

Europe increase in COVID cases due to lag in vaccinations, says doctor

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President Joe Biden is set to reach his goal today of getting 100 million shots into the arms of Americans on day 58 of his presidency, well within his goal of reaching the milestone before his 100th day in office.

“I think it's pretty impressive when you consider in the beginning, we had the hiccups you'd expect when you're trying to get vaccines out to such a large and diverse population,” said Dr. Jeffrey Singer of the CATO Institute to The National Desk's Jan Jeffcoat. “We're vaccinating 2 to 3 million a day. And actually, we're one of the leaders of the world in getting our population vaccinated.”

Currently lagging behind in vaccinations is Europe, as cases rise and strict COVID restrictions are reinforced.

“The European Union has lagged behind most of the developed world, embarrassingly, in not getting their people vaccinated,” said Dr. Singer. “Right across the English Channel in Britain, cases are coming down, hospitalizations are coming down, and 38% of their population has received at least one jab.”

The delay in vaccinations is due to a "very cumbersome bureaucracy" that resulted in a months-long approval process for vaccines, and rampant anti-vaccine sentiment. With some in the U.S. still wary about receiving the vaccination, Dr. Singer says it is “frustrating” to see resistance.

“I have patients in my own practice who say they're waiting to see if it's safe, and I say to them, you have 113 million people vaccinated in the United State, and there have been no deaths,” said Dr. Singer.

Dr. Singer says he's seen additional resistance from people who are against a lot of the pandemic policies as far as lockdowns and social-distancing guidelines.

“Since it's being recommended they get vaccinated, for that reason alone, they don't want to get vaccinated,” said Dr. Singer. “As soon as we all get vaccinated, all these policies that you don't like will go away.”

In order to encourage more people to get vaccinated, Dr. Singer says he'd like to see the Biden administration “take a more positive tone.”

“The key is getting as many people vaccinated as possible, and you're not going to get that by not giving any hope. not telling people there is a light at the end of the tunnel,” said Dr. Singer.

As COVID cases experience an increase, Dr. Anthony Fauci has said we are in a race between the vaccine and the virus in terms of the possibility of a fourth wave of infections.

“I think it's important to distinguish between a surge in cases and a surge in hospitalizations and the hospitalization rates continue to be down, the death rate is coming down dramatically. I think until we reach herd immunity and that's still a while off, we're going to see more cases,” said Dr. Singer.