

US to reallocate COVID shots to states with greater interest

May 4 2021, by Zeke Miller



Workers at a mostly empty COVID-19 vaccination clinic located at Cathedral of the Cross A.O.H. Church of God in Birmingham, Ala., are shown on Monday, May 3, 2021. Health officials say vaccine demand is on the decline in some places, and Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey said she will soon end a state health order and state of emergency enacted because of the coronavirus pandemic. (AP Photo/Jay Reeves)

The Biden administration will begin shifting how it allocates COVID-19 shots to states, moving doses from states with lower demand to those with stronger interest in vaccines, an administration official said Tuesday.

The change away from a strict by-population allocation comes as [demand for the coronavirus vaccines has dropped nationwide](#), but especially precipitously in some areas, with some states turning down part or all of their weekly dose allotments. The federal government will now shift some of those doses to areas with higher demand, in an effort to speed shots in those areas.

The administration says that when states decline the vaccine they have been allocated, that surplus will shift to states still awaiting doses to meet demand. Those states would have the shots available whenever demand for vaccines in their states increases—a key priority of the Biden administration.

Governors were informed of the change by the White House Tuesday morning. The Washington Post first reported on the new allocation.

The announcement comes hours before Biden is set to speak Tuesday afternoon on his administration's efforts to boost demand for the vaccines across the country as part of his aim to have the country experience a more normal July Fourth holiday.

This week, Iowa turned down nearly three quarters of the vaccine doses available to the state for next week from the [federal government](#) because demand for the shots remains weak.

Individual [states](#) have made similar shifts internally to account for changing demand. Last week, Washington state changed the way it allocates coronavirus [vaccine](#) to its counties. Previously the state doled

out supplies to counties proportionate to their populations. But Gov. Jay Inslee said Thursday that the amounts now will be based on requests from [health care providers](#).

The official who confirmed the reallocation decision spoke on the condition of anonymity before the news was shared publicly,

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