



## **European countries halt use of AstraZeneca vaccine**

[Today, Sweden joined a growing number of European countries that have stopped using the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.](#) Denmark, Iceland, and Norway announced last week they would temporarily stop using the two-dose AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. On Sunday, Ireland announced a similar decision. France, Germany, Austria, and Italy are also pausing the use of the vaccine. The countries made the decision after reports of a handful of cases of blood clots in people who have received the shot. [The World Health Organization \(WHO\) says there is no evidence that the vaccine is linked to blood clots](#) and advises against not using the vaccine. Health officials say its benefits outweigh the possible risks, especially as many counties are experiencing another surge in the number of cases of the virus. There Have been 37 reported cases of unusual blood clotting out of more than 17 million doses administered, which makes this very rare. The European Medicines Agency is investigating this and is expected to release its findings on Thursday.

## **The AstraZeneca vaccine is not being used in the U.S.**

### **Moderna begins clinical trial in children**

Moderna announced that they have begun [clinical trials of its COVID-19 vaccine in children under 12 years old](#). The Moderna KidCOVE study will be enrolling approximately 6,750 children under the age of 12 in the US and Canada. The trial is studying different dosing levels for children between 6 months and 11 years to find out which work best against the virus. A second trial is underway for 3,000 young people between the ages of 12 and 17, with initial results expected this summer. Trials in each age group include the two-shot regimen already approved for use in adults, but with much smaller doses. These are not the only trials for children, as Pfizer/BioNTech is also testing their vaccine and Johnson & Johnson has announced plans to study the vaccine in adolescents, ages 12 to 18.

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

Yesterday, the [Tennessee Department of Health](#) reported 806 new cases, bringing the total to 792,795 confirmed cases. More than 11,638 people have died, including at least 11 people Sunday. There are approximately 653 people currently hospitalized with the virus statewide. There have been 6,996,960 tests statewide, more than 8,175 since the day before, with a 7.35% positivity rate. As of today in [Davidson County](#), there are 92,145 confirmed cases, and 847 deaths.

Cases	Deaths	Hospitalizations	Tests
<b>+806</b> since yesterday	<b>+11</b> since yesterday	<b>+29 (net)</b> since previous day	<b>+8,175</b> since yesterday
<b>792,795</b> Total	<b>11,638</b> Total	<b>653</b> Current Total*	<b>6,996,960</b> Total <small>7.25% Positive Today</small>

As of March 11, [1,943,159 vaccinations have been administered in Tennessee](#). About 17% of Tennesseans have received at least one dose of the Pfizer/Moderna and 9.8% have received a second dose or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson and are fully vaccinated. There have been [2,744,960 doses delivered to the state](#).

The federal government has delivered more than 142 million doses of vaccine and 110 million shots have been given nationwide. [Approximately 21% of Americans have received at least one dose of Pfizer/Moderna and 12% of Americans are fully vaccinated](#).

Tennessee is currently vaccinating phase 1a, 1b, 1c, and all people over 65 years of age. 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](#).



See the guide of what to expect when getting your COVID-19 vaccine [here](#).



## **Biden sends FEMA to the border**

[President Biden has deployed FEMA to the U.S.-Mexican border to provide food, shelter, and healthcare to the more than 4,600 unaccompanied immigrant children](#) now in the custody of border control agents. Sharply higher numbers of border crossings have severely strained the current capacity to hold youths. As a result, approximately 3,000 boys aged 15 to 17 will be transferred to a facility in Dallas for up to ninety days. The latest increase in the number of immigrants crossing the border is attributed to worsening poverty and violence in Central America and Mexico, and the perception that border enforcement is more lax since the change in Administrations. [The U.S. is deporting adults back to Mexico to wait for proper process for entry into the country.](#)

## **Russia and Iran sought to influence 2020 election; did not interfere in vote counts**

This morning the Office of National Intelligence (ONI) released [a report saying that while both Russia and Iran tried to influence the 2020 election](#), neither country attempted to change vote counts or alter ballots. They both acted to disseminate false information that favored former President Trump and promoted domestic efforts to disrupt the campaign. The Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security released a joint statement confirming the results of the ONI investigation.

A copy of the joint statement is [here](#).



## **Haaland confirmed as Interior Secretary**

[The Senate confirmed Representative Deb Haaland of New Mexico to be President Biden's Secretary of the Interior.](#) She was approved Monday by a vote of 51-40, after strong opposition from several Republican Senators. A member of the Pueblo of Laguna tribe of New Mexico, Haaland is the first Native American to lead the department. She is expected to play a major role in the Administration's plan to address the climate crisis and will be responsible for the management of the country's public lands and natural resources. Haaland will also oversee the often tense relationships between the U.S. government and tribal nations.



## Mass protests against violence against women in UK and Australia

[Protests broke out over the weekend in the UK following the disappearance and death of a 33-year-old woman](#), Sarah Everard, in London two weeks ago. An off-duty London police officer has been charged with her abduction and murder. Police are facing further backlash over using heavy-handed tactics to break up a vigil in support of Ms. Everard. [Thousands also took to the streets in Australia yesterday to protest violence and discrimination against women](#) in the country following multiple rape allegations against high-ranking government officials.



**APPLY FOR A  
SUMMER 2021  
INTERNSHIP  
IN NASHVILLE  
OR D.C.**

Summer Session I:  
May 18 - June 25, 2021

Summer Session II:  
July 6 - August 13, 2021

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Deadline to Submit Application:  
Monday, April 12, 2021