

Aimee: I always hold the door open for others (modern chivalry at its finest).

Peri: Whenever I go food shopping, I check every package label for the expiration dates. I can also raise my left eyebrow (not up to Emilia Clarke's level yet).

Jenna: I can do a headstand (mostly drunk but sometimes sober).

The Dilemma: Who Gets It?

Since she was a little girl, Aimee has always loved helping others. She jumps at any opportunity to assist those in need—such as volunteering at animal shelters, aiding local nonprofit organizations, and even holding the door open for others. When the pandemic hit, Aimee was one of the first people to post CDC resources on social media and spread awareness of the virus to her friends and family. By the time vaccines for COVID-19 began being distributed around her area, she did not think twice and quickly signed up to help volunteer at her nearest clinic. As a volunteer, Aimee's job is to greet people at the clinic's door and direct them to the rooms where they can receive the vaccine.

It is now Phase 2 of the vaccine rollout plan: the general population is now eligible to receive the vaccine. The clinic Aimee is volunteering at has had a line out the door all day, which only now is beginning to dwindle as it nears midnight. Shortly before midnight—the clinic's closing time—Aimee is informed that there is only one vaccine left, and due to the high demand for vaccines and limited supply, her clinic does not know when they will receive another restock. Looking back to the door, she realizes that there are only two people left in line.

First in line is Jenna. Jenna is a young, able-bodied amateur hip hop dancer. She's been honing her headstands, popping and locking, and b-boying for the past several years—all moves that she can now do either drunk or sober. Her dance crew has also been working very hard for the past several years. They finally have a chance to make it big by traveling across the country to the (socially distanced) World of Hip Hop competition. Her dance crew is fully vaccinated, and they are waiting on her to get vaccinated so she can practice and travel with them safely.

Behind, and last, in line is Peri. Peri is a cute grandma in her late 50s who questions the credibility and trustworthiness of the world—so much so that her left eyebrow is constantly raised out of habit. Everytime she goes grocery shopping, she scrutinizes every package label—front, back, up, down—for the expiration date. And then she checks again to question every “chemical” listed under the ingredients list. Skepticism at its finest, right? Suddenly, she gets a call from her doctor, reminding her to get the vaccine at the clinic Aimee works at. Her doctor strongly advises her to get the shot as soon as possible—as she is more at risk because of her age—but she has been postponing getting the vaccine because she is highly skeptical of its efficacy and side effects. She claims that she is not within any risk group and does not want the vaccine, but wants to see her grandkids—or at least she hopes she can.

While Aimee is fully vaccinated herself and immune to COVID-19, she is still plagued with moral uncertainty. Some of the ethics she is considering include the conflict between equality—giving Peri and Jenna an equal opportunity to receive the vaccine—and equity—prioritizing certain individuals by their needs and circumstances. What should Aimee do? Should she consider who was first in line, or who is more at risk? Is there a difference between who *needs* and who *wants* the vaccine? Should Aimee act beyond her given role as a volunteer to address this dilemma? Whose needs should she accommodate first?