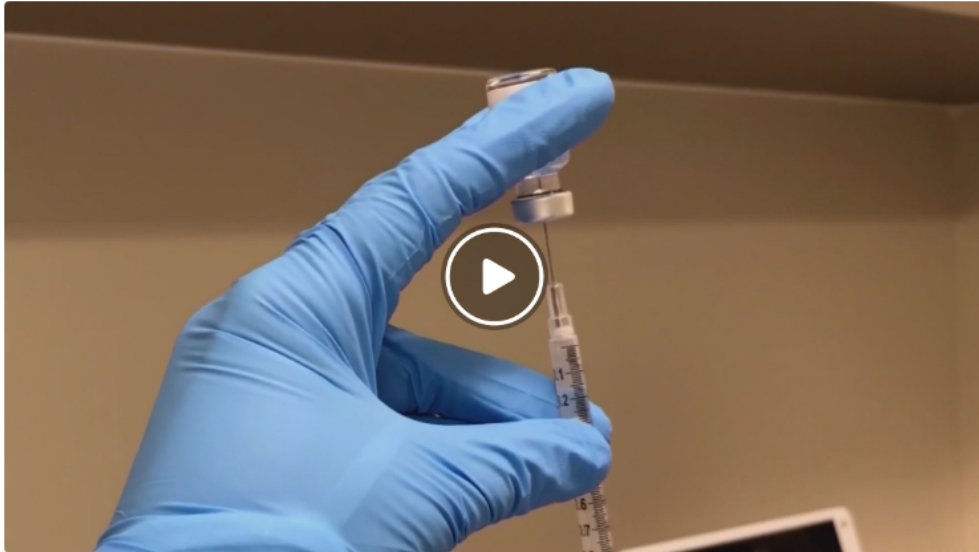


Arizona didn't receive expected full shipment of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines

JEFF POPOVICH, SPENCER BLAKE

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The Arizona Department of Health Services said it received only about 60% of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine it requested and wonders why that happened.



PHOENIX (3TV/CBS 5) -- Arizona health officials are requesting clarity and an explanation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention after the state wouldn't receive the full shipment of expected Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines for the week of Dec. 20.

According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, the state expected to order 70,200 doses of the Pfizer vaccine for the week of Dec. 20, but could only order 41,925 doses of the vaccine.

 **Extra doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine found in some vials**

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"We have reached out to the Centers for Disease Control and information for additional information, but we have not been given an official confirmation of the decrease or a reason for the decreased number of doses," DHS Director Dr. Cara Christ said.

The state's goal is to get 70% percent of Arizonans vaccinated against COVID-19, and was expecting 385,000 doses during the month of December. Dr. Christ doesn't know yet if the 28,000 dose difference will be made up in future weeks.

Dr. Ross Goldberg, President of the Arizona Medical Association, says there are smaller shipments all around the country.

"I know it's not the state," he said. "This is coming from a federal level. I know Pfizer's got doses at warehouses, they said. I think there's just some questions regarding allocation from the federal government."

The state is still expected to receive 119,400 doses of the Moderna vaccine, and an order has been placed for local allocators throughout Arizona. AZDHS expects the Moderna vaccine to arrive between Monday, Dec. 21, and Wednesday, Dec. 23.

Maricopa County will receive 18,500 Moderna doses and Pima County will receive 17,000 doses. Arizona's other 13 counties and tribal allocators are expected to receive their expected allocations of the Moderna vaccine.

Moderna's vaccine can be stored for much longer in a fridge than Pfizer's can, which needs to be kept in deep freezers.

Vaccinations of residents and staff in skilled nursing facilities are expected to begin the week of Dec. 27.



Multiple states have been told by the federal government to expect fewer doses of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine than initially promised, leaving health officials across the country confused and frustrated about the crucial rollout plans just days after the first doses were shipped.

CNN