

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE



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QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Does the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines diminish over time in children?

Like other vaccines, protection levels may drop over time (depending on one's age/immune system). Last week, the national media reported on a New York study that showed the effectiveness of two doses of the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11 years and ages 12- 17 years appeared to lessen during the Omicron surge. To arrive at this conclusion, researchers measured visits to emergency departments and urgent care clinics of more than 850,000 fully-vaccinated children 12-17 years and more than 365,000 kids 5-11 years.

The data showed vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization changed from 85% to 73% for the older children and from 100% to 48% for those 5-11 years old. So does this mean the vaccine doesn't work? Nope! It just means a third booster dose may be needed, and the overall dosage may need to be increased (5-11-year-olds are receiving 1/3 the adult dose). Several studies have shown that even though vaccine efficacy against infection wanes over time, the immune response remains highly protective against hospitalization and death, even against the highly contagious Omicron variant.

According to [The New York Times](#), "The findings must be interpreted with caution. The study did not exclude unvaccinated adolescents who had some immunity from a prior infection, which may have made vaccination seem less effective than it was."

COMPLETED
VACCINE SERIES
IN LOUISIANA

2,428,663*

*4,987,958 total doses
administered in Louisiana

PFIZER EXPIRATION
DATES

The CDC offers best practices for Pfizer vaccine vials based on expiration dates. (Page 2)

FDA APPROVES
SHELF-LIFE
EXTENSION FOR THE
JOHNSON &
JOHNSON VACCINE

The FDA has extended the shelf-life of the J&J vaccine from six to nine months. (Page 2)

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

Pfizer Products Expiration Information

Expiry information for Ages 5 through 11 DILUTE BEFORE USE Orange Cap presentation and Ages 12 years and older DO NOT DILUTE Gray Cap presentation		Expiry information for Ages 12 years and older DILUTE BEFORE USE Purple Cap presentation	
Printed Manufacturing Date	9-Month Expiry Date	Printed Expiry Date	Updated Expiry Date
06/2021	28-Feb-2022	September 2021	December 2021
07/2021	31-Mar-2022	October 2021	January 2022
08/2021	30-Apr-2022	November 2021	February 2022
09/2021	31-May-2022	December 2021	March 2022
10/2021	30-Jun-2022	January 2022	April 2022
11/2021	31-Jul-2022	February 2022	May 2022
12/2021	31-Aug-2022		
01/2022	30-Sep-2022		
02/2022	31-Oct-2022		

The Centers for Disease Control has provided expiration information regarding Pfizer products to advise providers on best practices for storage.

Regardless of storage condition, **orange** cap and **gray** cap vaccine vials should not be used after nine months from the date of manufacture printed on the vial and cartons.

The **purple** cap vaccine vials with an expiration date of September 2021 to February 2022 (printed on the label) **may remain in use for 3 months beyond the printed date** if vials are maintained in approved storage conditions (-90°C to -60°C, -130°F to -76°F).

Please find more information at:

[Expiry Document January 2022.pdf \(cvdvaccine-us.com\)](#)

Long Term Care (LTC) Matching Program Update

Effective March 1, the dashboard in Tiberius has been closed to any new request.

Existing LTCF support requests in Tiberius will continue to be supported. Please check Tiberius ("LTC Vaccine Access" tab) to see current statuses of requests and LTC clinic data. After March 1, new questions or technical assistance requests can be submitted through eocevent494@cdc.gov.

LTC facilities can also continue to [reach out to pharmacy partners directly](#) or contact CDC INFO at 800-232-4636 for additional support connecting with a provider. Additional information on accessing vaccine for long-term care settings can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/long-term-care/pharmacy-partnerships.html>

FDA announces shelf-life extension for Johnson & Johnson vaccine

The Food & Drug Administration announced the approval of a shelf-life extension for the [Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine](#) for an additional three months. The shelf-life of this vaccine has been updated from six months to nine months.



This decision is based on data from ongoing stability assessment studies that demonstrate that the vaccine is stable at nine months when refrigerated at temperatures of 36° – 46° Fahrenheit (2° – 8° Celsius).

This shelf-life extension applies to all **inventory dated to expire on March 7, 2022 or later**. Vaccine dated prior to March 7, 2022, should be disposed of according to state and local regulation and reported as waste based on your COVID-19 provider agreement.

Vaccine providers should visit the [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Expiry Checker](#) webpage to confirm expiration dates. This shelf-life extension applies to refrigerated vials of J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine that have been held in accordance with the manufacturer's storage conditions.

