

# IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 47 | FEBRUARY 17, 2022



COMPLETED  
VACCINE SERIES  
IN LOUISIANA

2,723,957\*

\*4,954,026 total doses  
administered in Louisiana

COVID-19 vaccination  
guidance updates

The CDC has provided  
new vaccination  
guidance updates  
relevant to moderately  
and severely  
immunocompromised  
individuals.  
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STUDY EXAMINES  
COVID-19 VACCINE  
AND PREGNANCY

A new study that  
examined maternal  
vaccination and  
associated  
hospitalization in infants.  
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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

### Is a statewide mask order still in place?

No. In the most recent guidance issued by Gov. Edwards on Feb. 15, 2022, masks are not required statewide in Louisiana. However, there are still federal regulations requiring them in health care settings and on transit.

Additionally, local governments, school districts and businesses may choose to require masks as they see fit, based on the level of COVID-19 in their communities.

**Also, important to note, Governor John Bel Edwards extended the COVID-19 public health emergency order on Feb. 16.**

The Governor's Office, the Louisiana Department of Health and the CDC still recommend that all people wear masks when they are indoors in public or in a large outdoor crowd while all areas of the state are considered high transmission areas for the coronavirus.

Read more [here](#).

# WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

In summary, here is the updated COVID-19 vaccination schedule for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, by age group, with the clarification and updates highlighted:

## COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance Updates

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued updated COVID-19 vaccination guidance and clarifications on Feb. 15 regarding the vaccination time period after having COVID-19, booster doses for moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals, and the appropriate booster dose for youth ages 12 -17. Vaccination time period after having SARS-CoV-2 infection

- **Monoclonal Antibodies or Convalescent Plasma Treatments:** It is no longer necessary to delay COVID-19 vaccination following receipt of passive antibody products such as monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma. Previously the guidance had been to wait 90 days before being vaccinated.
- **Defer Vaccinations Until Recovery:** People with known current SARS-CoV-2 infection should defer any COVID-19 vaccination, including booster vaccination, at least until recovery from the acute illness (if symptoms were present) and criteria to discontinue isolation have been met.

## COVID-19 vaccine booster dose guidance for moderately or severely immunocompromised people

- Moderately or severely immunocompromised individuals who have completed a primary series of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) are recommended to receive an mRNA booster dose **three months** (instead of five months) after the last primary dose.
- Moderately or severely immunocompromised individuals who have received a single Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine should receive one additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine and one booster dose (preferably mRNA) for a total of **three vaccine doses**.

## Clarifications

- Those who have weakened immune systems and have completed their primary series of three mRNA doses should receive an mRNA vaccine booster dose (to make a total of **four doses**).
- If a moderately or severely immunocompromised person aged 12 years or older has received two primary mRNA vaccine doses but has not yet received an additional mRNA primary dose, they should first receive the additional primary dose (at least 28 days after the second dose), followed by a single age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccine booster dose.
- **Reminder:** For individuals aged 12–17 years, the age appropriate COVID-19 primary series and booster dose can only be with the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at this time.

Primary vaccination	Age Group	Number of primary and/or additional vaccine doses	Number of booster doses	Interval between 1st and 2nd dose	Interval between 2nd and 3rd dose	Interval between 3rd and 4th dose
Pfizer-BioNTech	5-11 years	3	N/A	21	>28	N/A
Pfizer-BioNTech	>12 years	3	1	21	>28	> 3 months
Moderna	>18	3	1	28	>28	> 3 months
J&J Janssen	>18	1 Janssen, followed by 1 mRNA	1	>28	>2 months	N/A

Please review the [updated guidance within the CDC Interim Clinical Considerations](#).

For more information, visit [here](#).

LDH reminds providers to report possible vaccine-related adverse events to the FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html> or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

Any possible severe adverse events (those resulting in hospitalization, death, or persistent disability) should be immediately reported to the Office Public Health (OPH) Infectious Disease/Epidemiology Hotline at 1-800-256-2748.

For vaccine-related questions, please contact [la.immunization@la.gov](mailto:la.immunization@la.gov).

## New study examines the COVID-19 vaccination among expecting mothers

On Feb. 15, the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly* published the results of a new study that examined maternal vaccination and associated hospitalization in infants.

