

Briefs

COVID-19 VACCINE ■ ANIMALS ON FLIGHTS ■ WEBINAR SERIES ■ IN MEMORIAM

COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout



It has been almost a year after the COVID-19 novel coronavirus was first detected in the United States, and in December 2020, the first vaccines for the virus were administered to health care workers across the country. According to *AP News*, the vaccine that is being administered was developed by Pfizer Inc. and German partner BioNTech. It must be kept at extremely cold

temperatures, needing the aid of frozen ice to keep it viable. Two shots are needed, three weeks apart, to complete the vaccination.

The U.S. vaccination campaign—the largest in the country’s history—comes on the heels of the vaccine already being authorized for administration in other countries such as Britain and Canada, and during a fall/winter surge in cases that are testing the limits of medical professionals who have been on the frontlines of treating COVID-19 patients since the spring. Incidentally, these medical professionals are also on the frontlines of the vaccinations and are being watched by a somewhat skeptical U.S. population, with half of Americans wanting the vaccination, a quarter not wanting it, and a quarter unsure, according to an *AP News* poll.

This is the light at the end of the tunnel. But it’s a long tunnel,” New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said, according to *AP News*.

Animals on Flights Regulated

In December 2020, the U.S. Transportation Department issued final rules allowing only trained dogs to be categorized as service animals on U.S. airlines. These regulations rule out other animals such as monkeys, cats, and birds, whom in the past had been brought on flights by passengers

claiming them to be emotional support animals. Airlines are permitted to determine what other species they can allow on their flights.

The distinction between the new regulations and the old lies in that, under the old rules, airlines were required to treat emotional support as service

**Sourced from the AP News article “‘Relieved’: US health workers start getting COVID-19 vaccine” By LAURAN NEERGAARD — <https://apnews.com/article/us-health-workers-coronavirus-vaccine-56df745388a9fc12ae93c6f9a0d0e81f>.*

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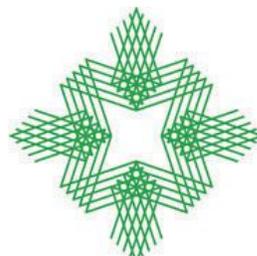
animals. The new rules clarify that only dogs are classified as service animals. There are additional rules about the specific training that a service animal has to have to be qualified as such: A service animal is a dog that is trained to assist visually impaired persons or those with psychiatric or other disabilities.

Airlines have been losing fees over the years as passengers have claimed pets as emotional support animals. According to *Reuters*, "Spirit Airlines Inc told regulators it had lost 'millions of dollars in pet carriage fees from passengers fraudulently claiming their "house pets are service or support animals.'"

There was also a need to protect the rest of an airplane's passengers and crew from untrained animals in the cabin, according to the industry trade group Airlines for America. ■

**Sourced from the Reuters article "Trained dogs, yes. But other pets on board is U.S. airlines' call: regulator" By David Shepardson — <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-airlines-animals/trained-dogs-yes-but-other-pets-on-board-is-us-airlines-call-regulator-idUSKBN28C346>.*

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7 Market Movers | A Quarterly Market & Economic Update Series for Philadelphia Bar Members

As 2020 draws to a close, we've seen markets behave in unique ways. The anticipation of COVID-19 vaccines contributed to a euphoric environment for risky assets. The expectations of a divided government helped fuel the market to several records in November. The Dow Jones Industrial Average enjoyed its strongest month since January 1987, the Russell 2000 had its best month ever, and the MSCI All Country World Index traded at all-time highs. Treasury yields reached their highest levels in months, as the 10-year yield approaches 1%. Yet virus resurgence shutdowns continue to spark fears of another economic slowdown in Q1 2021, some concern around how the new tax proposal will play out exists, and more.

To help members stay current on 2021 market antics, the Bar will host 7 Market Movers—a quarterly market and economic update series next year. The series will provide deep-dive quarterly market and economic updates, covering global economic growth, interest rates, style/factor performance, geographic performance, inflation alternatives, tax & cost efficiency—all through the lens of the residual themes we saw prevail in 2020. **Check your inboxes during the third week of January 2021, for the first video-on-demand of this series.** ■

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IN MEMORIAM

Herbert L. Ocks
May 17, 2018, age 89

Herbert Epstein
Feb. 7, 2020, age 94

Alvin C. Krantz
April 17, 2020, age 70

Hon. Joseph H. Reiter (ret.)
June 16, 2020, age 91

Jack R. Bershad
Aug. 20, 2020, age 90

James R. "Robin" Ledwith
Aug. 29, 2020, age 84

Peter Bludmam
Oct. 28, 2020, age 64

Ronald Donatucci
Nov. 3, 2020, age 72

Angelo "Scotty" Scaricamazza
Dec. 2, 2020, age 70

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