think Pfizer's vaccine could get authorized

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New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Wednesday he thinks Pfizer and BioNTech's vaccine could receive FDA emergency authorization on Thursday.

That's the day an independent advisory panel will vote on whether to recommend an emergency use authorization for the vaccine.

Although several top health officials have said they expect the vaccine to get authorized on Thursday, at least one FDA official has said the process could take up to a week after the panel's vote. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Wednesday that he thinks the US Food and Drug Administration might authorize Pfizer and BioNTech's coronavirus vaccine candidate on Thursday.

At a briefing in Albany, Cuomo said if the FDA does authorize the vaccine candidate tomorrow, a panel of New York-based health experts would then convene immediately to review and approve the vaccine on the state level.

Cuomo did not specify the source of his information about the prospective authorization timeline, but he noted that FDA officials had recently briefed members of the New York state panel.

"They've already been speaking to the FDA about the process, " he added.

Cuomo also said that New York is expecting a delivery of 170, 000 doses "as soon as this weekend. "

"First priority will be for nursing home residents & staff and high-risk hospital workers, " he wrote in a tweet on Wednesday.

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