



From the President's Desk:

By *Mary Lou Ambrose*

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I hope this finds everyone healthy and happy, free of the virus and ready to move forward. Well, as happy one can be while living in the throws of a pandemic. It has been a very unusual year and I cannot think of anyone who will not be happy when 2021 starts and brings the hope of the vaccines. In the next few weeks many of us will be able to get the corona virus

vaccine. It is the first step in returning to some sort of reality. I have never before been happy that I am as old as I am, but right now it seems to be a good thing since age is a prerequisite for getting the vaccine early. Hopefully, the planning will go well, and everyone will have the opportunity to be vaccinated very soon. (We just need to keep our Governor away from any decision-making.)

I know that over the last year many of you have worked to see that Donald Trump

was defeated – making calls, sending texts, handing out materials, whatever it took. And it worked! At least it worked in Blue Pinellas County. Florida, however, still needs a lot of work. I wish we had taken a few more seats rather than lose some, especially given the very high caliber of our local candidates. But the required win has happened and the future of the Democracy is possible.

The fact is that as a country we dodged a huge bullet by defeating Trump. It is not going too far to say that we saved our Democracy, as damaged and in need of work as bringing it back will be. If you think as I do, you will hold your breath waiting for noon on January 20th 2021. Then the time for rebuilding will

begin. It will not be a simple task. That task will be somewhat easier if, on January 5th, Rev. Warnock and Jon Ossoff win in Georgia. If not, President Biden will have an immense job before him through a damaged Republican Party which seems to have lost its way. Biden has shown remarkable restraint and been dogged about planning his administration. Kamala Harris seems to be

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No meeting in December.

No Holiday Potluck this year (sorry)

MLA from Page 1

more than up to the VP job and on top of what her important role will be. They can do the job if we all support them.

As I write this, our Congress has finally passed a bill aimed at helping those most affected by Covid-19. It certainly has taken a while. I do not have to tell you that the legislation sat on the desk of Scrooge, otherwise known as Mitch McConnell, unread, for nine months while people lost jobs, unemployment insurance ran out, and the help given initially in things like protection for renters, ran out. The initial \$1200.00 cash payment had long since been spent on such frivolous things like food or rent. After 9 months Congress now offers half the one-time amount. It seems that members of the Republican Party feel that people would "take advantage" if the larger payment were repeated. Senator Johnson (the guy who rarely wears a suit jacket) said last week that if people

needed money, they should get a job! Really! Can you believe it? In his Ivory Tower of the US Senate, he simply cannot (or possibly will not) understand or care what so many people are going through. It adds insult to injury. Johnson was among the Senators who followed the Fake President in making the coronavirus so much worse. They played down the incredibly significant dangers of the virus and held back vital information and means of protection. Donald Trump and those who support him are personally responsible for so many deaths. It really seems they could care less how many have died and how many more suffered with this terrible virus. Trump could care less about the suffering.

I was reminded of all this on Saturday when we sat down to watch the George C. Scott version of *A Christmas Carol*. The

scene where Jacob Marley tells Scrooge why he is wandering the earth as a spirit bound by the chains he "forged in life. I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on by my own free will, and by my own free will I wore it." As they talked, Scrooge praised Marley for being a fine businessman, to which Marley answered:

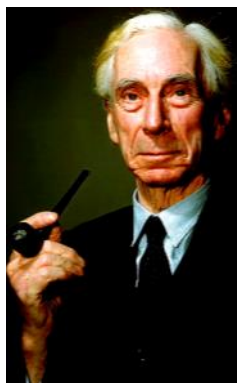
"Business! Man-kind was my business, the common welfare was my business, charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were all my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business."

As I listened to that, I wished that the Republican party as a whole could be forced

into a room to hear that repeated until the concept became plugged into their conservative brains. They will never be convinced that we need a government by, for and of the people. The "for" part seems to escape them completely. While I cannot claim that Democrats fully embrace the welfare of all as a concept, they do a heck of a lot better at it than Republicans, especially in this age of Trump Republicans.

We have made it through this far and the new beginnings are well planned. With the support of all Democrats (and even some Republicans,) along with a lot of work, we will get through to the other side,

Happy Holidays to you and yours. Best wishes for a safe and happy New Year.



