

# Students react to COVID-19 vaccine rollout

By **Pearl Ashton** - March 24, 2021



*Army Spc. Angel Laureano holds a vial of the COVID-19 vaccine at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington on Dec. 14, 2020. As of March 24, 2021, all Utah residents 16 and over are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19. (U.S. Secretary of Defense, photo by Lisa Ferdinando)*

As COVID-19 vaccines become more widely available around the country, the amount of people eligible to receive a shot also grows.

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox recently announced that [vaccine eligibility](#) would expand to include all Utahns 16 and older beginning Wednesday. Widespread eligibility was originally planned for April. According to Cox, all of Utah's local and state health departments were on board with the health equity plan.

"It is very exciting that all eligible Utah adults will be able to receive the vaccine," said freshman Eliza Gibson, a film major.

In the United States, three companies currently produce vaccines for distribution: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson.

## COVID-19 vaccine information

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [mRNA](#) is a single-stranded RNA molecule that is complementary to one of the DNA strands of a gene, and scientists have been working on it for decades. The mRNA teaches cells how to make a harmless protein that initiates the immune response in the body. This process creates antibodies that protect people from getting infected by the real virus.

The [Pfizer vaccine](#) is recommended for people aged 16 and older. The [Moderna vaccine](#) is only available for those 18 and older.

Some common side effects of both vaccines can be pain, redness or swelling in the arm where the patient receives the shot. Other side effects that can occur throughout the rest of the body include tiredness, headaches, muscle pain, chills, fevers, and nausea.

Unlike the mRNA vaccines and other types of vaccines that use a weakened pathogen to trigger an immune response, the [Johnson & Johnson vaccine](#) uses a different virus as a vector instead and delivers the instructions to the cells. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is recommended for persons 18 years of age and older.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration first [authorized the Pfizer vaccine](#) on Dec. 11, 2020. The [Moderna vaccine received emergency approval](#) one week later. Both are given in two shots three to four weeks apart.

Johnson & Johnson's vaccine, [the most recent vaccine to be authorized](#), requires only one dose.

All vaccines are administered in the muscle of the upper arm. At this time, no vaccine is available for children under 16.

Sophomore Madison Jaques, a social work major, is excited about the release of the new vaccine.

"With three vaccines being made and distributed, it allows more people to get the vaccine and allows people to have more access to it. ... I think people will be more likely to get the J&J vaccine because it is one shot versus the two that are required with Moderna and Pfizer," she said. "The single-shot vaccine allows people in homeless communities and rural areas to receive the vaccine easier and quicker."

The release of another vaccine and the announcement that all adults are now eligible may get society closer to how it was before the pandemic.

"I think the newly released vaccine is both exciting and intriguing. It seems like the next best step to help with COVID-19," Gibson said. "The new vaccine will hopefully help people in our community feel safer and less at risk. I think it will help those who receive it against COVID-19, as well as give people the opportunity to help our community and world move towards a safer future."

Dr. Francis Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health, told the press, "The most important thing we can do right now is to get as many shots in as many arms as we can."

"I think this is a powerful statement," said Jaques. "This virus has devastated many, whether it be loss of jobs or loss of loved ones. This statement shows that the people in charge are willing to help communities recover and bring a sense of normalcy to society again."

Students attending classes on campus can continue to get regularly tested for COVID-19 using Salt Lake Community College's [testing appointment tool](#).

President Biden said he would [direct all states to expand their eligibility](#) to include all adults to be able to receive the vaccine by May 1.

# What to expect from the latest stimulus package

By **Ryan Polasky** - March 24, 2021



*Vice President Kamala Harris watches as President Joe Biden signs the American Rescue Plan into law on March 11, 2021. The latest COVID-19 relief package aims to help those struggling amid the pandemic. (The White House, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)*

Stimulus checks started finding their way into the bank accounts of millions of Americans after the latest COVID-19 relief package received official approval from President Joe Biden earlier this month.

Not only can we expect to see a little extra cash in our bank accounts, but the bill also includes further assistance via an [extension of supplemental unemployment benefits](#) through early September. Adding to this, households earning less than \$150,000 will be exempt from having to pay federal income taxes on their first \$10,200 of unemployment benefits.

Children, too, will have a part to play in the latest iteration of the stimulus bill, due to an expansion of the [child tax credit](#).

Currently, the child tax credit tops out at \$2,000. However, thanks to the new bill, one can expect to receive up to \$3,600 for children ages 5 and under. As for children ages 6 to 17, the tax credit is worth as much as \$3,000.

Schools, state and local governments, and others will also be getting a helping hand. The bill aims to ease the burden on the communities these institutions serve.

According to [CNET](#), money will also be put towards further combating the virus by directing funds towards supporting hospitals, acquisition of medical supplies, and aiding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in its fight against COVID-19.

Not everyone should expect to receive a stimulus check, however. [Receiving federal aid this time around](#) is strictly a working-class affair.

Individuals who make more than \$75,000 and couples who bring in a combined income more than \$150,000 will see a decrease in the amount of aid they receive. No kind of financial relief will be directed towards a person whose income is equal to or exceeds \$80,000. The same goes for married couples that rake in \$160,000 or more.

With the [current national debt](#) well into the trillions, one may wonder where exactly all this money is coming from.

The Treasury Department issues bonds to the private and public sectors as well as to foreign entities. The bonds state that the government will, eventually, pay back any money borrowed to whoever the bond was issued to with interest. In theory, this will help to keep the economy running and allowing money earned to be saved up for later.

Some of the funds are coming directly from the Federal Reserve, which is also being paid in bonds. But, instead of shelling out actual cash, the Fed is giving the Treasury Department an electronic credit.

Critics of the bill worry this method of borrowing will cause inflation and lead the U.S. to go the way of Zimbabwe, where inflation is so out of control that [trillion-dollar bank notes](#) are everyday currency.

Following the passage of the previous stimulus package, Wall Street Journal Chief of Economics Commentator Greg Ip [quelled these fears](#) by saying, "It's only a problem if they print and they print and they print. And those dollars get spent and spent and spent until all that spending exceeds the supply of goods and services in our economy," adding, "That's when you get high inflation."

Students across the country have been hit especially hard by the economic turmoil resulting from the pandemic, and those at Salt Lake Community College are no exception.

"I know I really need it," stated Haven Shelton, a physics major at SLCC.

Another student, who wished to remain anonymous, also declared that she could really use the help provided from the stimulus bill. However, they stipulated that only those who are in dire need of the money should be allowed to receive it, and that the rich should be left out of receiving such help.

# Photos: SLCC opens Tim and Brenda Huval Student Center

By **Autumn Lucas**, **Globe Staff** - March 24, 2021

Salt Lake Community College held a invitation-only ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday for the Tim and Brenda Huval Student Center at Jordan Campus. Globe photographer Autumn Lucas took a tour of the new facility. View the image gallery below.

*The Tim and Brenda Huval Student Center at Jordan Campus*

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*Salt Lake Community College opened the Tim and Brenda Huval Student Center at Jordan Campus.*