



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

DATE: April 7, 2021
TO: All COVID-19 Vaccine Providers and Provider Sites
SUBJECT: **PROVIDER ORDERING OF COVID-19 VACCINE IN LINKS**

Key Points:

- COVID-19 vaccines will be ordered through the LINKS system starting the week of April 12.
- First and second doses are no longer automatically ordered. You will have to place an order for every dose needed.
- Upcoming Lunch with LINKS trainings will be offered this week and early next week.
- As COVID-19 vaccine becomes more readily available to the Louisiana Department of Health, the goal continues to be increasing patient access to vaccination and to work with providers to vaccinate patients when they are available for vaccination (no delay in vaccinating).

Ordering COVID-19 Vaccines Through LINKS

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is announcing a new method for providers to acquire COVID-19 vaccines. Instead of requesting vaccines through the previous online vaccine request form that was located on the LDH website, vaccine providers participating in the state's COVID-19 vaccine program will now place orders directly through the Louisiana Immunization Information System (LINKS).

LINKS will be available for direct provider ordering at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, April 14. This will be the only way to order and receive COVID-19 vaccine from the state. It is anticipated that the vaccine ordered directly by providers in LINKS the week of April 12 will begin arriving the week of April 19.

Providers who are planning and coordinating community-type events will need to place an order for vaccine directly in LINKS, in advance of the event date.

First and Second Doses No Longer Automatically Ordered by the State

Also starting on Wednesday, April 14, **LDH central office and regions will no longer be placing automatic vaccine orders, for first (prime) or second (booster) doses, to any site.** As a result, there will no longer be an automatic order and delivery of booster doses to match the prime doses originally ordered and delivered through the state's COVID-19 Vaccine Program. **If your site needs booster or "second" doses for the week of April 19, you should place an order for these doses during the week of April 12 (regardless of whether the associated first (prime) doses were originally ordered by the state).** There will no longer be a difference between prime and booster doses, so if you have outstanding first dose inventory, please use that before ordering any booster doses.

Those providers that have received a confirmatory email that they are receiving prime and/or booster doses the weeks of April 5 and April 12, can still expect these full deliveries to arrive, as planned.

Once a vaccine order is placed directly by a provider, it is reviewed and approved by the Louisiana Immunization Program. A provider can generally expect the delivery of the vaccine within 3-5 business days after they are placed in LINKS, after this first week of direct provider ordering is completed. Providers placing orders will be able to check on the status of their order through LINKS, and this will be covered in the training and instructional materials released later this week in separate communications and vis the LDH website. Providers are currently able to order the following vaccine products in the following increments:

1. Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in increments of 10 doses
2. Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in increments of 6 doses

If ordering close to a direct shipment of doses (100 doses of Moderna or 1,170 doses of Pfizer), the Immunization Program may round your order up or down slightly so that the doses can come directly to your site without the need to go through the state vaccine redistributor.

Note: Johnson & Johnson is expected to be available for general ordering soon, but will not be available for ordering during the initial phase of general provider LINKS ordering.

Lunch with LINKS: COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering and Reconciliation Trainings

Providers who are not familiar with placing a direct vaccine order in LINKS should first watch the online training video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYris7JtV48&list=PLhQRL_ZI06sw7LrVOvJDdysQu4t-Oyauh&index=12

Also, providers are strongly encouraged to attend at least one of the upcoming ***Lunch with LINKS: COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering & Reconciliation Webinar Trainings:***

Date	Time	Zoom Link
Thursday, 04/08/2021	12 p.m. (Noon) - 1:00 p.m.	https://ldhophbcregion2.zoom.us/j/86820833149
Friday, 04/09/2021	12 p.m. (Noon) - 1:00 p.m.	https://ldhophbcregion2.zoom.us/j/82304077187

Additional Lunch with LINKS trainings planned for the week of April 12. Visit the LDH COVID-19 vaccination provider training webpage at <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/4093>.

We are excited to begin this new stage of the vaccination response by giving providers more control of the vaccines they need in order to serve their patients. Vaccine availability is increasing and this has enabled this shift in how vaccine is ordered.

Should you need any assistance with ordering or if you would like to receive additional support on LINKS vaccine ordering, please submit your request to La.Links@la.gov, or contact your Regional Immunization Consultant listed on the home page of LINKS. For issues pertaining to LINKS enrollment you may call the LINKS provider enrollment hotline at 225-325-5880.

Name
Date
Page 3