"And so, to the man tempted by despair, I say: Remind yourself that the world is what we make it, and that to the making of it each one of us can contribute something. This thought makes hope possible: and in this hope, though life will still be painful, it will be no longer purposeless."

— Bertrand Russell

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN



Nominations for Club Officers
And directors
are now open; Submit nominations
to Ginny Nelson or Bob Glass

Election will be March 15

To be eligible to RUN for Officer or Director, OR to
VOTE, your 2021 Dues must be paid by Jan. 22,
2021

Officer positions to be voted on include:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

**Director to be elected are all at-large posi-
tions.**

Click on LINK

**5 director positions to be elected in
March.**

**JOIN
NOW!**

GINNY.NELSON72@GMAIL.COM

GLASSRG@GMAIL.COM

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We're not done yet!!



HOW YOU CAN HELP WIN IN GEORGIA AND TAKE BACK THE SENATE

We've got one last shot to take back the Senate -- two runoff elections in Georgia happening on Tuesday, January 5th will be the deciding factor for the balance of political power in Congress. Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff are running to finish what was started in the general election, where Georgia voted to elect a Democratic president for the first time since 1992. This race IS winnable, and we know what it will take to do it: close partnership with Georgia Indivisibles, strategic collaboration with other partner organizations and allies on the ground, and good old-fashioned people power.

If you are ready to do your part to help win these critical Senate races, check out our list of actions and resources below. We'll be adding more actions as we finalize them! *Please note that due to overwhelming interest, some*

opportunities may close to new volunteers.

If you're outside of Georgia, here are ways you can help contact voters and support the work happening across the state:

[Click on LINK](#)

Sign up for our upcoming [GOTV](#)

[Call-a-Thon on Monday, January 4, beginning at 6pm Eastern Time](#) to make calls to key voters and provide important information on how to vote.

- Get involved with voter contact opportunities through our partners:

[Click on LINK](#)

- [Sign up to make calls to Black voters in Georgia with Color of Change](#)
- Allies for Black Joy events hosted by Color of Change. These events are spaces for folks to discuss what allyship looks like in this moment and how to make a plan to leverage power and ensure a win in

Georgia.

- [Wednesday, December 16, 8-9pm ET](#)
- [Monday, December 21, 8-9pm ET](#)
- [Monday, December 28, 8-9pm ET](#)

For Spanish speakers only: [Sign up to make calls to Latino voters with Mijente PAC](#)

To make all this possible and fund ads and more, we've increased our budget -- and we know the campaigns need our support too. So we've set up a page where you can split a donation between the Warnock and Ossoff campaigns and Indivisible: [Click here to win in Georgia and support all our work to head into 2021 strong.](#)

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2021 PC DEC Officers

On Monday, December 7th, the Pinellas County Democratic Party elected its officer for the next two years. We are happy to announce the following will serve as officer for 2021-2022.

Office	Elected
Chair	Barbara Scott
Vice Chair	Jeff Cox
State Committeewoman	Lucinda Johnson
State Committeeman	Rick Boylan
Secretary	Amy Bordeaux
Treasurer	Deborah Velleco
Sergeant - At—Arms	Tice Ridley

[Click on image](#)



CONTACT US

2250 1st Avenue North
St Petersburg, FL 33713

Office hours vary based on volunteer availability. Please call or email for more information.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES!



YOUR Democratic Club



Click on
LINK



Dues are \$15 per year, payable in January of each year. Dues paid in the last quarter of this year will carry forward into 2021.

If you have not already paid you can pay online at:

<https://www.largodemocrats.org/get-involved>

Or mail a check to

Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club

P O Box 1242

Largo, FL 33779

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District News

The District officers for 2021-2022 will be elected — by their district’s precinct members—at the January meeting. The process has not been finalized as of yet.

