



NOVEMBER ISSUE

Hello Royals!

Welcome back to The Current Uproar! This is our November issue! Check out our previous issues from the past few years on the student newspaper tab on the activities webpage. As always, our newspaper is open to all students and open to a wide variety of content, so if you have any suggestions or would like to become a correspondent, send us an email at nikhiljain04@gmail.com. Hope you enjoy this issue!

Sincerely,
Nikhil Jain
Editor-In-Chief

In This Issue:

New Information Regarding Vaccines



Sports news from the NFL and College



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The Race for a Cure

By Anika Tripathi

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise, most recently surpassing 15 million cases, a new hope is on the horizon, the hope of a vaccine. While the vaccine most definitely doesn't offer a complete recovery from COVID-19, it does offer hope that we can return to some semblance of normalcy. As the talk of vaccines have emerged, three main companies are in the running for a viable, effective vaccine: Moderna, Pfizer, and AstraZeneca. These three companies have been working tirelessly since this pandemic started to create a vaccine and all three of these companies have vaccines they claim to have an effectiveness of 90 percent or more. Pfizer, the most successful one of all three has a tidal efficacy rate of 90 percent and will be coming to the U.S soon as the FDA has most recently given the go ahead for the distribution of the vaccine here in the U.S to the most vulnerable populations as the COVID death rate in the U.S surges to shattering records of more than 3,000 deaths per day. The UK on the other hand, started the vaccine roll out of the Pfizer vaccine to its populations a little over a week ago. The Pfizer vaccine is administered in two doses and health experts warn that the side effects after the first dose may be a bit disparaging but the general public must go back for a second dose, no matter the side effects, for the vaccine to be fully effective. Here in Minnesota, state officials debate who should be given the vaccine first, and the consensus seems to be first giving the vaccines to the elderly and health care workers and then administering shots to teachers to then get kids back in school. The idea is that if teachers are vaccinated, schools are safer as COVID cases in children are low and very few children die from the vaccine. All in all, a vaccine is on the horizon and hope is alive, but we must remain cautious. Cases here in Minnesota and all across the country rise more than ever before due to colder weather forcing people to gather indoors. The vaccine is not yet here and if we give up all social distancing and COVID measures put in place, we still risk the lives of others and ourselves. Health experts also warn that the upcoming holidays most likely will contribute to a winter surge and our nation is already seeing the effects of Thanksgiving as the death toll rises. As a vaccine comes out, remember that there is a chance for semblance of normalcy but only if we stay at home in these next few months to then have many more COVID free months in the future.

Vaccines are here, but what next?

Gavin S.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has given the green light to Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccine. However, its approval doesn't mean that it'll be immediately dealt out to the general public.

Firstly, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)¹ recommends vaccinating highest-risk groups first: that being long term care residents and frontline healthcare workers. In total, this represents approximately 17.6 million people. Secondly, the 'green light' given to the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine was only an emergency use authorization (EUA)²; this means that the trials aren't over yet, and its recipients must be 16 years of age and older. Even though this vaccine hasn't fully completed its trials yet, the results look extremely promising. It looks like the new mRNA vaccine has a 95% efficacy³ rating in preventing infections.

Not far behind Pfizer is Moderna, and chances are its vaccine will also receive an EUA soon (as of 12/18/20)⁴. The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee has backed Moderna's vaccine with 20 votes for it, 0 votes against, and 1 abstention. Nonetheless, this is a non-binding decision for the FDA, and it doesn't have to follow this recommendation. Moderna's vaccine boasts a 94.5% efficacy rating, which also exceeded previous expectations.

Logistics are emerging as a major hurdle too. This past week, the federal government reported that 5.9 million doses of the vaccine had been shipped off to various states, able to inoculate ~2.9 million people⁵. Fleets of trucks and planes utilizing Fedex (covering western U.S.) and UPS⁶ (covering the eastern U.S.) vast transportation networks will carry specialized freezers containing the vaccine.

Rolling out vaccines will have to be quick yet efficient, and people of the highest priority must go first. According to CNN, December through March will be dedicated to vaccinating healthcare workers and at-risk individuals. April through summer is when under 65's will be vaccinated, but if things work out, we could be vaccinated much sooner.

Herd immunity will be the end goal here. Experts aren't sure about the conditions for Covid-19 herd immunity, but JHU says 50-90% of the population will have to be immune. Whether or not we achieve herd immunity through infection or vaccination will be up to the people⁶, and that's why it's important to stay informed.

