

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Pandemic - My Hand Is Raised

December 7, 2020. FDA approval of COVID-19 vaccines appears to be imminent and lifting optimism. The next logical questions are when will the vaccine be available for general distribution, and whether my wife and I would be comfortable being early recipients? My answer is, "Yes." I am ready; figuratively **My Hand Is Raised**. Bring it on!

To many like me, who may have been initially uninformed, one of the frustrating aspects of vaccine development has been the time that it seemingly takes for vaccine serums to be sanctioned, especially as the virus continues to ravage the country and death tolls mount. But now as we have become more aware of the challenges of vaccine development, we can feel safe knowing that short-cut methods were not employed and the vaccine will be safe. As a result, my confidence in the vaccine is high, and I am especially grateful to the researchers, scientists and epidemiologists who have preserved and are taking us to the promised land.

For the past nine months we have been constantly advised that it will take time for the necessary amount of vaccine to be produced, to set up distribution channels, and to administer and enforce priority inoculations. So my turn may not come for many months but these vaccines carry an efficacy rate of over 90%, which means the nation should experience a dramatic decrease in death rates as the most vulnerable citizens are inoculated in the first wave. Stay the course and stay positive.