 2020 State of the Commonwealth Report from ODU's

Sunday's report said the pandemic ended a record of 11 straight quarters of econo

Virginia had added half a million jobs between February 2010 and February of 202

But by April 2020, about 438,000 jobs in Virginia were temporarily furloughed or p

And while Virginia has recovered about 200,000 jobs since then, there has been sl

### Troopers remind Virginians to drive safely over holidays

[NBC 12](#)

Virginia State Police are reminding drivers to follows traffic laws and to be safe on

In 2020, troopers said the state has seen a spike in deadly speed-related crashes, a  
Vehicles Highway Safety Office. Year-to-date there have been more speed-related

"Not only have speed-related traffic deaths increased this year, so have alcohol-re  
traffic crashes in 2020 than in 2019," said Colonel Gary T. Settle, Superintendent o  
crashes in Virginia this year are down significantly. This means each crash has been

individuals not wearing seatbelts.”

No matter the reason for being out on the road, troopers are urging drivers to be wearing their seatbelt.

“Every year during the holidays, there is an increase in drunk-driving related fatalities,” said a trooper. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in December 2018, there were 835 alcohol-related deaths, 285 occurred during the Christmas and New Year’s holiday period,” trooper said.

If you plan on gathering with a small group during the holidays, police say to remember to:

- Plan ahead. Designate a sober driver or call a friend, call family, call a cab or use a ride-sharing service.
- If you know someone has been drinking. Do not let them drive. Arrange another driver.
- If you believe you see an impaired driver on the road, call police. Remain alert and report the location to the State Police Emergency Communications Center. Your actions could save someone’s life.

Police are also reminding drivers that it will be illegal to hold their cellphone while driving.

**CVS will administer vaccines at long-term care facilities in Virginia**

[WHSV 3](#)

CVS will be administering COVID-19 vaccinations at over 870 long-term care facilities in Virginia.

The nationwide mobilized effort will begin in the commonwealth starting on December 14th.

CVS Pharmacy teams will administer the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine in facilities across the state. The effort will vaccinate up to four million residents and staff at over 40,000 long-term care facilities.

Earlier this month, CVS Health was selected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to lead the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations.

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This expertise, along with our national scale and local presence which we have used for COVID-19 testing solutions in communities across the country, will be applied to this nationwide effort.

“Today’s rollout is the culmination of months of internal planning and demonstration projects,” said Larry J. Merlo, President and Chief Executive Officer of CVS Health. “We are grateful to everyone involved, including our health care professionals who will be deployed to these facilities to vaccinate care facility residents, staff, and their loved ones.”

CVS Pharmacy teams will make three visits to each long-term care facility to ensure residents and staff receive their booster.

The majority of residents and staff will be fully vaccinated three to four weeks after the first dose.

Advertisement

CVS Health expects to complete its long-term care facility vaccination effort in approximately two months.

Vaccines in a retail setting will be offered on an appointment-only basis via CVS’s website. A dedicated 800 number for people without online access.

**Washington DC**

**Bowser to name Contee new DC police chief**

[WTOP](#)

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser is expected Tuesday to name Robert Contee as the District of Columbia’s new police chief.

The announcement, first reported by The Washington Post, is expected at Bowser’s news conference.

ahead of the announcement.

Bowser is also expected to say that the director of D.C.'s 911 call center is stepping down. Communications Director Karima Holmes is the third person on Bowser's public safety team to leave their position.

The call center has been under fire over D.C. Fire and EMS crews being dispatched to the wrong addresses.

In the police department, Contee, 48, has been serving as the assistant chief of police since 2017.

He joined the department as a cadet in 1989.

Contee takes the reins now that outgoing D.C. Police Chief Peter Newsham has been promoted to the position of deputy chief of police.

The D.C. Council member Charles Allen has laid out his expectations for the next chief of police: "I want to see a chief of police who is focused on public safety and justice across the country" and the District.

"The nation is changing, and law enforcement in the District — and what we expect of law enforcement — is changing."

In July, at a "Re-imagining Police in the District of Columbia" discussion, Contee said that the way police officers they serve is a crucial step to bringing about change.

"Those communities that are some of our most challenged areas, those voices sound like they're not being heard."

