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Vaccines are arriving, but ethical challenges about vaccine distribution are complex. Some challenges are theoretically broad, like whether to prioritize specific groups—the elderly, the disadvantaged, younger people with medical conditions that make them more vulnerable. Other ethical challenges reflect variations in social policy: what’s the significance of various states’ different roll-out policies, and should some of these be challenged? Should a governmental agency at any level issue “vaccine passports,” or mandate Bluetooth access to others’ covid-positive status or vaccination status? Then there are more specific ethical questions about individual behavior: what about line-jumpers and the honor system? What about vaccine hunters? What about vaccine hesitancy or outright refusers, even those who work in health care? This session will explore a wide range of ethics issues arising even as the vaccines at last appear.

Background readings for this session:
- Who Goes First? Vaccine Rollout Forces Stark Moral Choices, by Gillian Flaccus and Sara Cline (Associated Press, 26 Jan 2021)
- Will Utahns Wait Their Turn in Line Once Vaccines Open Up for Those with Underlying Conditions?, by Taylor Stevens (Salt Lake Tribune, 28 Feb 2021).
- The Surprising Key to Combating Vaccine Refusal, by Derek Thompson (The Atlantic, 28 Feb 2021)

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