# Vaccines

This topic gets right into the heart of the problem of Scarcity and Samuelson's third fundamental question of Economics.

**Ranking Activity**
You might want students to cut these up to physically rearrange them, but otherwise they should just be able to rank the 1-12. For ranking activities, I sometimes like to ask students to rank in pairs and then join another pair and see if they can agree a final ranking between the four of them. I've found that doing it in pairs first gives students a bit more confidence to justify their choices, but it does obviously take longer.

**Allocation Activity**
You might need to be sensitive in using this: you may choose to omit this activity

**Tables**
I recommend referring students to the article 'Who should be vaccinated first?' by Aditya Goenka and Lin Liu at the Economics Observatory published 30th March 2021. It doesn't have all of the answers, students may need to come up with pros and cons themselves, but it's a great place to start and explains the different approaches of different countries.



# Vaccines

Different countries have taken different approaches when distributing vaccines. Rank the following considerations from those which you think are most important to those which you think are least important.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Saving most lives | Encouraging Vaccine-uptake (eg by celebrities or sports personalities prioritized) | Preventing morbidity |
| Ability or willingness to pay | Maintainting key industries and services | Preventing spread |
| Reducing wasted vaccines | Protecting the healthcare system | Preservation of cultures which are at risk of dying out (eg Cherokee) |
| Protecting the Economy | Saving life-years | Getting the population vaccinated as quickly as possible |



# Vaccines

You are in charge of distributing vaccines in a small town. Justify who would receive vaccines if you had:

a) 3 full doses
b) 7 full doses
c) 12 full doses

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Doreen, a 86 year old who lives with her daughter's family | Brian, the well-respected local mayor, aged 52 | Mark, 29 year old with Cystic Fibrosis who has been shielding for the last 9 months |
| Gavin, local entrepreneur willing to pay $1m for him and 4 members of his household to be vaccinated | Marge, 42 year old delivery driver with 3 children | Sian, 20 year old student who has already had 2 years of expensive study disrupted |
| Sam, 25 year old painter-decorator | Travis, 62 year old hospital porter | Geoff, 81 year old who lives alone |
| Claire, 59 year old with Type 2 diabetes who works for shoe company from home | Sabina, 45 year old respiratory specialist | Ted 65 year old who is willing to wait at the vaccination centre just in case there is a spare dose |
| Ben, 35 year old ICU nurse | Betty, 79 year old living in a care home | Victor, 62 year old dentist |
| Cam, 64 year old super market assistant | Tracey, 48 year old Primary School Teacher | Louis, a 75 year old pensioner who runs half-marathons |



# Vaccines

| | How it could work in practise | Advantages | Disadvantages | Are there any countries considering this when allocating their vaccines? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saving most lives | | | | |
| Encouraging Vaccine-uptake (eg by celebrities or sports personalities prioritized) | | | | |
| Preventing morbidity | | | | |

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# Vaccines

| | How it works | Advantages | Disadvantages | Are there any countries considering this when allocating their vaccines? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ability or willingness to pay | | | | |
| Maintainting key industries and services | | | | |
| Preventing spread | | | | |

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Ranking

| | How it works | Advantages | Disadvantages | Are there any countries considering this when allocating their vaccines? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reducing wasted vaccines | | | | |
| Protecting the healthcare system | | | | |
| Preservation of cultures which are at risk of dying out (eg Cherokee) | | | | |

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Ranking

| | How it works | Advantages | Disadvantages | Are there any countries considering this when allocating their vaccines? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Protecting the Economy | | | | |
| Saving life-years | | | | |
| Getting the population vaccinated as quickly as possible | | | | |