"I just want to see something that's focused, that's fair, that's balanced across the District and the communities they serve through programs like the police cadet program."

Contee is stepping into the role amid continued unrest about police policies as well as a wave of protests that began in 2019.

### DC 911 Director Stepping Down

[NBC Washington](#)

The director of Washington, D.C.'s 911 call center is stepping down to take a job offer in the private sector.

Office of Unified Communications Director Karima Holmes will leave the position after 10 years.

An official announcement will be made Tuesday at a press conference with Mayor Muriel Bowser.

Holmes becomes the third member of Bowser's public safety team to leave their position. Bowser will have to fill the position. The D.C. fire and police chiefs also resigned.

Bowser recently promoted the deputy mayor for public safety and justice to become the interim deputy mayor for public safety and justice.

Holmes had come under fire recently as the 911 call center sent several dispatches to the wrong addresses.

Bowser appointed Holmes in January 2016.

### Staff, Residents at Nursing Homes in DC Will Receive COVID-19 Vaccine Early

[NBC Washington](#)

Staff and residents at long-term care facilities will now be included in the first wave of the arrival of thousands of doses of the Moderna vaccine this week, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser said.

Those now included in the first wave of vaccinations include:

- Staff and residents at assisted living facilities
- Front line hospital workers
- Urgent care workers

Pharmacy staff  
Home health aides  
D.C. Fire and EMS staff

The District has already administered more than 4,500 doses of the vaccine. Those  
and EMS staff.

Local

Metropolitan Police Department

1 hour ago

DC Mayor to Announce Longtime Officer Robert Contee as Next Police Chief  
storm team4

3 hours ago

Christmas Forecast: Heavy Rain Thursday, Then Snow Flurries Possible in DC Area

Get the latest news on COVID-19 delivered to you. Click here to sign up for our c

“Now we are able to spread the vaccine to other high-risk healthcare workers,” sa

In order to coordinate the vaccination of these groups, those who have been added  
begin later this week.

District officials say 12,600 doses of the Moderna vaccine are arriving from the fed

The Moderna shipments will be allocated among the following sites:

Long-Term Care Facilitites (30+ sites, 4,500 doses)  
Bread for the City (1 site, 400 doses)  
Bridgepoint (2 sites, 600 doses per site)  
Community of Hope (2 sites, 200 doses per site)  
Giant Food and Pharmacy (5 sites, 600 doses per site)  
Kaiser Permanente (1 site, 3100 doses)  
Mary's Center (1 site, 600 doses)  
Safeway Pharmacy (10 sites, 500 doses per site)  
Saint Elizabeth's Hospital (1 site, 500 doses)  
United Medical Center (1 site, 500 doses)  
Unity Healthcare (2 sites, 700 doses per site)

The second and third shipments of the Pfizer vaccine are also expected to arrive th  
government.

The Pfizer vaccine shipments will be allocated as follows:

Children's National Hospital (2,925 doses)  
The George Washington University Hospital (1,950, 975)  
Howard University Hospital (1,950 doses, 975 doses)  
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (1,950 doses, 975 doses)  
MedStar Washington Hospital Center and the National Rehabilitation Hospital (2  
Sibley Memorial Hospital (1,950 doses, 975 doses)

[West Virginia](#)

**W.Va. leaders say holiday gatherings could cause another virus spike; describe challenge of opening classrooms**

[MetroNews-Radio](#)

West Virginia leaders are watching the state's latest covid-19 numbers with caution  
and the difficulties of students' returning to school.

“We anticipate, given the colder weather coming up and the more indoor connect be a very big risk time for all of us in the United States and in West Virginia. So it’s Clay Marsh, West Virginia’s coronavirus response coordinator.

The ongoing vaccination effort should help, Marsh said, but state residents should “Every West Virginian needs to be particularly focused on reducing their individual mean avoiding indoor places and crowds,” he said during a Monday briefing about “After a couple months, three months, as we get the vaccine, we think things will warmer outside. But this time is when we all have to be very, very cautious.”

Marsh acknowledged a spike in cases following Thanksgiving gatherings. He warned and holiday gatherings.

“We anticipate that if people do the same thing around the Christmas, Kwanzaa, H will actually be worse coming up because we’re already more full in our hospitals a we did around Thanksgiving.”

