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Pandemic Cancels Texas African Business Summit



# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Inside C2

Thursday, December 10 2020|

## UK to refine allergy warning on Pfizer vaccine sparked by two adverse reactions



George Dyer, 90, receives the first Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, administered by General manager of Covid Recovery Becky Board, at Croydon's University Hospital, on the first day of the largest immunisation programme

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's medicine regulator warned people with significant allergies not to get Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine after two people suffered adverse reactions, but was set to give more detailed guidance on Wednesday based on reviews of those cases.

George Dyer, 90, receives the first Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, administered by General manager of Covid Recovery Becky Board, at Croydon's University Hospital, on the first day of the largest immunisation programme in the British history, in London, Britain December 8, 2020.

Dan Charity/Pool via REUTERS

Starting with the elderly and frontline workers, Britain began mass vaccinating its population on Tuesday, part of a global drive that poses one of the biggest logistical challenges in peacetime history.

National Health Service medical director Stephen Powis said the advice had been changed as a precaution after two NHS workers reported anaphylactoid reactions from the vaccine.

"Two people with a history of significant allergic reactions responded

adversely yesterday," Powis said. "Both are recovering well."

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) initially advised anyone with "a history of a significant allergic reaction to a vaccine, medicine or food" to avoid taking the vaccine.

However, by the end of Wednesday that guidance was set to be refined after discussions with experts on the nature of the reactions.

"We're tweaking advice to make it very clear that if you've got a food allergy, you're not more at risk," Imperial College London's Paul Turner, an expert in allergy and immunology who has been advising the MHRA on their revised guidance, told Reuters.

Pfizer and BioNTech said they were supporting the MHRA's investigation.

Last week Britain's MHRA became the first in the world to approve the vaccine, developed by Germany's BioNTech and Pfizer, while the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and European Medicines Agency (EMA) continue to assess the data.

A top U.S. official said on Wednesday that Americans with known severe allergic reactions may not be candidates for Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine until more was understood about what had happened.

Canada's health ministry said it would look at the reported adverse reactions in Britain, but said adverse events were to be expected and would not necessarily change the risk/benefit of the shot, after the country approved the vaccine.

### RELATED COVERAGE

UK medicine regulator examining Pfizer vaccine reactions as matter of priority

#### ALLERGIC REACTION

MHRA Chief Executive June Raine told lawmakers such allergic reactions had not been a feature of the Pfizer's clinical trials.

Pfizer has said people with a history of severe adverse allergic reactions to vaccines or the candidate's ingredients were excluded from their late stage trials, which is reflected in the MHRA's emergency approval protocol.

However, the allergic reactions may have been caused by a component of Pfizer's vaccine called polyethylene glycol, or PEG, which helps stabilise the shot and is not in other types of vaccines.

Imperial College London's Turner said: "As we've had more information through, the initial concern that maybe it affects everyone with allergies is not true.

"The ingredients like PEG which we think might be responsible for the reactions are not related to things which can cause food allergy. Likewise, people with a known allergy to just one medicine should not be at risk," Turner told Reuters.

The EMA said in an email that all quality, safety and efficacy data would be taken into account in assessing the vaccine, including data generated outside the EU.

In the United States, the FDA released documents on Tuesday in preparation for an advisory committee meeting on Thursday, saying the Pfizer vaccine's efficacy and safety data met its expectations for authorization.

The briefing documents said 0.63% of

people in the vaccine group and 0.51% in the placebo group reported possible allergic reactions in trials, which Peter Openshaw, professor of experimental medicine at Imperial College London, said was a very small number.

"The fact that we know so soon about these two allergic reactions and that the regulator has acted on this to issue precautionary advice shows that this monitoring system is working well," he said.

However, Gregory Poland, a virologist and vaccine researcher with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, said that the MHRA and NHS had overreacted initially.

"I would not have broadened to the degree they did," he said.

"It's reasonable to let the world know about this, and to be aware of it in terms of people who have had reactions like this to vaccines. I think to say medicines, foods or any other allergies is past the boundary of science."

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY / TIRZ No. 3 SOUTHERN DOWNTOWN PARK

The Downtown Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority") / TIRZ No. 3 will receive sealed bids for the Southern Downtown Park project, located in Downtown Houston, 1515 Fannin Street bounded by Bell, Fannin, Leeland, and San Jacinto Streets. Hardcopy bids will be received until 11:00 AM, local time on Friday, January 15, 2021 by the Executive Director, Downtown Redevelopment Authority. Hardcopy bids received after this time will not be accepted. Hardcopy bids are to be delivered to 1313 Main Street, Houston, Texas, 77002.

