



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

Origination Date:
February 18, 2021

Revision Dates (List All Revision Dates):

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 (BMIC >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.