



## Biden says U.S. will have enough supply to vaccinate all adults by May

President Biden said the [U.S. will have enough vaccine supply for all adults by the end of May](#). Previously, projections were that all adults would be able to be vaccinated by the end of July. He also called on states to prioritize inoculating school and child-care staff so that students can get back into the classroom as quickly and safely as possible. The President said that despite having enough doses of vaccines, the government also needs enough staff and vaccination sites for everyone to get inoculated. This will be possible with the addition of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to the existing doses supplied by Moderna and Pfizer. Currently, the U.S. is giving an average of 2 million vaccines a day.

## Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, vaccinations in Tennessee

Today is the one year anniversary of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Tennessee. Yesterday, the [Tennessee Department of Health](#) reported 1,514 new cases, bringing the total to 779,449 confirmed cases. More than 11,501 people have died, including at least 42 people on Wednesday. There are approximately 864 people currently hospitalized with the virus statewide. There have been 6,934,882 tests statewide, more than 17,761 since the day before, with a 4.67% positivity rate. As of today in [Davidson County](#), there are 90,445 confirmed cases, and 644 deaths. [After declining significantly over recent weeks, current cases, hospitalizations, and deaths metrics have stalled at an average of 1,300 new cases and 30 deaths a day in Tennessee.](#)

Cases	Deaths	Hospitalizations	Tests
<b>+1,514</b> since yesterday	<b>+42</b> since yesterday	<b>-29 (net)</b> since previous day	<b>+17,761</b> since yesterday
<b>779,449</b> Total	<b>11,501</b> Total	<b>864</b> Current Total*	<b>6,834,882</b> Total <small>4.67% Positive Today</small>

As of March 4, [1,520,775 vaccinations have been administered in Tennessee](#), using roughly 69% of the 2.15 million vaccine doses that have been delivered to the state. Currently, 14% of Tennesseans have received at least one dose and 7.4% have received a second dose and are fully vaccinated.

Not including the newly distributed Johnson & Johnson vaccine, 110 million doses of vaccine have been delivered and 82.6 million shots have been given nationwide. [Approximately 16% of](#)

[Americans have received at least one dose and 8.4% have received two doses.](#) The White House began shipping more than 4 million doses this week of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine based on population. You can visit the CDC's Vaccine Tracker here: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>.

To register for a COVID-19 vaccination and book an appointment at your county health department, visit [Vaccinate.tn.gov](#) or [covid19.nashville.gov](#) (615-862-7777). There are also hundreds of vaccination locations throughout the community available at [VaccineFinder.org](#).

## Tennessee accelerate vaccine distribution plan to high-risk people

Beginning Monday, [Tennessee will move to Phase 1c of its COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan.](#) This will include family members of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, pregnant women, as well as all people 16 years or older with medical conditions that increase the risk of complications due to the virus. Among those conditions are obesity, COPD, chronic renal disease, cystic fibrosis, dementia, heart failure, diabetes, liver disease, and immunocompromised due to a medical condition, like HIV and organ transplant. [The acceleration is due to increased vaccine supply and lack of demand in certain counties.](#)

Phase 1a1    Phase 1a2    Phase 1b    **Phase 1c**    Phase 2a    Phase 2b    Phase 3    Age-Based

# Phase 1c

### Tennesseans 16 Years Old or Older with High-Risk Health Conditions

- Caregivers (or household residents) of medically fragile children <16 years old (such as technologically dependent individuals, immunocompromised individuals, individuals with diabetes requiring medication, individuals with complex congenital or life-threatening cardiac conditions requiring ongoing medical management, individuals qualifying for a Katie Beckett waiver)
- Chronic renal disease
- COPD, pulmonary fibrosis, Cystic Fibrosis, moderate-severe asthma
- Obesity (BMI >30)
- Heart failure, CAD, cardiomyopathies, hypertension
- Sickle cell (not including sickle cell trait) or thalassemia
- Cerebrovascular disease or stroke
- Dementia
- Liver disease
- Immunocompromised or weak immune system (receiving chemotherapy, taking daily oral steroid or other immunosuppressant medication, living with HIV/AIDS, history of organ, blood or bone marrow transplant)
- Technologically dependent (such as individuals who are ventilator dependent, oxygen-dependent, with tracheostomy, chronically wheelchair-bound, require tube feedings, parenteral nutrition, or dialysis)
- Pregnancy (NOTE: The CDC and World Health Organization have advised that pregnancy puts women at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines have not been studied in pregnant women, and women who are pregnant are encouraged to discuss this decision with their medical provider.)



House passes police reform bill

On Wednesday, the House passed the [George Floyd Justice in Policing Act](#), a bill aimed at restoring justice in policing. The legislation was introduced after the killing of George Floyd, a Black man who was murdered by Minneapolis police last May in a violent arrest, led to civil rights marches nationwide, including in Nashville. The bill passed with a vote of 220-212. House Democrats passed the federal policing overhaul to combat racial discrimination and excessive use of force in law enforcement. Specifically, the bill would [end qualified immunity, make it easier to successfully pursue criminal cases for police misconduct, ban chokeholds, and ban no-knock warrants in certain situations, as well as require data collection and tracking of police misconduct so that violent officers can't simply move to a new department](#). The bill also provides new grant funding for community-based organizations to implement [evidence-based initiatives](#) like violence interruption and hospital-based violence intervention. These strategies are designed to keep neighborhoods safe during incidents that do not require police involvement. The bill is expected to face strong opposition from Senate Republicans.

