



## Vaccine appointments canceled amid confusion

By Jonathan Drew  
The Associated Press

An increasing number of COVID-19 vaccination sites around the U.S. are canceling thousands of appointments because of vaccine shortages in a rollout so rife with confusion that even the new CDC director admitted she doesn't know exactly how many shots are in the pipeline. States waited to find out their latest weekly allocation

of vaccine from the federal government on Tuesday amid complaints from governors and top health officials about inadequate supplies and the need for earlier and more reliable estimates of how much is on the way. President Joe Biden suggested Monday that he hopes the country can soon ramp up to 1.5 million shots dispensed per day. His administration has also promised more openness and said it will hold

news briefings three times a week about the outbreak that has killed over 420,000 Americans. Amid the rising frustration, the Biden White House scheduled its first virus-related call with the nation's governors Tuesday. The president planned to give an update on efforts to bolster the vaccine supply and put more shots into Americans' arms more quickly, press secretary Jen Psaki said. The setup inherited from

the Trump administration has been marked by miscommunication and unexplained bottlenecks, with shortages reported in some places even as vaccine doses remain on the shelf. Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Biden's brand-new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was herself flummoxed over the weekend in trying to describe current supplies. "I can't tell you how much

vaccine we have," she told "Fox News Sunday," describing the problem as a challenge left by the outgoing Trump administration. "And if I can't tell it to you, then I can't tell it to the governors, and I can't tell it to the state health officials. If they don't know how much vaccine they're getting, not just this week, but next week and the week after, they can't plan." See VACCINE, A2

## Republican senators want to halt Trump impeachment trial

By Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senators will take an oath Tuesday to ensure "impartial justice" as jurors in Donald Trump's historic impeachment trial, proceedings that will test Republican loyalty to the former president and the power he still wields after the deadly siege at the U.S. Capitol. But some Republican senators are challenging the legitimacy of the trial and questioning whether Trump's repeated demands to overturn Joe Biden's election really constitute "incitement of insurrection" in the Jan. 6 riot.

Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky said he plans to force a vote on whether the impeachment trial of a former president is allowed under the Constitution. "A sham, this is, a travesty, a dark blot on the history of our country," Paul said in a fiery speech on the Senate floor. He called on Senate colleagues to stop this "kangaroo court" and compared the way Trump edged on the crowd outside the White House before the mob stormed the Capitol to past speeches by Democratic lawmakers, including now-Vice President Kamala Harris.

See SENATE, A2



Mike Taylor, a bus driver for Jackson County Public Schools, receives a COVID-19 vaccination from EMS Supervisor Toby Moore on Jan. 22. [COURTESY OF DAVID PROFFITT]

## NC school districts begin vaccinating employees

By Brian Gordon  
USA TODAY NETWORK

With many North Carolina teachers still weeks, if not months, away from receiving COVID-19 vaccines, a few districts have already helped give shots to hundreds of staff members. On Friday, Jackson County Public Schools in Western

North Carolina dismissed students early so staff could get vaccinated. Since last week, public school employees in Rutherford County, Swain County, and Union County received their first vaccine doses as well. In the Triad, Davie County Schools will make shots available to employees on Wednesday. "It's been a challenging year

for students and teachers and parents, but we do feel that with the vaccine there is light at the end of the tunnel," said Jacob Buchanan, assistant superintendent of Jackson County Schools. Buchanan said his district received a call last Wednesday from the local hospital, Harris See SCHOOL, A2

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- Timothy "Jack" Collins, Sr.
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- John E. Miles Jr.
- Ivie Royster
- Betty Simmons
- Clyde Turner
- Ludia Smith
- Caroline Boyd Stott
- Margaret Anthony Parker Wright

## NC state Sen. Jeff Jackson enters US Senate race



Sen. Mike Woodard, D-Durham, speaks with Sen. Ben Clark, D-Hoke, right, and Sen. Jeff Jackson, D-Mecklenburg, left, in the Senate chamber during the Jan. 13 opening session of the North Carolina General Assembly in Raleigh. [GERRY BROOME, AP]

By Gary D. Robertson  
The Associated Press

RALEIGH — A North Carolina state senator announced Tuesday that he's running for the U.S. Senate in 2022, hoping to flip fortunes for Democrats from his state to serve in the chamber after a string of defeats. Jeff Jackson, a Charlotte business attorney, Afghan war veteran and National Guard soldier, unveiled his bid, saying he is committed to "honest and decent politics" and "working people and working families." Jackson, 38, is the second

Democrat to enter the race to succeed three-term Republican Sen. Richard Burr, who is not seeking reelection. Erica Smith, a former state senator who ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in 2020 to challenge Republican incumbent Thom Tillis, is in again. Tillis ultimately narrowly defeated Democrat Cal Cunningham in November. Those two campaigns and outside groups spent \$287 million combined, an all-time record before the two Georgia Senate elections that went to Jan. 5 runoffs swamped that total. In contrast with North

Carolina's hyper-nationalized Senate race in 2020, Jackson said he'll attempt to turn his campaign inward, by pledging to visit all 100 counties as the coronavirus pandemic has subsided. He said he'll hold town halls in each to "build an agenda that's actually tailored to our state, not an agenda that's imported from D.C. or from donors." "People want a different approach. They want an approach that they can respect and one that respects them," he said in a video that features his wife and three young children. See JACKSON, A2

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55° / 35°

THURSDAY  
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44° / 24°

FRIDAY  
Sunny  
48° / 24°



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