

Fauci explains why you're not getting a coronavirus vaccine anytime soon



File photo dated June 23, 2020 of Director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr. Anthony Fauci wears a face mask while he waits to testify before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on the Trump Administration's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, USA. Image source: [Photo by Kevin Dietsch/Pool/Abaca/Sipa USA \(Sipa via AP Images\)](#)

By [Chris Smith @chris_writes](#)

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- **Recent coronavirus vaccine research showed promising results from several drugs that are in advanced stages of clinical trials.**
- **Some of these vaccine candidates will complete Phase 3 trials in the coming months and could receive emergency use authorization this fall if they turn out to be effective and safe.**

- **But Dr. Anthony Fauci explained in an interview that the vaccines won't be widely available to the public until sometime in 2021, even if they're approved this year.**

Vaccines that can block the novel coronavirus from infecting cells are our best hope to return to a sense of normalcy. And several vaccine candidates have already shown promising results. [They can block the novel coronavirus with minimal side effects.](#) But the critical Phase

3 trials haven't yet begun for several of these experimental compounds since tens of thousands of volunteers from around the world need to be enrolled in the trials. Once the research is done, regulators could approve the first vaccines for emergency use as soon as this fall, assuming everything goes according to plan. But significant hurdles remain, and Dr. Anthony Fauci explains why even if vaccines are approved this year, they won't be widely available until sometime in 2021.

The US government has inked deals with AstraZeneca and Pfizer for the Oxford and BioNTech vaccines, respectively, ensuring the supply of hundreds of millions of doses. Moderna is also developing its vaccine candidate in partnership with the US government. But there's no guarantee that any of these drugs will eventually be approved, no matter how promising they might seem right now.

If they are approved, the logistics of manufacturing and deploying the drugs could still delay vaccination campaigns, especially in developing nations. Not to mention that there's a growing portion of the population that opposes vaccines, and they may hinder COVID-19 immunization campaigns.

Fauci said during a live [Q&A session with The Washington Post](#) that a vaccine will probably not be "widely available" to the American public until "several months" into 2021.

"It is likely that at the beginning of next year we would have tens of millions of doses available," Fauci said, adding that some companies predicted they'll make even more doses than that. "I think as we get into 2021, several months in, that you would have vaccines that would be widely available."

We've often talked about emergency use for vaccines and other drugs that could be effective against the virus, but Fauci did not address that aspect. If vaccine research is completed sometime this fall, the FDA could approve the successful candidates for emergency

deployment. But in such a case, it's not the general public that will have access to the drug, nor should it be. Healthcare workers and other people who are regularly exposed to the virus, as well as at-risk patients like the elderly, could be among the first to be inoculated. As more supply becomes available, widespread vaccination campaigns can start. The same thing goes for the rest of the world, not just the US. Proving a vaccine is effective and safe against COVID-19 is just the first step. Actually supplying the whole world is a massive endeavor that could take years and tens of billions of doses.

Still, coronavirus vaccines are on track to be available in the coming months, which is an extraordinary accomplishment for the scientific community. There's always a chance that the favorites mentioned above might not be validated by the final trial. But about 25 experimental vaccines are in human trials right now out of more than 150 candidates, [CNBC reports](#). This gives us more chances of finding some that work.

Fauci also addressed another vital vaccine aspect of this endeavor, [the immune system's response](#). The director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases discussed recent research that says antibodies can disappear after as little as three months. Studies explained that the immune response is more elaborate than that, highlighting the T cell response that's not captured by antibody tests. Even some vaccine researchers started reporting the dual protection their drugs can deliver, which includes both neutralizing antibodies as well as T cells.

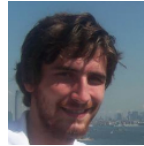
The expert said that antibodies are an area where "we need to get more information."

"We are only six months into the outbreak," he said. "Since we are only six months into it, we don't know how long [antibodies] last in most of the people. But the fact is ... that there are some people where antibodies only last a short period of time. We need to know what that means."