Each District Organization shall, within its District, implement the policies of the County Committee, strengthen the precinct organization, and carry out campaign activities within the parameters of the Campaign plan developed by the Campaign Planning Committee. The offices to be elected are:

- ⇒ **District Chair**
- ⇒ **District Vice-Chair**
- ⇒ **District Secretary/Treasurer**
- ⇒ **Member of the Grievance Committee**
- ⇒ **Member of the Rules and Bylaws Committee**
- ⇒ **Member of other committees as specified by the Bylaws or Board**

The District Chairs are automatically members of the Pinellas County Democratic Executive Board, and of the Outreach Committee, and are responsible for organizing their district to keep Democrats advised of upcoming elections, assist in recruiting candidates, organize to support Democratic Candidates, organize the District to Get Out The Vote during elections. The District Organizations have been especially active and effective in recent years, growing the volunteer base and working in the community. It is an important grassroots base for the Democratic Party.

If you are an elected Precinct Committee Person, you can participate in the District Elections in January.—by running for office, or by voting! You will receive a meeting notice.



Here are some ways you can take action.

Training

North Pinellas MiniVAN Texting Training

Virtual event · Join from anywhere

Almost all texts get opened, so texting is a great way to reach voters! We are adopting precincts so you or other volunteers can text the same people for the n...

Click on
LINK



[Show details](#)

Eastern time

Wed, Jan 13 · 7–8pm

Wed, Jan 20 · 7–8pm

Wed, Jan 27 · 7–8pm

Wed, Feb 3 · 7–8pm

more times

Meeting

P.C.Y.D. Virtual Meeting

Virtual event · Join from anywhere

Sign up to receive a Zoom meeting invite.

[Show details](#)

Eastern time

Tue, Jan 19 · 7–8pm

Meeting

Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas -

ZOOM meeting - Re-scheduled from 12/9

Virtual event · Join from anywhere

The Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas is still not having live meetings, but we're meeting in Zoom. We had some technical difficulties with our Decembe...

[Show details](#)

Eastern time

Mon, Dec 21 · 12–1:30pm

Training

District 65 Virtual VAN Training

Virtual event · Join from anywhere

Every PCP needs Votebuilder aka VAN in their toolkit. Learn the basics such as searching a voter, creating a list, naming folders and files, creating mailing l...

[Show details](#)

Eastern time

Sat, Feb 20 · 10–1pm

Sun, Feb 28 · 1–4pm



Dear Democrats,

Happy Holiday season to all!

I hope you have seen the news that FDP staff has officially unionized, joining the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Local 824, AFL-CIO! Democrats and the labor movement have consistently been advocates for working people. By unionizing, FDP is making history while living our values and underscoring our commitment to working people, including our own employees.

And while we live our values, we continue to call out Republicans for deserting Floridians struggling during this health pandemic and unemployment crisis.

Thankfully, relief is on the way! As of Saturday, there are just 32 days until Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are sworn into office as the 46th President and Vice President of the United States. I know we all can't wait! And there are 689 days till November 8, 2022.

We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! While our celebrations are different this year, be sure to take time to rest and re-energize. See below for FDP's holiday office hours along with ways you can help the Georgia Senate races throughout these holiday weeks.

Happy Holidays,

Terrie Rizzo
Chair
Florida Democratic Party

Help With Georgia US Senate Runoff Elections

Thank you to everyone who has been volunteering and assisting Georgia Democrats with the **January 5** Jon Ossoff and Reverend Raphael Warnock Georgia Senate races. We are proud to also have many of our former FDP Field Team members now working in Georgia, including Directors Abi Yisrael and Keith Hardy!

Georgia Early Voting began December 14, and we have additional information from the Georgia Democratic Party (GDP) on ways Out of State (OOS) volunteers can help Georgia

#WinTheWholeDemThing by

volunteering virtually or in-person.

[Click Here for a Volunteer Cheat Sheet](#)

[Click on LINK](#)



Are you an experienced campaigner willing to volunteer? [Please complete this form to tell the GDP more about your experience and how you'd like to help.](#)

The biggest need from OOS volunteers is phone banking. Talking to voters is the most crucial way to influence the outcome of an election, and the Georgia Calling Team is ready to empower you to do just that! [Sign up for phone banking shifts here.](#)

Inauguration Update

The Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC) has created a website to share updates about Inaugural events and ways to engage with the Inauguration, themed "Our Determined Democracy: Forging a More Perfect Union." The committee is working to honor the American inaugural traditions and engage Americans across the country while keeping everybody healthy and safe. Visit [bideninaugural.org](https://www.bideninaugural.org) for more information.

