



## **New J&J vaccine could vaccinate an extra 20M by end of March, says doctor**

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3.9 million doses of the new vaccine from Johnson & Johnson are being distributed, and are expected to arrive as early as Tuesday morning, according to officials. The new vaccine is the third to be approved in the U.S. and the first to require a single dose.

“They're being loaded on transport planes now and by the end of March we should have 20 million delivered,” said Dr. Jeffrey Singer of the CATO Institute to The National Desk’s Jan Jeffcoat. “20 million doses by the end of March, equals 20 million vaccinated people.”

The Biden administration promised to vaccinate 100 million people in his first 100 days, a goal that Dr. Singer says is “eminently doable.”

“There's 75 million people who received at least one dose, about 25 million people have received two,” said Dr. Singer. “There's 60 days left to go in the first 100 days. We're vaccinating about 1.7 million people a day and the goal is to get it up to 3 million. We should actually exceed that.”

Even as cases continue to drop, new reports of variants continue to emerge. Replicating and mutating is “what viruses do,” according to Dr. Singer.

“As cases continue to come down, of course there are fewer opportunities for the viruses to replicate because there are fewer cases. So, the number of mutations, the raw number will diminish, but this is just a normal thing that viruses do,” said Dr. Singer.

Dr. Singer’s biggest concern right now is what he considers “pessimistic rhetoric.”

“This constant cautious talk about the vaccines effectiveness against the new variants, or the ability of people who have already been vaccinated to spread the virus, but every indication is that the vaccines against the new variants ... the likelihood of people who have been vaccinated spreading to others are extremely small,” said Dr. Singer. “I think this kind of talk actually discourages people from getting vaccinated. And the sooner everybody gets vaccinated the sooner we're out of this pandemic.”

Instead, Dr. Singer said the vaccines are the “light at the end of the tunnel.”

“I think, personally, they should tell people that immunize people should be able to socialize again with one another as long as everyone's been immunized,” said Dr. Singer. “You can begin hugging and acting like people again.”