



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

DATE: August 16, 2021
TO: COVID-19 Vaccination Program Primary Coordinators
FROM: Louisiana Immunization Program
SUBJECT: **Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Orders on Hold, Responsible Ordering Practices, and Pregnancy Recommendations**

Please route to:
• COVID-19 Vaccine
Primary
Coordinators

Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Orders Now on Hold in LINKS

Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine ordering in LINKS was placed on hold beginning at noon on 8/12/2021. Currently there is a nation-wide hold on any new direct orders of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19, and as a result, the Immunization Program is not able to replenish the state depot or order vaccine directly from McKesson. The anticipated return to ordering of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine is not expected until the end of August.

However, the Immunization Program is attempting to receive a one-time transfer of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines from another jurisdiction or through federal partners. If we are successful in receiving a potential transfer of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine into the state vaccine depot, we will lift the hold on ordering in LINKS and send out notification to providers at that time.

If your site was accustomed to offering Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to patients, and you need to place a new order of COVID-19 vaccines, we encourage you to consider ordering either the Pfizer or Moderna products at this time.

If you need any general assistance with ordering in LINKS, please submit your requests or questions to La.Links@la.gov. You can also contact your Regional Immunization Consultant listed on the homepage of [LINKS](#) for any questions on vaccine ordering.

Additional Ordering Note:

Providers will continue to be notified via email regarding all orders that are processed by the state vaccine depot. These email notifications include the expected delivery date of vaccine shipments. Please be sure to check your email to ensure you know when vaccine will be arriving. If you are not receiving these email notifications, please contact your Regional Immunization Consultant listed on the homepage of [LINKS](#) to update your email address.

Responsible Ordering Practices

The amount of COVID-19 vaccines sitting in provider inventories has risen sharply statewide over the past two weeks. The Louisiana Immunization Program understands that vaccine demand has increased rapidly but still reminds providers only to order limited amounts of vaccines for

each order that could be used within 2-3 weeks of delivery. When additional doses are needed, place subsequent orders at least 3-5 days in advance of when you plan to administer them.

Do not stockpile vaccines. There is no projected shortage of any COVID-19 vaccines and providers will be able to continue to order vaccine doses on an as-needed basis. The immunocompromised population in Louisiana is generally limited and is the only group eligible for additional doses (beyond their initial completed series), at this time. There is no reason for providers to be prepping their inventories for any eventual booster doses that are being recommended for any other group or the general population. By ordering manageable amounts of vaccines every couple of weeks, providers can ensure vaccine availability to the public while decreasing the chances for large volume vaccine wastage in the fall.

Pregnancy and COVID-19 Vaccination

CDC has released new data on the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant people and is recommending all people 12 years of age and older get vaccinated against COVID-19.

CDC encourages all pregnant people or people who are thinking about becoming pregnant and those breastfeeding to get vaccinated to protect themselves from COVID-19. The vaccines are safe and effective, and it has never been more urgent to increase vaccinations as we face the highly transmissible Delta variant and see severe outcomes from COVID-19 among unvaccinated pregnant people.

A new CDC analysis of current data from the v-safe pregnancy registry assessed vaccination early in pregnancy and did not find an increased risk of miscarriage among nearly 2,500 pregnant women who received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine before 20 weeks of pregnancy. Miscarriage typically occurs in about 11-16% of pregnancies, and this study found miscarriage rates after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine were around 13%, similar to the expected rate of miscarriage in the general population.

Previously, data from three safety-monitoring systems did not find any safety concerns for pregnant people who were vaccinated late in pregnancy or for their babies. Combined, these data and the known severe risks of COVID-19 during pregnancy demonstrate that the benefits of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine for pregnant people outweigh any known or potential risks.

Clinicians have seen the number of pregnant people infected with COVID-19 rise in the past several weeks. The increased circulation of the highly contagious Delta variant, the low vaccine uptake among pregnant people, and the increased risk of severe illness and pregnancy complications related to COVID-19 infection among pregnant people make vaccination for this population more urgent than ever.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0811-vaccine-safe-pregnant.html>