COVID-19 vaccines authorized under an emergency use authorization do not have fixed expiration dates, and expiration dates may be extended as more stability data is received. Providers are reminded to always check the manufacturer's website to obtain the most up-to-date expiration dates for the COVID-19 vaccines in your possession.

Best Practices for Inventory Management: What to Do as LOTS of Lots Begin to Expire

The CDC advises jurisdictions and providers to make it a practice to regularly check inventory for expired vaccines and immediately remove expired inventory to prevent it from being administered.

CDC Code Set Management Service

The COVID-19 Vaccine Lot Number report, available via CDC's Vaccine Code Set Management Service, can help identify expired inventory. The report is updated daily with COVID-19 vaccine lot numbers and expiration dates provided to CDC by vaccine manufacturers.

If you have not yet registered for the report, visit [CDC's Vaccine Lot Number and Expiration Date webpage](#) and click the "Register" button in the upper right-hand corner to complete the registration form to request access.

Vaccine Expiration Date Lookup and Reference Information:

- [Expiry Information for Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Moderna Vial Expiration Date Look-up Tool](#)
- [J&J Expiration Date Lookup Tool](#)

CDC provides guidance on masking in healthcare facilities

According to CDC, each healthcare facility will have to assess, based on criteria, whether masking is appropriate or not.



CDC has updated guidance about COVID-19 community levels along with recommended individual and household-precautions and community-level prevention strategies that should be taken at each level. The rationale for these changes is described in the guidance.

Healthcare settings should continue to follow [CDC's infection prevention and control \(IPC\) recommendations for healthcare settings](#), which continue to use [community transmission levels](#) as a metric for stratifying some IPC measures (e.g., use of source control, screening testing).

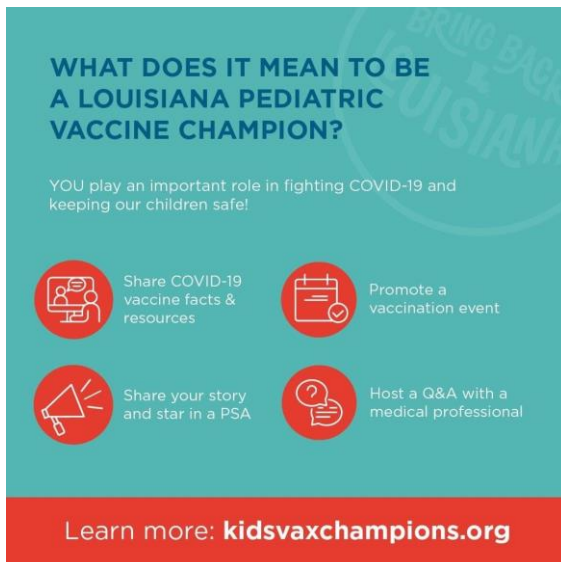
Engagement tips for Louisiana pediatric vaccine champions

Opportunities remain to get involved with Louisiana Department of Health pediatric vaccine champions initiative.

There are multiple ways to be a champion:

- Share COVID-19 vaccine facts & resources
- Promote community vaccination events
- Share your story
- Host a Q&A with a Medical Professional

To learn more or to sign up to get involved, visit kidsvaxchampions.org and fill out the form with your information and how you'll champion pediatric vaccines!



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
- Host a Q&A with a medical professional

Learn more: kidsvaxchampions.org

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 56.9%
- **Black:** 32.5%
- **American Indian:** 0.4%
- **Asian:** 2.8%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.2%
- **Unknown:** 1.2%
- **Other:** 6%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 8.4%
- **18-29:** 14.4%
- **30-39:** 14%
- **40-49:** 13.8%
- **50-59:** 15.7%
- **60-69:** 17%
- **70+:** 16.8 %

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 53.6%
- **Male:** 46.1%
- **Unknown:** 0.3%

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

New COVID-19 treatment roll out: Easier, faster access to therapeutics. Read more at wdsu.com.

Strong job growth points to COVID'S fading grip on economy. Read more at [ABC News \(go.com\)](https://abcnews.go.com).

Group of physicians combat misinformation surrounding unproven COVID-19 treatments. Read more at msn.com.

Opinion: What will our COVID future be like? Here are two signs to look out for. Read more at nytimes.com.

Map: COVID-19 transmission levels in each Louisiana parish. Read more at msn.com.