Health Alert Network Message
21-14: Expansion of COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility

Expansion of COVID-19 vaccine eligibility criteria in Louisiana to include school and daycare teachers and support staff, adults aged 55-64 with high-risk medical conditions, and pregnant persons.

The State of Louisiana is announcing an expansion of the criteria for Phase 1b, Tier 1 of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. This expansion, effective Monday, February 22, includes all persons previously available in Phases 1a and 1b, Tier 1 and expands Phase 1b, Tier 1 to include:

- Teachers and any other support staff working onsite in K-12 schools or daycares
  - Teachers and staff actively working onsite should bring their employee badge or paystub
- Individuals aged 55-64 with at least one of the conditions listed by the CDC as placing them at an "increased risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19." The CDC list of conditions can be found at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html.
  - Cancer
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
  - Down Syndrome
  - Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies
  - Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
  - Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30kg/m2 or higher but < 40kg/m2)
  - Severe obesity (BMI >40kg/m2)
  - Sickle Cell Disease
  - Smoking
  - Type 2 diabetes mellitus
- All pregnant persons, regardless of age
- Providers/staff of Nonemergency Medical Transportation Services (NEMT), to be added to the currently eligible “ambulatory and outpatient providers and staff” category
- Election workers assigned to work the March and April 2021 elections whom carry a letter stating they have been selected, along with their ID.

Important: Persons with above mentioned medical conditions should be instructed to complete the Louisiana COVID-19 Vaccine Attestation Form which is attached to this Health Alert and will be posted on the Louisiana COVID Vaccination website.

COVID-19 Vaccine Providers:

- Providers should have self-attestation forms printed and available for patients who are to be vaccinated by virtue of a qualifying underlying medical condition. Patients are also able and encouraged to print the form at home and bring with them if they are able.
• You must keep all self-attestation forms for those claiming high-risk medical conditions for a period of 6 months, in a HIPPA-safe manner. After 6 months these may be destroyed. These records may be requested and audited if necessary.
• Providers can incorporate the self-attestation form into their online scheduling platforms. However, they must be able to retain an electronic copy for each patient.
• Other “proof” of a high-risk health condition, beyond self-attestation, is not necessary.
• Attestation need only occur on the 1st dose, not the 2nd dose (for those vaccines requiring 2 doses).

All providers of COVID-19 Vaccines must follow the priority group guidance listed on the LDH COVID-19 Vaccination page, and NOT determine their own criteria for vaccine eligibility.