Beginning 11:00 AM, Monday, December 14, 2020, Bidding Documents will be available at [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com). Any Addenda will be distributed through [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com). Bidding Documents may also be viewed online at [isqft.com](http://isqft.com).

An ONLINE MANDATORY Pre-bid Conference will be held at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. All bidders (general contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers) are invited to attend.

Due to COVID-19 and the Authority's work safe protocol, all potential bidders who intend to participate in the pre-bid conference and submit bids are required to register their intention by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 by email to Lonnie Hoogeboom, Director of Planning & Design at [lonnie@downtowntirz.com](mailto:lonnie@downtowntirz.com). Potential bidders are to provide Company Name, Address, and Phone plus (two maximum) Representative Names & Titles, Representative Emails, and Cell Phones. All bidders who register in advance of the pre-bid conference will receive a calendar invitation providing access to the online meeting venue. Bids will be ruled non-responsive if received from an individual who did not attend the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall comply with City of Houston Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, Articles II, V, VI, and XI and the Mayor's Executive Orders No.1 7 Pay or Play (POP) Program for Houston Public Works for the public procurement procedures of the City of Houston Office for Business Opportunity (OBO) established in March 2008 and the entity responsible for the administration of the Small/ Minority/ Women-Owned (S/M/WBE), Persons with Disabilities Enterprises (PDBE), and Hire Houston First programs. The successful Bidder will be required to make good faith efforts to achieve an S/M/W/DBE participation goal of 20 percent.

Beginning December 3, 2020, the Authority's procurement for the general contract for this capital improvement project is advertised in the Houston Business Journal, the Houston Defender, the Southern Chinese Daily News, and the Greater Houston Business Procurement Forum.



WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

12/09/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

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Dr. Fauci's Advice

Dr. Anthony Fauci finally spoke with President-elect Joe Biden. He is advising Biden that we need to have a uniform message that comes from the top right down to each and every one of the people involved, from the health officials, the physicians, the scientists, to the public health officials.

“We’ve all got to be on the same page and tell the American public that we’ve all got to pull together.”

President-elect Biden has formally

introduced key members of his health team tasked with fighting COVID-19.

For his first 100 days in office, Biden outlined his three main goals: universal mask wearing, vaccinations and reopening of the schools. He also committed that his team will help get at least 100 million COVID-19 vaccine shots into the arms of the American people in the first 100 days.

Until today, President Trump and his allies have sent one fundamental



message: millions of votes cast by their fellow Americans are worthless.”

For all of us as ordinary citizens, we only

want to live a peaceful life. All of the political disputes don’t really help our nation.



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

The COVID-19 Vaccine Is On The Way!

Important COVID-19 Vaccine Questions Answered Here



COVID-19 vaccines could arrive by the end of 2020.

KEY POINTS

When will a COVID-19 vaccine be ready and when will it be available for you? Will it be completely free? What happens after you're vaccinated? Here are the top things you need to know.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The US is preparing for tens of millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses to arrive by the end of 2020, and you have questions. How many vaccinations will there be and how will it be administered? Is it completely free or will you have to pay? How long will you personally have to wait to receive it, and can you choose which brand of vaccine you get?

**How many coronavirus vaccines will there be?** Dozens of vaccine candidates are in development around the world, but two of them, Pfizer and Moderna, claim to be 95% and 94% effective, respectively, against the coronavirus. Both have sought emergency approval from the Food and Drug Administration to get vaccines rolling out as early as the end of December.

Pfizer and Moderna both use a type of vaccine technology that focuses on the mRNA of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (that's the coronavirus' official name). Expect other types of vaccines to emerge, like from Novavax and AstraZeneca in partnership with Oxford University. Dozens more are in development besides, and different countries may use different vaccine formulations from different makers.

**How many doses of the vaccine will be available right away?** Pfizer and Moderna are ramping up production,

but we do know that initially there will be up to 50 million vaccine doses in 2020 from Pfizer and 20 million doses from Moderna. In 2021, we can expect to see 1.3 billion from Pfizer and anywhere from 500 million to 1 billion doses from Moderna. After the initial vaccine, a second dose will be required after a set period of weeks (depending on which vaccine you get, it could be three or four weeks). This is required for both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. As a result, 20 million doses, for example, can vaccinate 10 million people. The US has a population of roughly 330 million.