Fauci continued, “Again, we are learning as the weeks and months go by, but we don’t have all the information that we need.”

Tags: [Anthony Fauci](#), [coronavirus](#), [covid-19](#), [vaccine](#)

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Chris Smith started writing about gadgets as a hobby, and before he knew it he was sharing his views on tech stuff with readers around the world. Whenever he's not writing about gadgets he miserably fails to stay away from them, although he desperately tries. But that's not necessarily a bad thing.

BGR Top Deals

Dr. Fauci says this is the most important thing you can do to fight coronavirus



Dr. Anthony Fauci said we all need to be wearing face masks, with everyday regularity, in order for the US to get out of this first wave of the coronavirus pandemic. Image source: Kevin Dietsch/ Pool/Abaca/ Sipa USA via AP Images

By [Andy Meek @aemeek](#) July 25th, 2020 at 1:34 PM

- **At this point, no one should be told what coronavirus tips experts recommend in terms of regular behaviors that people should be practicing to keep themselves and others safe from the virus.**
- **Nevertheless, Dr. Anthony Fauci at a virtual event on Friday stressed that people need to do at least one thing every**

day to improve the US coronavirus situation: Wear a face mask.

- **In fact, Dr. Fauci encouraged governments and local officials to be as forceful as possible in urging citizens to wear masks.**

The steady drumbeat of morose headlines related to the [coronavirus pandemic](#) can start to have a deadening effect on you, if you’re not careful. Cases keep going up, Americans are still incredibly limited in what they can do and [where they can go](#), travel outside the US has been almost entirely closed off, and a [coronavirus vaccine](#) still feels maddeningly far away. However, as the week drew to a close, federal officials began to stress that there are hopeful signs that we may be turning a corner in the fight against the coronavirus, such as the [US Dept. of Health and Human Services](#) asserting that the [coronavirus death rate](#) in the US should start to decline in the “next couple of weeks.”

According to Admiral Brett Giroir, an assistant secretary for health at HHS, the seven-day rolling average of coronavirus [infections](#) is declining, which is leading US officials to forecast that

hospitalizations will drop next week and death rates after that, since those numbers lag the most.

Here's the thing, though. Whether that turns out to be rosy and overly optimistic or at least somewhat accurate is dependent largely on, well, you. Specifically, on whether the majority of us continue to engage in the best practices that are understood to limit the spread of the virus, like [wearing face masks](#). "Nobody's letting up their foot from the gas," Giroir said during a briefing to reporters. "If we throw caution to the wind, go back to the bars, this will all go into reverse."

Here's a similarly hopeful vision that White House health advisor [Dr. Anthony Fauci](#) shared during a US Chamber of Commerce virtual event on Friday.

"We feel cautiously optimistic that we are on the road — as bleak as it may sound right now — that we're on the road of getting this under control," Fauci said, the day after he threw out the ceremonial first pitch of the 2020 Major League Baseball season before the game between the Washington Nationals and the New York Yankees.

Continued Fauci: "We will ultimately get back to normal ... Sometimes you get so exasperated and run down by (the news), that you think is never

going to end. It will end. It will end through public health measures and science, I can tell you, will come to our rescue."

And here's how we can speed that process along. Wear. Your. Face. Mask. This is how Fauci says we will get out of this first wave of the pandemic.

"I would urge the leaders — the local, political and other leaders — in states and cities and towns to be as forceful as possible in getting your citizenry to wear masks," Fauci said Friday. "Physical distancing is the most important, but practically when you're living your life and trying to open up the country, you are going to come into contact with people. And for that reason, we know that masks are really important. And we should be using them. Everyone."

Tags: [Anthony Fauci](#), [coronavirus](#), [face mask](#)



Andy is a reporter in Memphis who also contributes to outlets like Fast Company and The Guardian. When he's not writing about technology, he can be found hunched protectively over his burgeoning collection of vinyl, as well as nursing his Whovianism and bingeing on a variety of TV shows you probably don't like.