

Dec 29, 2020 - World

# WHO urges vaccinated travelers to keep taking coronavirus precautions



American soldiers line up to receive the first COVID-19 vaccines at the Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, on Tuesday. Photo: United States Forces Korea via Getty Images

same precautions" as those who haven't "till there's a certain level of herd immunity."

**Driving the news:** Swaminathan [was asked](#) whether international travel without quarantine would be possible after [mass coronavirus vaccinations](#). "I don't believe we have the evidence on any of the vaccines to be confident that it's going to prevent people from actually getting the infection and therefore being able to pass it on," she said.

- WHO Health Emergencies director Mike Ryan noted "there's no guarantee of eliminating or eradicating an infectious disease" — even with a vaccine that has high efficacy as the ones being rolled out are.
- "That is a very high bar for us to be able to get over," he said.

**Why it matters:** Many tourism-reliant countries, along with the travel and tourism industry, are hopeful that coronavirus vaccinations will see global travel start to make a comeback next year, with international borders reopening.

- The airline industry has [developed mobile apps](#) that would receive coronavirus test and vaccination certificates — though Axios' [Joann Muller reports](#) that COVID-19 tests will be the passport to travel in 2021

**The big questions:** In addition to the uncertainty on whether vaccines will stop transmission of the virus

- It's also unknown whether people can have rare or delayed side effects, which could be detected in long-term trials with millions of participants.

**By the numbers:** COVID-19 has killed nearly 335,000 people and infected over 19.3 million in the U.S., [per Johns Hopkins](#).

- Globally, almost 1.8 million people have lost their lives to the virus and nearly 81.3 million have tested positive.

**Worth noting:** Ryan said "the likely scenario" for the virus once brought under control is that it will "become another endemic virus that will remain somewhat of a threat, but a very low level threat in the context of an effective global vaccination program."

**Go deeper:** [Coronavirus won't disappear, even with a vaccine](#)



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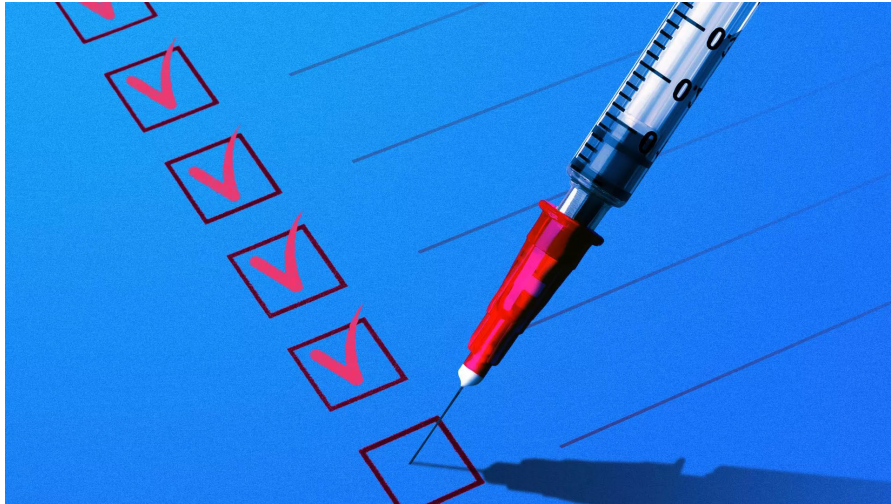


Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios

The Food and Drug Administration [released a statement](#) last night throwing cold water, for now at least, on ideas to shake up coronavirus vaccine dosing regimens in order to stretch limited supplies.

**What's happening:** Some experts have been pushing ideas like delaying the administration of second doses or halving the vaccine dosage given in order to vaccinate more people sooner, but none of these methods have been tested in clinical trials.

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## Debating the origins of COVID-19

Illustration: Aïda Amer/Axios

A World Health Organization team is beginning a long-delayed investigation in China into how SARS-CoV-2 emerged, as a theory about a possible lab accident is raised in a major magazine.

**Why it matters:** Understanding the origins of COVID-19 is vital if we're going to prevent the next pandemic.

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Jonathan Swan  
May 3, 2020 - Politics & Policy

## Exclusive: FEMA braces for COVID-infected hurricane season

Management Agency, is drafting a document whose title sounds like the stuff of horror movies: "COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season."

**Driving the news:** "We're doing a lot of things that are not necessarily in any playbook that has existed," Gaynor told me in an interview on Saturday. "In some cases, we write the playbook as we go."

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