



# FRIDAY ALERT



**Alliance for Retired Americans**

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## **CDC Votes on Who Will Get Covid-19 Vaccine First**

On Tuesday, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expert panel decided that the first doses of a Covid-19 vaccine should go to health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities. The FDA is set to approve the emergency use of two vaccines later this month, which means that some people in those two groups may get them before the start of 2021.

“Although the recommendations of the CDC panel aren’t necessarily binding, many states are looking to the CDC as a guide as they make their plans,” said Alliance Executive Director **Richard Fiesta**. “By vaccinating health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities first, we are protecting those who are most at risk of getting sick from the virus or dying.”

Recently [the Kaiser Family Foundation reported](#) that more than 100,000 individuals living and working in long-term care facilities have died from the virus. These deaths account for 40% of all Covid-19 deaths in the nation.

## **Find Out When You May Be Able to Get the Coronavirus Vaccine**

*The New York Times* this week released an online tool to help Americans get an idea of when they may be eligible to receive a vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

The tool takes into account your age, where you live, and whether you have health conditions that put you at higher risk of developing COVID-19. It utilizes the CDC guidelines for vaccine distribution which many states say they will follow.

To use the tool go to this [webpage](#).

## **GOP Senators are Again Plotting to Cut Earned Retirement Benefits**

President-elect **Joe Biden** is set to inherit a \$26.9 trillion debt, [a \\$7 trillion increase](#) since President **Trump** first took office. Some of it is due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the enormous 2017 tax cuts for millionaires and corporations are a major driver. Although the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans claimed that those cuts would spur enough economic growth to “pay for themselves,” the Congressional Budget Office has estimated they will add \$1.9 trillion to deficits over 10 years.



Sen. Thune (center) and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

Senate Majority Whip **John Thune** (SD) is among the [GOP senators who say they expect to refocus on curbing the nation's debt and "reforming entitlement programs" starting in 2021](#). The hypocrisy is not lost on **Sen. Chris Murphy** (CT), who noted that Republicans' interest in the debt is not a concern when billionaires and corporations stand to benefit.

"We are ready to defeat any plan to cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-

Treasurer of the Alliance. "When the 2017 tax giveaways to corporations and the wealthiest 1% became law, we knew the same politicians who voted for the tax cuts would try to cut Social Security and Medicare later. We cannot let our guard down just because President Trump was defeated."

### Help Us Win the Georgia Senate Runoff Elections



Raphael Warnock (left) and Jon Ossoff

Alliance members and retirees from participating unions will launch a series of phone banks to help **Jon Ossoff** and **Raphael Warnock** win their respective Senate races.

The first phone bank shift will be on Tuesday, December 8th at 2:00 Eastern Time, and you do not need to live in Georgia to participate and call Georgia Alliance members.

[Please follow this link to sign up.](#)

The voter registration deadline for the runoffs is December 7, and early voting begins on December 14. Election Day is January 5, 2021.

"If Jon Ossoff and Reverend Warnock win, Democrats will control the U.S. Senate," said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance.

## How Pharma Money Colors Operation Warp Speed's Quest to Defeat COVID

By Rachana Pradhan, *Kaiser Health News*

April 16 was a big day for Moderna, a Massachusetts biotech company on the verge of becoming a front-runner in the U.S. government's race for a coronavirus vaccine. It had received roughly half a billion dollars in federal funding to develop a COVID shot that might be used on millions of Americans.

Thirteen days after the massive infusion of federal cash — which triggered a jump in the company's stock price — **Moncef Slaoui**, a Moderna board member and longtime drug industry executive, was awarded options to buy 18,270 shares in the company, according to Securities and Exchange Commission filings. The award added to 137,168 options he'd accumulated since 2018, the filings show.

It wouldn't be long before President Donald Trump announced Slaoui as the top scientific adviser for the government's \$12 billion Operation Warp Speed program to rush COVID vaccines to market.

[Read more by clicking here.](#)

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The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national organization that advocates for the rights and well-being of over 4.4 million retirees and their families.