**Is the COVID-19 vaccine a shot or something else?** The current immunization works as a series of two injections administered a number of weeks apart for the full inoculation to take place. There may in the future be another way to get vaccinated, such as an infusion, in which the vaccine is delivered intravenously, or an adhesive patch that you affix to your skin for a period of time. You'll need to get two coronavirus vaccine doses, about 3 weeks apart.

**When will I be able to get the vaccine? Is there an**

**order to who receives it first?** Yes. Since the doses are so limited, states will prioritize which groups of people will be first in line to get the COVID-19 immunization. An advisory group to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has made a recommendation, which the CDC could adopt. But each state will have the final word. Every major global and domestic recommendation so far puts health care workers at the top of that list, with the general population last in line. Depending on who you are, you may have to wait until spring or summer, when there are enough vaccines to go around, in order to be immunized. Here's a more complete list of who will likely receive the COVID-19 vaccine first (and last).

**How will I know when I can get vaccinated? What do I do while I wait for a vaccine to arrive?** Your state and local health provider will start to communicate who can get immunized against COVID-19 first and how to do it. We'll keep an eye out for more details and will update this section when we know more. In the meantime, health experts stress that you should continue to wear a face mask, socially distance from people outside your household and wash your hands to slow the spread of disease. The US is currently over 14 million reported cases, with more than 276,000 known deaths, as infections continue to surge alongside record-breaking hospitalizations.

**Can I choose which coronavirus vaccine I get?** It's

uncertain if you'll have your choice of which vaccine brand or type you'll get. This may depend on how many doses of the vaccine are available in your area and where in line you are to receive it. It also depends on if you live near a medical center with "medical-grade ultracold freezers," USA Today reports, as the Pfizer vaccine must be kept in cold, dry ice temperatures. The Moderna vaccine, on the other hand, can be stored at temperatures between 36 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit for up to 30 days, making it much more easily accessible. Note that once you get the first vaccine shot, you'll have to stick with that brand for the second shot. Everyone in the US could be vaccinated by June.



COVID-19 vaccines could arrive by the end of 2020. (Illustration Sarah Tew/CNET)

**When will the vaccine be available for everyone?**

Everyone in the US could be vaccinated against COVID-19 by June, according to Moncef Slaoui, the top science advisor for the federal government's Operation Warp Speed. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top US infectious disease expert, expects anyone to have access to the vaccine between April and June of 2021. When you get the coronavirus vaccine, however, will depend on which group you fall in. You could get it in January if you're a health care worker, or you may have to wait until June if you're a younger adult with no preexisting conditions.

**How much will the coronavirus vaccine cost me?** Regardless if you have health insurance or not, the COVID-19 vaccine will be free for all Americans, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The government organization also said it plans to make sure you can reimburse any FDA-approved coronavirus treatments you're charged for. But just because the vaccine itself is free doesn't mean you won't get a bill. Many providers can legally charge an administration fee for giving the shot to patients, according to the CDC. You can file a claim with your insurance company, however, since they're required to cover approved preventive care under the Affordable Care Act. The Vaccine for COVID-19 may be free, but you could still see a bill. The COVID-19 vaccine itself will be free to all Americans, as noted by the CMS. The government organization also said it plans to make sure you can reimburse any FDA-approved coronavirus treatments you're charged for. However, providers will be able to bill you an administrative fee for giving the shot to patients, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Where can I get the vaccine once it's here? Does it have to be at a hospital?** Much like the flu vaccine, you'll likely be able to get the coronavirus vaccine at pharmacy stores, clinics, hospitals, doctors' offices and health departments. A Walgreen's representative told CNET its pharmacies would be distributing COVID-19 vaccines to customers, but didn't say when. It's also likely that schools and community centers will serve as vaccination sites in the beginning, in order to accommodate more people, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. The organization also says the states will need to approve "hundreds to thousands of partners and site locations for vaccine delivery."

**What happens after I get the COVID-19 vaccine? Can I go wherever I want?** Once you get the first coronavirus vaccine, you'll receive a vaccination

card that details which shot you received and when you need to go back for the second. After you receive both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, the CDC recommends that you continue practicing social distancing and wearing a mask when you're out in public. The CDC says it's important to do so while "experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions." Even though scientific evidence so far shows reinfection is uncommon, there's still much we don't know about the new virus. That's why it's important to follow the CDC's guidelines for protecting yourself and others from the coronavirus, whether you've had the vaccine or not. For more coronavirus vaccine information, here's everything to know about the coronavirus vaccines rolling out this year and the CDC's priority list for who will get the vaccine first. For the most up-to-date news and information about the coronavirus pandemic, visit the WHO website.