The Big Picture: Biden's Cabinet Takes Shape

— Domenico Montanaro, NPR's senior political editor/correspondent



President-elect Joe Biden has [nearly filled out the list](#) of people he wants in his Cabinet, and it's showing the kinds of people Biden intends to surround himself with and whom he wants to run critical government agencies.

Whom the president listens to and who runs those agencies is important, especially for Biden. He pledged to appoint a Cabinet that looks like America, and he's contending with a progressive left that wants him to have as diverse a Cabinet as possible.

He also ran on competence, criticizing President Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, in particular. He has to hit the ground running with a Cabinet that can get the work done right away — and smoothly — in a time when the country is dealing with multiple crises, from health to economic to racial justice.

So what's it looking like? Dive in, by the numbers:

19 total selected so far out of the 25 Cabinet or Cabinet-level positions for his administration.

11 people of color, which is more than half so far.

10 of Biden's picks are women, more than half of those picked so far. Trump's Cabinet is 83% male, including 78% white male; Biden's is 47%

male at this point.

6 Black Americans are part of Biden's group, almost a third — four of whom are Black women. For comparison, just one Black man serves in Trump's Cabinet (Ben Carson at Housing and Urban Development).

3 Asian American picks. Trump has one Asian American Cabinet secretary (Elaine Chao at Transportation).

2 Latinos. In Trump's Cabinet, Jovita Carranza of the Small Business Administration is the only Latino.

1 Native American, [who would be the first ever in a president's Cabinet](#).

1 openly gay man, who would be [the first ever confirmed](#) to a president's Cabinet.

Biden still has six big jobs left to fill:

- ⇒ attorney general,
- ⇒ commerce,
- ⇒ labor and
- ⇒ education secretaries,
- ⇒ director of the CIA, and Small Business Administration administrator.

— Domenico Montanaro, NPR's senior political editor/correspondent

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Biden-Harris Administration

Cabinet Position	Nominee	An-nounced	Background
Secretary of State	Antony Blinken	11/23/20	Biden's top foreign policy aide, former Obama Deputy Secretary of State, former Deputy National Security Advisor. Age 58
Secretary of the Treasury	Janet Yellen	12/1/20	First woman to Chair the Federal Reserve (2014-2018), former Vice Chair of the Fed, former Chair of the WH Council of Economic Advisor. Age 74
Secretary of Defense	Lloyd Austin	12/9/20	Retired four-star Army General, former Commander of the US Central Command, former Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and commanding general of US forces in Iraq. Will be the first African American to hold the position. Age 67
Secretary of Agriculture	Tom Vilsack	12/10/20	Current CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council, former Obama Secretary of Agriculture (2009-2017), former Governor of Iowa (1999 to 2007). Age 69
Secretary of Health and Human Services	Xavier Becerra	12/7/20	California Attorney General, former Congressman (1993-2017). Age 62
Secretary of Housing & Urban Development	Marcia Fudge	12/10/20	US Congresswoman from Ohio's 11th CD (since 2008), past Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. Age 68
Secretary of Transportation	Pete Buttigieg	12/15/20	Former Mayor of South Bend, Indiana, former 2020 Democratic presidential candidate, veteran. Will be the first openly LGBTQ+ Cabinet member. Age 38
Secretary of Energy	Jennifer Granholm	12/15/20	Former Governor of Michigan (2003 to 2011), former Michigan Attorney General. Currently Sr Advisor, Pew Charitable Trusts' Clean Energy Program CNN, adjunct law professor at UC Berkeley, CNN contributor. Age 61
Secretary of Veterans Affairs	Denis McDonough	12/10/20	Former White House Chief of Staff, Deputy National Security Advisor, and Chief of Staff of Obama's National Security Council. Age 51
Secretary of Homeland Security	Alejandro Mayorkas	11/23/20	Former Obama Deputy Secretary of DHS, former Director, US Citizenship & Immigration. First Latino & Immigrant to lead DHS. Age 61