+Jim is a cosponsor of the bill and [said](#), "No person or group should have reason to fear the police, but after George Floyd's murder and an estimated 100 similar tragedies since, many people do. I am thankful that the House just passed the George Floyd [#JusticeinPolicing](#) Act, again, although now, with a Democratic Senate and President, it has a much better chance of becoming law. This is the boldest police reform bill ever. It improves police conduct by ending qualified immunity, mandating the use of body & dashboard cameras, banning chokeholds & no-knock warrants, limiting the militarization of police depts, and creating a database so bad officers can't relocate to get another policing job."



## Expansive voting rights bill passes House

[The House passed a landmark bill on voting rights, elections, campaign finance, and ethics reform](#) by a vote of 220-210. [The "For the People Act" mandates a wide range of voter protections](#) including that all states provide no-excuse absentee voting, at least 15 days of early voting and provisional ballots, and requires states to automatically register voters unless they choose to opt out. It also provides the option of online and same-day registration, limits states from implementing mass voter roll purges and voter identification laws, and restores voting rights to people convicted of felonies upon release from prison in states that ban them from voting. The bill also bans partisan gerrymandering, implements sweeping ethics reforms, and includes transparency provisions to shed light on the dark money that has taken over politics and led to foreign interference in our elections on social media. Senate Republicans are expected to oppose the bill, as Republican-controlled legislatures across the country are passing legislation to make it hard to vote following false claims of widespread voter fraud during the 2020 elections.

+Jim [said](#), "The House is set to pass H.R. 1 tonight [#ForThePeople](#). This is the strongest voting rights bill before Congress in 20 years & will restore the right to vote to 420K+ Tennesseans by automatically restoring voting rights as soon as a person has completed his or her sentence. It would begin to repair [#VotingRightsAct](#), create automatic voter registration, and allow all

Tennesseans to vote by mail. It also brings transparency and independence to the redistricting process.”



### Senate begins debate on COVID relief package

The Senate has started debate on [President Biden’s \\$1.9 trillion COVID relief package](#). [Vice President Harris cast the tie-breaking vote to allow consideration of the bill to begin](#). Debate on the American Recovery Plan was delayed after Republican Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin forced the 628-page bill to be read aloud, taking nearly 11 hours. [Republicans are expected to attempt to further delay a final vote on the bill](#) by offering endless amendments that have no chance of passage. It is expected to pass this weekend along party lines after [the President agreed to concessions](#) including targeting \$1,400 stimulus payments to individuals who make \$75,000 annually, and [reducing weekly unemployment benefits to \\$300 per week down from \\$400](#). The Senate version does not include an increase in the minimum wage. The House passed the American Recovery Act on February 26.



### FBI directors warns that threats of domestic terrorism are growing

[FBI Director Christopher Wray told lawmakers that the threat of domestic extremism is growing](#) and the number of domestic terrorism investigations has increased since he took over the agency three years ago. Wray told the Senate Judiciary Committee he believed the January 6 Capitol attack was not an isolated event but is part of a growing trend of violent extremism here and abroad. He told the committee that the number of white supremacists arrested has nearly tripled since 2017, and the agency currently has more than 2,000 domestic terrorism investigations underway. That number has doubled in a year. In the face of possible attacks on the Capitol in the coming weeks, the Capitol Police have requested that [the National Guard remain deployed for an additional two months](#).



### Biden withdraws Tanden’s nomination; Rouse confirmed as chair of Council of Economic Advisers

[The White House has pulled Neera Tanden's nomination to head the Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\)](#) after Tanden requested her name be withdrawn from consideration. This ends weeks of uncertainty and controversy surrounding her nomination. She faced scrutiny during the confirmation process for past critical comments of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. Her confirmation was already unlikely after key senators, including Democrat Joe Manchin, said they'd oppose it. The President is expected to nominate Shalanda Young, his choice for deputy director of OMB, to lead the department.

[Cecilia Rouse, Dean of the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, has been confirmed as the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors.](#) She's the first Black person and fourth woman to lead the organization.



### **Administration imposes sanctions against Russians involved in attack on Navalny**

[The Biden administration has imposed sanctions on Russian officials and entities in response to the poisoning and imprisonment of opposition leader and Putin critic, Alexey Navalny.](#) The sanctions target the head of Russia's security services, the FSB, as well as the FSB as an organization. The U.S. intelligence community has determined that the FSB poisoned Navalny in August. Navalny has now been detained in Russia since mid-January. [The actions were coordinated with the European Union,](#) which also unveiled sanctions, and represent the first significant move against Russia by President Biden since taking office.