**How long will the vaccine protect me from COVID-19?** Natural immunity to COVID-19, meaning the protection an individual gains from already having been infected, varies from person to person and evidence shows that it may not last very long. Concerning vaccination, the CDC website clearly states in its COVID-19 information page that: "Regarding vaccination, we won't know how long immunity lasts until we have a vaccine and more data on how well it works."

While knowledge about vaccine induced immunity is still not complete, scientists and researchers are hard at work to fill in the gaps about the vaccine's duration and effectiveness. In response to being asked how long the COVID-19 vaccine would last, Carl Zimmer at the New York Times reply that, "We don't know. Both Moderna and Pfizer started their trials on July 27, so they have been able to follow their volunteers for only a few months so far. It's conceivable that the vaccines provide long-lasting protection, or maybe even fade away in under a year and require a booster." Even if you get the vaccine, you should still continue to wear a mask, per CDC guidelines. (Courtesy cnet.com)



Editor's Choice



A woman stands in flooded St. Mark's Square during high tide as the flood barriers known as Mose are not raised, in Venice, Italy. REUTERS/Manuel Silvestri



A humpback whale surfaces near the Statue of Liberty in this photo taken from a boat on New York Harbor in New York City. REUTERS/Bjoern Kils/New York Media Boat



People dance at a park almost a year after the global outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan, Hubei province, China. REUTERS/Aly Song



U.S. President-elect Joe Biden listens while announcing nominees and appointees to serve on his health and coronavirus response teams during a news conference at his transition headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



Azeri service members guard the area, which came under the control of Azerbaijan's troops following a military conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh against ethnic Armenian forces and a further signing of a ceasefire deal, on the border with Iran in Jabrayil District. REUTERS/



Kelly Newman playfully lifts her youngest son as Benny, 9, (R) laughs at left while two of the other kids finish their dinner at in their home in Pitman, New Jersey. REUTERS/ Leah Millis



The headquarters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (PKK) is seen after it was burnt during anti-government protests on the outskirts of Sulaimaniyah, Iraq. REUTERS/Ako Rasheed



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro uses a disinfectant spray after a press conference following the ruling Socialist Party's victory in legislative elections that were boycotted by the opposition in Caracas, Venezuela. REUTERS/Manaure Quintero



“The World’s Greatest Pilot”

Pilot Chuck Yeager Dead At 97—  
He Had ‘The Right Stuff’ And More



Chuck Yeager, standing next to the “Glamorous Glennis,” the Bell X-1 experimental plane with which he first broke the sound barrier. (Photo/AP)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

One of the world’s most famous aviators has died: Chuck Yeager — best known as the first to break the sound barrier — died at the age of 97.

A message posted to his Twitter account says, “Fr @VictoriaYeage11 It is w/ profound sorrow, I must tell you that my life love General Chuck Yeager passed just before 9pm ET. An incredible life well lived, America’s greatest Pilot, & a legacy of strength, adventure, & patriotism will be remembered forever.”

Yeager started from humble beginnings in Myra, W.Va., and many people didn’t really learn about him until decades after he broke the sound barrier — all because of a book and popular 1983 movie called The Right Stuff.

He accomplished the feat in a Bell X-1, a wild, high-flying rocket-propelled orange airplane that he nicknamed “Glamorous Glennis,” after his first wife who died in 1990. It was a dangerous quest — one that had killed other pilots in other planes. And the X-1 buffeted like a bucking horse as it approached the speed of sound — Mach 1 — about 700 miles per hour at altitude. But Yeager was more than a pilot: In sever-

al test flights before breaking the sound barrier, he studied his machine, analyzing the way it handled as it went faster and faster. He even lobbied to change one of the plane’s control surfaces so that it could safely exceed Mach 1.



**General Chuck Yeager, the first person to break the sound barrier, speaks to a crowd Dec. 16, 2003 during the weeklong First Flight Centennial Celebration that is taking place at the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina. (E. Ozier ELO/GAC/Files/Reuters)**

As popularized in The Right Stuff, Yeager broke the sound barrier on Oct. 14, 1947, at Edwards Air Force Base in California. But there were no news broadcasts that day, no newspaper headlines. The aviation feat was kept secret for months. In 2011, Yeager told NPR that

the lack of publicity never much mattered to him. “I was at the right place at the right time. And duty enters into it. It’s not, you know, you don’t do it for the — to get your damn picture on the front page of the newspaper. You do it because it’s duty. It’s your job.”