Biden-Harris Administration

Cabinet-level Position	Nominee	Announced	Background
Chief of Staff	Ron Klain	11/11/20	Biden Campaign Senior Advisor, former Obama White House Ebola Response Coordinator, former Chief of Staff to VP Biden and VP Al Gore. Age 59
National Security Council Special Envoy on Climate	John Kerry	11/23/20	Former Obama Secretary of State, former US Senator, 2004 Democratic Nominee for President. Age 76
US Trade Representative	Katherine Tai	12/10/20	Lead Trade Counsel on the House Ways and Means Committee, former office of USTR/China expert under Obama. She will be the first Asian American woman to hold the position. Age 42
Director of National Intelligence	Avril Haines	11/23/20	Former Obama Deputy National Security Adviser, former Deputy Director of the CIA. First woman to lead the intelligence community. Age 51
Director, Office of Management & Budget	Neera Tanden	12/1/20	President & CEO, Center for American Progress, former Obama Senior Advisor for Health Reform at Health & Human Services, former Deputy Campaign Manager & Policy Director for Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. Age 50
US Ambassador to the United Nations	Linda Thomas-Greenfield	11/23/20	Former Obama Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, former Director General of the US Foreign Service, former US Ambassador to Liberia. Age 68
Chair, Council of Economic Advisors Chair	Cecilia Rouse	12/1/20	Dean of the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, former member of Obama's Council of Economic Advisors. Will be the first African American to lead the Council of Economic Advisors. Age 56
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency	Michael Regan	12/15/20	Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, former Environmental Defense Fund regional director, worked at EPA under Bush and Clinton. Would be the first black male to run EPA. Age 44

Biden-Harris Administration

Other senior posts that may be elevated to Cabinet-level include Jake Sullivan as National Security Advisor, Susan Rice as Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council and Dr. Vivek Murthy as Surgeon General.

Update on the Outstanding

Cabinet or Cabinet-level Position	The Contenders
Attorney General	Doug Jones: US Senator (lost reelection November, 2020) Sally Yates: Former Acting US Attorney General, former Obama Deputy US Attorney General Merrick Garland: US Court of Appeals Judge for DC Circuit, Obama 2016 Supreme Court nominee Andrew Cuomo: Governor of New York
Director, Central Intelligence Agency	Michael Morell: Former Deputy Director of the CIA, and twice CIA Acting Director under Obama. Currently at Beacon Global Strategies Tom Donilon: Former Obama National Security Adviser, worked in the Carter and Clinton administrations, including as Chief of Staff of the US State Department. Longtime adviser to Biden. Currently at BlackRock Investment Institute
Secretary of the Interior	Deb Halland: US Congresswoman, former New Mexico Democratic Party Chair Tom Udall: US Senator from New Mexico
Secretary of Commerce	Meg Whitman: CEO of Quibi, former CEO of eBay and Hewlett Packard and former Republican candidate for Governor of California Mellody Hobson: President and co-CEO of Ariel Investments, former Chairwoman of DreamWorks Animation Indra Nooyi: Co-director of the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, former Chair & CEO of Pepsico Ursula Burns: Senior advisor at Teneo, former Chair & CEO of VEON, former CEO Xerox Andrew Yang: Tech Entrepreneur and former 2020 Presidential Candidate
Secretary of Labor	Julie Su: Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, former California Labor commissioner Marty Walsh: Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts, former head of the Boston Building Trades Council, former Massachusetts House member Andy Levin: US Congressman from Michigan, former acting director the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth
Secretary of Education	Randi Weingarten: President of the American Federation of Teachers Lily Eskelsen Garcia: Former President of the National Education Association
Administrator, Small Business Administration	Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms is rumored to have been offered the Cabinet-level post but turned it down. Other contenders TBD.

