

Fauci says US could see return to normal by next summer

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Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, gestures after receiving his first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at the National Institutes of Health

If the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines proceeds smoothly, it might be possible to achieve widespread population immunity in the United States by next summer, top scientist Anthony Fauci has said.

In an interview with WebMD that was posted Wednesday, the infectious disease official suggested people could host weddings as early as June or July.

Fauci said he believed priority populations, such as nursing home residents, [health care workers](#), critical workers, the elderly, people at high risk etc. should receive their shots by March or early April.

"We could start in April doing what I call 'open season' on vaccinations—namely anybody in the [general population](#) who wants to get vaccinated will get vaccinated."

He continued: "By the time we get into the middle or end of the summer, I believe we will have, if we do it correctly, we could have 70 to 85 percent of the population vaccinated.

"When that occurs, there will be an umbrella of protection over the entire country."

Asked whether people who had postponed their weddings until March or April of 2021 would need to postpone again, he replied: "You know, they should have done it till June, July."

Fauci's comments come after the US authorized two vaccines for emergency use, one by Pfizer and BioNTech and the other by Moderna and the National Institutes for Health.



The US has now purchased 400 million Covid-19 vaccine doses—half from Pfizer and half from Moderna—allowing it to immunize 200 million people under the two-shot regimen

Also Tuesday, the Trump administration announced it had purchased an additional 100 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech [vaccine](#), with the shots set to be delivered by July.

That brings the current US supply of COVID-19 vaccine to 400 million doses—half from Pfizer and half from Moderna—allowing it to immunize 200 million people under the two-shot regimens.

"Under the terms of the agreement, Pfizer will deliver at least 70 million doses by June 30, 2021, with the balance of the 100 million doses to be

delivered no later than July 31, 2021," the [defense department](#) said in a statement.

The agreement includes options for an additional 400 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

The US is hoping to immunize 20 million people this month, with long-term care residents and [health workers](#) at the front of the line.

On Sunday, an expert committee said that people 75 and older should be the next vaccinated along with 30 million "frontline essential workers," including teachers, grocery store employees and police.

Governments are also hoping for more vaccine makers' products to be approved, with Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca thought to be next along the line.

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