*You don’t do it ... to get your damn picture on the front page of the newspaper. You do it because it’s duty. It’s your job.*

--- Chuck Yeager

Yeager never sought the spotlight and was always a bit gruff. After his famous flight in the X-1, he continued testing newer, faster and more dangerous aircraft. The X-1A came along six years later, and it flew at twice the speed of sound. On Dec. 12, 1953, Chuck Yeager set two more altitude and speed records in the X-1A: 74,700 feet and Mach 2.44.

It’s what happened moments later that cemented his legacy as a top test pilot. The X-1A began spinning viciously and spiraling to Earth, dropping 50,000 feet in about a minute. His flight helmet even cracked the canopy, and a scratchy archive recording from the day preserves Yeager’s voice as he wrestles back control of the aircraft: “Oh! Huh! I’m down to 25,000,” he says calmly — if a little breathlessly. “Over Tehachapi. I don’t know if I can get back to base or not.”

Yeager would get back to base. And in this 1985 NPR interview, he said it was really no big deal: “Well, sure, because I’d spun airplanes all my life and that’s exactly what I did. I recovered the X-1A from inverted spin into a normal spin, popped it out of that and came on back and landed. That’s what you’re taught to do.”

It’s more than that, though. Yeager was a rare aviator, someone who understood planes in ways that other pilots just don’t. He ended up flying more than 360 types of aircraft and retired from the Air Force as a brigadier general.



Yeager strikes a pose with Sam Shepard, who played him in the movie version of The Right Stuff.

**The Right Stuff.** (Warner Bros./Getty Images)

Bob van der Linden of the National Air and Space Museum in Washington says Yeager stood out. “He could give extremely detailed reports that the engineers found extremely useful. It’s not just flying the airplane, it’s interpreting how the airplane is flying and understanding that. And he understood that, just because he understood machines so well. And was just such a superb pilot.”

Yeager grew up in the mountains of West Virginia, an average student who never attended college. After high school, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps where he didn’t have the education credentials for flight training. But once the U.S. entered World War II a few months later, he got his chance.

Van der Linden says Yeager became a fighter ace, shooting down five enemy aircraft in a single mission and four others on a different day. Then he faced another challenge during a dogfight over France. “He got himself shot down and he escaped,” van der Linden says. “And very few people do that, and he managed not only to escape. He got back to England, and normally, they would ship people home after that. And he persuaded the authorities to let him fly again and he did which was highly unusual.”

In addition to his flying skills, Yeager also had “better than perfect” vision: 20/10. He reportedly could see enemy fighters from 50 miles away and ended up fighting in several wars.



Capt. Charles “Chuck” Yeager in 1947, the year he became “the

**fastest man on Earth,” in his plane, the Glamorous Glennis. (Photo/Keystone/Getty Images)**

Today, the plane Yeager first broke the sound barrier in, the X-1, hangs inside the air and space museum. Norm Healey was visiting from Canada and reading about Yeager’s accomplishments. “I loved airplanes as a kid. And Chuck Yeager was always sort of the cowboy of the airplane world. At least that was my perspective when I was young. As I’ve grown older and now have kids and a family and a wife, I appreciate it much more now, his courage.”

Yeager never considered himself to be courageous or a hero. He said he was just doing his job. A job that required more than skill. “All through my career, I credit luck a lot with survival because of the kind of work we were doing.”

Chuck Yeager spent the last years of his life doing what he truly loved: flying airplanes, speaking to aviation groups and fishing for golden trout in California’s Sierra Nevada mountains.



The world says goodbye to General Chuck Yeager, the first person to break the sound barrier.

“Gen. Yeager’s pioneering and innovative spirit advanced America’s abilities in the sky and set our nation’s dreams soaring into the jet age and the space age,” NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said in a statement late Monday. “Chuck’s bravery and accomplishments are a testament to the enduring strength that made him a true American original, and NASA’s Aeronautics work owes much to his brilliant contributions to aerospace science.” (Courtesy <https://www.npr.org/>)

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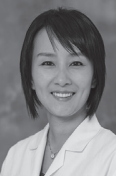
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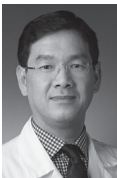
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