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Opinion & Letters

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

By **T.J. Ortenzi**

Must Reads: Answers to 9 important questions on the coronavirus vaccine

When the first doses of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine were administered to American medical workers this week, I was surprised by my own reaction. I felt a wave of relief, like it could be the beginning of the end, and I allowed myself to imagine a world where my kids could go back to school and I could visit my grandmother again. Then the feeling shifted to slight jealousy — *how long would I have to wait for the vaccine?*

This seemed like the perfect time to reach out to my colleagues [Lena Sun](#), [Carolyn Johnson](#) and [Joel Achenbach](#), who have been covering the pandemic all year. All three were writing

on deadline Thursday; Sun was documenting state officials' confusion [over reduced vaccine shipments](#); Johnson was covering an all-day meeting by a Food and Drug Administration advisory panel reviewing the [safety and efficacy of Moderna's vaccine](#); Achenbach was reporting on an [Alaska nurse's allergic reaction to the Pfizer vaccine](#). All three spoke to me in separate chats and interviews Friday to answer questions about those extra doses in the Pfizer vials, the fairness and logic of the distribution process and guidance for pregnant women. Below is a lightly edited transcript of their answers. If you have questions that aren't addressed here, take a look at [our FAQ](#).

Q. Who decides which groups should get priority access to the vac-

cine?

Lena Sun: An independent panel of experts on immunizations makes recommendations to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is called the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Their recommendations have been the gold standard for evidence-based guidance for the use of vaccines in the United States for decades. Health-care providers rely on their recommendations because of the committee's reputation for rigor and attention to detail. Once approved — it is very rare that the CDC director does not approve — the recommendation becomes official CDC recommendation. Based on the ACIP recommendation, the CDC has recommended that [health-care providers and residents of long-term care facilities](#) be first to get the limited number of doses. States

can decide how they plan to prioritize their doses, and some have already focused on different priority groups. But they look to the federal recommendation for guidance.

The [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) is scheduled to vote Dec. 20 on recommendations for the next priority groups, heightening the pressure on state officials to refine their plans.

Q. How are the vaccines doled out?

Sun: The federal government uses a pro rata formula based on the overall population of the 18 and over population in each state. [If California represents 10 percent of the U.S. population, then California would get 10 percent of the total doses.] It doesn't quite work out exactly because there are several major metro areas like New York, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia that

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receive their allocation separately separate from the state.

Q. When do you think vaccines will be available for children?

Carolyn Johnson:

Because the disease has relatively low risks for children, I think that those will come later. Pfizer's vaccine is already authorized for people 16 and older, but in October Pfizer expanded testing to kids 12 and up. And Moderna started testing its vaccine in 12- to 18-year-olds last week. So that data is going to start coming out. I don't think they are going to be prioritized for some time because the vaccine supply will still be limited and they are generally not high risk. But as the supply increases and as the data increases, I can imagine that doses for children will be availa-

ble. An executive speculated that the timeframe might be the fall of next year, but it's very hard to say for sure.

Q. What is going on with those extra doses of the Pfizer vaccine that are appearing in the vials?

Johnson: Pfizer made vials that have enough of the concentrated vaccine for at least five doses. And when you're preparing the vaccine, you take it out of the vial, defrost it, and dilute it with liquid to increase the volume. Then you do a controlled mixing process and it turns out that depending on how you draw out the doses, there can be a little more than the five doses that were promised — [sometimes six doses, sometimes seven](#). If you can take advantage of it, it's just sort of a nice bonus. It would make sense that they

wanted to put in enough volume so there would always be at least five doses in the vial, because that's how it was designed.

Q. What about guidance for people who are pregnant or nursing?

Johnson: The FDA made a very broad indication that they weren't going to restrict pregnant women from taking the vaccine or discourage it. They simply said there isn't enough evidence to fully know the risks and benefits. So people should talk to their doctors. And actually, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists [has put out statements](#) that there are important benefits and no known risks for these vaccines. More comprehensive data will start to be gathered, too. A developmental and reproductive toxicity study for the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines was performed and scientists have not

yet found any concerning signals.

Q. As more companies release their own vaccines with different formulas, do you think doctors or patients will start making demands to receive specific ones?

Johnson: Well, first of all, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines look very similar. They're basically indistinguishable in the data we have. So there isn't anything to say, "Oh, if you're older, you need to take this one versus that one." We might get more data with more vaccines that would help patients and doctors eventually make decisions like that, but it's too early. There's also just not enough doses. So I think if people have access to a vaccine, they should take it. You know, millions of us get a flu vaccine every year, but do we ever

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pay attention to the manufacturer? There isn't just one flu vaccine maker.