The study was conducted at 20 pediatric hospitals in 17 states between July 1, 2021 and Jan. 17, 2022. The study examined 379 hospitalized infants who were under the age of six months. Of the infants included in the study, 176 had COVID-19, 203 did not have COVID-19, at least 21% had underlying conditions, and 22% were born prematurely.

The study found that vaccine effectiveness was 61% in hospitalized infants whose mothers had completed a two-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccination series. The authors of the study also reported differences in vaccine effectiveness in hospitalized infants whose mothers completed the vaccine series at different stages of pregnancy.

The researchers concluded that "completion of a 2-dose mRNA COVID-19 vaccination series during pregnancy might help prevent COVID-19 hospitalization among infants" under the age of six months.

Read the full study [here](#).

## Options for long-term care providers coordinating COVID-19 vaccine access

The CDC encourages long-term care (LTC) providers to consider the best interests of residents and staff when coordinating access to COVID-19 vaccines and boosters. This includes taking advantage of community and on-site vaccination opportunities.

### Tips for increasing vaccine access in LTCs

- Inform LTC residents and staff of nearby vaccination sites.
- Remind LTC residents and staff to bring vaccination cards to appointments for additional doses or boosters.
- Research programs LTC residents participate in that may have vaccination programs (senior centers, adult day programs).
- If transportation is needed, visit <https://eldercare.acl.gov/> or call 1-800-677-1116.
- To assist individuals with disabilities in getting vaccinated, contact the Disability Information and Access Line at 1-888-677-1199 or [DIAL@usaginganddisability.org](mailto:DIAL@usaginganddisability.org).
- LTC staff may need to utilize time off to get vaccinated.
- Eligible employers can receive tax credits for extending time off.
- LTCs can also coordinate on-site vaccination events in coordination with local pharmacies or vaccine providers, depending on available state resources.

LTC administrators and managers can learn more [here](#).

## LDH launches pediatric vaccine champions program

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is launching a new program inviting individuals to become Pediatric Vaccine Champions to engage with their communities around the importance of childhood vaccinations to keep children and communities safe against COVID-19.

The program provides parents, guardians, pediatricians, teachers and community and faith leaders with the tools to take meaningful, accessible action to stop the spread of COVID-19 within their families and in classrooms.

To get more information and apply for the program, go to [kidsvaxchampions.org](http://kidsvaxchampions.org).

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A LOUISIANA PEDIATRIC VACCINE CHAMPION?**

YOU play an important role in fighting COVID-19 and keeping our children safe!

- Share COVID-19 vaccine facts & resources
- Promote a vaccination event
- Share your story and star in a PSA
- Organize a telephone town hall

Learn more: [kidsvaxchampions.org](http://kidsvaxchampions.org)

## LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

### SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.16%
- **Black:** 31.74%
- **American Indian:** 0.42%
- **Asian:** 2.9%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.19%
- **Unknown:** 1.11%
- **Other:** 5.52%

### SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 7.4%
- **18-29:** 13.3%
- **30-39:** 13.44%
- **40-49:** 13.73%
- **50-59:** 16.2%
- **60-69:** 18.02%
- **70+:** 17.99%

### SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 54.03%
- **Male:** 45.72%
- **Unknown:** 0.25%

All breakdowns shown here are for Louisiana residents only. Race data completeness is expected to improve as we continue our outreach with vaccine providers.

## Good Reads

LDH discusses current status of COVID-19 in Louisiana, upcoming carnival season. Read more at [brproud.com](http://brproud.com).

Lafourche Parish's COVID cases fall 41.3%; Louisiana cases plummet 44.2%. Read more at [yahoonews.com](http://yahoonews.com).

Why remdesivir, a highly effective COVID treatment, is last resort for providers (NPR). Read more at [npr.org](http://npr.org).

Guide to protecting the vulnerable from COVID. Read more at [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com).

COVID-19 likely resulted in 1.2 million more disabled people by the end of 2021 - workplaces and policy will need to adapt. Read more at [Center for American Progress](http://Center for American Progress).

COVID-19 booster shot uptake is at an all-time low in US. Read more at [CNN.com](http://CNN.com).