

US administers first Moderna vaccines

21 December 2020



Boxes containing the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine are prepared to be shipped at the McKesson distribution center in Olive Branch, Mississippi, on December 20, 2020

-70 degrees Celsius (-94 degrees Fahrenheit), making it easier to distribute.

Since the FDA granted Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine emergency authorization one week ago, some 2.9 million doses have been delivered in the US, officials say.

General Gus Perna, who is overseeing the massive logistical operation as part of the government's Operation Warp Speed, said Saturday the government expects to have delivered 20 million doses of [vaccine](#) by the end of the year, although that figure may only be reached in the first week of January.

The virus has killed almost 318,000 people in the US out of almost 18 million cases, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

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A nurse at a hospital in Connecticut became one of the first people in the United States to receive the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine on Monday.

Mandy Delgado, who works for Hartford Healthcare, was administered the shot around 11:40 am (1640 GMT), according to a live feed of the event.

"I'm excited. I feel privileged," the critical care nurse said afterwards, to a loud round of applause.

The first Moderna inoculations come after the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced late Friday that it had granted emergency approval for the vaccine.

It also comes exactly a week after the US, the country hardest hit by the [coronavirus](#), began administering the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The Moderna vaccine can be stored at -20 degrees Celsius (-4 degrees Fahrenheit), much lower than Pfizer's vaccine which must be stored at

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