Q. What sort of side effects or can occur from these vaccines? How common are they?
Joel

Achenbach: Roughly half the people who get an injection have minor side effects like soreness at the injection site, fatigue or a little bit of a headache. Those symptoms usually go away in a day or two, according to what we've seen in the trials. And those side effects are just an example of the body's immune system kicking into gear and doing what it's supposed to do. The mild side effects are kind of a good thing that show [the vaccine is working](#). They're also more common in young people than in old people, and they're more common after the second shot than the

first. The reason it's stronger in young people is simply because they have more robust immune systems and a more vigorous response to this [messenger RNA](#) coming into their body and causing the new protein to be manufactured.

Q. What about more serious complications? How often do they occur and what causes them?

Achenbach: We don't know what causes the more serious reactions. Among vaccines of all types, roughly one in a million vaccinations causes a severe allergic reaction known as anaphylaxis, according to Dr. Paul Offit, who's an expert on this topic at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Anaphylaxis is a sudden, very serious allergic reaction that can potentially be fatal if you don't have medicine handy, like an EpiPen. As a precaution, health officials are telling people with a history of severe allergic reactions

to a vaccine to stick around for 30 minutes to be observed. People without histories of severe allergic reactions are being asked to stick around 15 minutes after they receive the vaccine. So far we have heard of just three such full-blown cases. Two were [in the United Kingdom](#) and [one was in Juneau, Alaska](#). And if there's one good thing about these incidents of the reactions, it's that they all happened quickly, which suggests that the 15-minute standard is a good one.

Q. How should these rare complications factor into a person's decision to get the vaccine?

Achenbach: People should know that as journalists, we work really hard to get the science exactly right, and to cover the news in proper proportion to its significance. And something like this Alaska case is important because we want people to have the

information and we want to be transparent about the risks; people also need context for the news. About 1.5 million doses of the vaccine have been distributed by Operation Warp Speed as of Thursday morning, and while we don't yet know how many have been administered, you would expect that when you start rolling out vaccines to millions of people that these rare events will occur. And it's important for people to know that that's not unexpected and that they should just keep it in context. As Tony Fauci said to me on Saturday, ["This in no way is a showstopper."](#)

1. Your questions about the coronavirus vaccine, answered

As the distribution of the vaccine is underway, we answer your questions — from their safety, to how they work and how they were developed so quickly.



Contact your Federal Representative!

Senator Rick Scott Washington, D.C.
United States Senate 83 Russell Senate
Office Building Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-5274

Email: help@rickscott.senate.gov

Senator Marco Rubio United States Senate, 284 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Main: (202) 224-3041, Toll free: (866) 630-7106 Fax: (202) 228-5171, TTY: (407) 254-5548 Tampa: 5201 West Kennedy Boulevard Suite 530 Tampa, FL 33609 Phone: (813) 287-5035 Call: (813) 977-6450

Rep. Charlie Crist - 13th District <http://crist.house.gov/> Washington, DC Office 427 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-5961 Fax: (202) 225-9764 **District Offices Seminole District Office** 9210 113th Street Seminole, FL 33772 (727) 394-6950 (727) 394-6955 (fax) **St. Petersburg District Office** 696 1st Avenue North, Suite #203 St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Phone: (727) 318-6770

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For the most up-to-date information on your Federal, State, and County representatives including all contact information, Go to :

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Why Join the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club?

The club provides a variety of ways to stay informed and involved in local, county, state and national political discussions. But we're not just about talk. We will be part of the action in finding the best candidates and getting them elected, as well as supporting the most important causes. We will write letters, make phone calls, knock on doors, register voters, and whatever else it takes to bring change to our communities, our county and our state. But, just as important, we also want to make time to enjoy each other's company and celebrate each other's efforts at social events throughout the year. Grassroots politics is effective and fun!

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- Meet other active Democrats
- Meet and get to know your elected officials and potential candidates
- Raise funds and work for candidates
- Participate in community service projects
- Hear speakers and discuss issues of local, state and national importance
- Attend special events and monthly meetings.