Some of West Virginia’s numbers have eased up a bit in recent days. The state reported only one death today. West Virginia reported six on Sunday. So though.

Hospitalizations, reflecting serious cases, were also down the past couple of days. and 167 ICU admissions.

That’s down from 781 hospitalizations on Dec. 16. There were 206 ICU admissions. But all those numbers are way up from just a month ago.

Other current numbers show significant reason for continued concern. West Virginia’s rate of spread was 1.14 today, making the state tied for third worst. One or below is under control.

Only one county, Randolph, was green on today’s public health map. Four counties Those are the colors signifying the lowest levels of virus spread.

The map prompts remote learning for students when counties are depicted as orange or red or orange, Justice expressed concern about getting back in classrooms.

“We have got to get our kids in school. We have to get our kids in school. You can’t It’s not good.”

Asked later about what could change to allow for that to happen, Justice mostly drew conclusions that students have not been causing the virus to spread in classrooms.

“The vaccine is surely the elephant in the room,” Justice said.

He added, without much detail, “We’re looking at everything.” And he said without things we can do after the Christmas break.”

Despite the ongoing concerns, Justice expressed optimism over the longer-term situation. “In the next very few months,” he said, “we ought to be turning this thing around.”

**Gov. Justice: Moderna vaccine arrives as W.Va. leads nation per capita in COVID-19 vaccinations**

**WSAV-TV**

A second vaccine made its way to West Virginia on Monday.

“We’re expecting an allocation of 44,300 vaccine doses of this product, you know, Gov. Jim Justice

The governor said the Mountain State is leading the nation in administrating COVID-19 vaccinations during a morning news conference.

Justice said West Virginia is leading the nation in the rate of COVID-19 vaccine distribution. West Virginia had administered 15,135 doses of the 16,575 doses the state has received from Moderna. According to Bloomberg.com, this is the highest administrative rate of any state in the country.

“It’s not how many vaccines we receive but how many vaccinations we do. It’s important to get the vaccine, step up and do so,” said Dr. Clay Marsh, the West Virginia coronavirus czar.

With multiple vaccines now available, Dr. Marsh assures the public the Moderna vaccine is safe and effective.

“I think our citizens should feel very comfortable,” he said. “Whether you’re slated to get the Moderna or the Pfizer, they’re very safe, very effective vaccine. They [vaccine] should be seen as equal for the people.”

**National News**

**Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano Stabilizes After Overnight Eruption; New Lava Lake Forms**



<a href="#">The Weather Channel</a>	<p>The USGS says the Kilauea volcano on Hawaii's Big Island has stabilized after an eruption warning level to orange. The Weather Channel reports two of the three fissures that have opened in Halema'uma'u crater, creating a new lava lake. The Associated Press reports that the eruption at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Kilauea last erupted in 2018, destroying more than 1,000 homes and burying an area more than half the size of Manhattan in up to 80 feet of now-hardened ash.</p>
<b>Christmas Week Storm Could Bring Flood Threat, Strong Winds and Severe Storms to the East</b>	
<a href="#">The Weather Channel</a>	<p>A potent storm will move into the East from the Rockies in time to bring a mix of winter weather. The Weather Channel reports the system will draw moisture from the Gulf and will bring heavy rain and thunderstorms. It will first move through the Northern Plains and upper Midwest before reaching the East. Near-blizzard conditions are possible from parts of central to southern New England.</p>
<b>Congressional Affairs</b>	
<b>House of Representatives: Not In Session</b>	<a href="http://www.house.gov">www.house.gov</a>
<b>United States Senate: Not In Session</b>	<a href="http://www.senate.gov">www.senate.gov</a>
<b>Congressional Hearings: None</b>	
<b>Congressional Briefings / Meetings: None</b>	
<b>Political Commentary</b>	
<b>NSTR</b>	
<b>Federal Register</b>	
<b>Changes in Flood Hazard Determinations</b>	
<p><a href="#">FR Document:</a> <a href="#">2020-28221</a> <a href="#">Citation:</a> <a href="#">85 FR 83589</a></p>	<p>Virginia: Independent City (FEMA Docket No.: B-2052). City of Fairfax (20-03-0228)</p>