¹ Check out the ACIP's in depth and staged roll-out plan here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3ot6u3p>

² Generally, a full-authorization requires six months of followup safety data for approval, something that neither drug companies have

³ Vaccine efficacy is the reduction of infections between vaccinated and unvaccinated groups: often done in controlled conditions. A vaccine's effectiveness is shown through its use in the general population

⁴ 1 hour 30 minutes after this was written, the FDA granted Moderna's Vaccine EUA authorization

⁵ Double-dosing required

⁶ A Brookings Institute Fellow even proposed paying people in exchange for vaccination

Musical Notes Monthly edition by Carson Macynski

9th grade VLA

Hopefully, you were able to read my article from last month on Van Halen. Although COVID had been a challenge for many, many musicians were inspired to write new music based on the pandemic. Here are a few examples that I found after surfing the internet.

- 1.) Neil Diamond was born in 1941 and he released many songs including Sweet Caroline and Forever in Blue Jeans. When COVID-19 struck, he took his work Sweet Caroline and made a parody out of it called Wash Your Hands. This song reached over 3 million views as of November 11th, 2020.
- 2.) Taylor Swift was born in 1989 and she pursued a career in country music in 2004. This eventually morphed into country pop music with songs Look What You Made Me Do, Bad Blood, Back To December, I Don't Want To Live Forever with Zayn, Should've Said No, and Teardrops On My Guitar. After a brief pause during the Spring of 2020, she dropped her newest album Folklore for public viewing which was inspired by her time in isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.) Ariana Grande was born in 1993 and started her music career in 2011. Some of her top songs include Side to Side, One Last Time, Love Me Harder, and Best Mistake. When COVID-19 hit, she teamed up with Justin Bieber who was born in 1994 and his top songs were Love Yourself, Baby, Cold Water with Major Lazer, and I Don't Care with Ed Sheeran. At just 15 years old, Justin was nominated for 2 Grammys in 2011, including one for his debut album, My World 2.0. Together, they released Stuck With U which hit over 128 million views as of November 11th which was used as a fundraiser towards the First Responders Children's Foundation.
- 4.) Jon Bon Jovi was the founder of the band Bon Jovi which assembled in 1983 and he released the songs Wanted Dead or Alive, Living on a Prayer, Runaway, Bad Medicine, Lay Your Hands On Me. After asking fans for lyric suggestions when COVID-19 forced lockdowns on the US, he mashed up the suggestions into a song called Do What You Can which was released on August 25th and it received over 2 million views as of November 11th 2020.

NFL Playoff Race

By Nikhil Jain

With the NFL season coming to a close, the playoff race is tightening up. The Chiefs are at the top of the AFC with a record of 13-1 while the Packers lead the NFC at 11-3. The rest of the AFC has the Steelers at 11-2, the Bills at 11-3, the Titans, Browns, and Colts at 10-4, and the Ravens and Dolphins at 9-5. The Raiders are 7-7 and almost eliminated. Since only seven teams make the playoffs, one of these teams is going to miss out along with the Raiders. The odds favor it being the Dolphins but everything is up for grabs. In the NFC, below the Packers are the Saints and Seahawks at 10-4, the Washington Football Team at 6-8 in a horrible division, the Rams and Bucs at 9-5, the Cardinals at 8-6, the Bears at 7-7, and the Vikings at 6-8. The rest of Washington's division has a chance as well but there are many different scenarios with most favoring Washington. Minnesota's loss to the Bears put us in a tough spot and most likely out of the playoffs. The battle for the last spot will be between the Cardinals and Bears. One team I have been impressed with is the Titans as they had multiple COVID-19 outbreaks yet continued to win. It will be interesting to see how everything turns out in this unique season.

College Football Playoffs

By Nikhil Jain

The college football season has been full of surprises. Many games were cancelled due to COVID-19, many players missed games due to COVID-19, and many upsets happened each week. The bracket was set and Alabama came away with the 1 seed followed by Clemson at 2, Ohio State at 3, and Notre Dame at 4. This wasn't too disputed as Clemson and Notre Dame only lost to each other and Alabama and Ohio State finished the season undefeated. Some notable teams left out include undefeated teams like Cincinnati and Coastal Carolina and very good teams like Texas A and M, Oklahoma, Florida, Georgia, and Indiana. Most people expect Alabama to win but this year, anything can happen.

*Thank
you*

