SHARE:

Join Our Email List

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 Update

September 1, 2022 | Issue 75

Question of the Week

Where can I find the most up-to-date COVID-19 tracking data.

The CDC remains a primary source of information for COVID-19 tracking data. The agency regularly reviews and updates its COVID-19 guidance and offers current data related to vaccination, demographics, and geographic trends. For more information, please visit **CDC COVID Data Tracker: Vaccination Demographics Trends**.

For Louisiana-specific data, visit **www.ldh.la.gov/coronavirus** and scroll down to the Summary Dashboard. There, you will find information on the scope of the outbreak and vaccine distribution.

Novavax now authorized for youth ages 12—17

The FDA and CDC recently authorized the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 12 through 17 years of age. Providers can now use the current Novavax COVID-19 vaccine product to vaccinate adolescents within this age range.

Interim Clinical Considerations for use of the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents are identical to the 18 and older age group. Adolescents who are ages 12–17 years should receive a 2-dose primary series; the first and second doses are separated by three weeks. Currently, a booster dose using any COVID-19 vaccine is not authorized for adolescents in this age group who receive a Novavax primary series.

Providers can find the updated EUAs for **providers** and **recipients** and the **FDA's reissued Letter of Authorization** on the **LDH COVID-19 Provider Toolkit** webpage.

Novavax webinars & resources

This week, Novavax launched a new series of weekly training webinars. To register for upcoming webinars, please visit **https://novav.ax/officehours**.

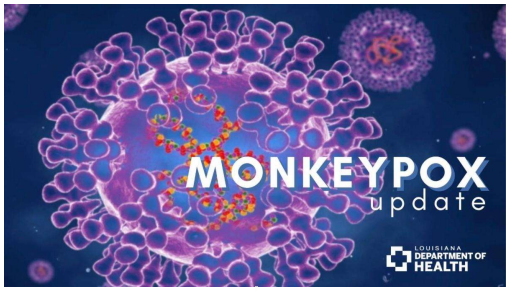
Novavax Training Schedule

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 12pm	**Register here**
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 12pm	**Register here**
Wednesday, Sept. 21, 12pm	**Register here**
Wednesday, Sept. 28, 12pm	**Register here**
Wednesday, Oct. 5, 12pm	**Register here**

Novavax Resources

- **Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine**: Information on storage, handling, and administration
- **Novavax COVID-19, Adjuvanted Vaccine: Overview and Safety**: General information, including vaccine ingredients, safety data, and details on how well the vaccine works
- **Novavax Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine**
- **Novavax Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers**

Updates on expanded eligibility for JYNNEOS vaccine and TPOXX availability



The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has expanded the eligibility criteria for JYNNEOS vaccine (monkeypox vaccine):

The eligibility criteria for monkeypox vaccination now include:

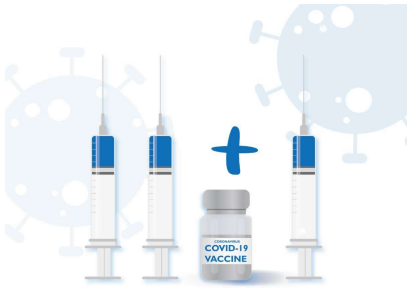
- Gay/bisexual men or transgender people who are sexually active with more than one partner.
- Anyone who is at high risk of monkeypox exposure. This includes (but is not limited to) people who:
  - Are HIV positive or receive medicines to prevent HIV infection (PrEP)
  - Are experiencing homelessness
  - Use IV drugs
  - Give or receive money or other goods in exchange for sex
  - Have significant skin-to-skin contact with others in a social or sexual venue
  - Work at establishments where sexual or intimate activity occurs (e.g., bathhouses, saunas, sex clubs, hotels)
- Clinicians or laboratory staff who are at high risk of occupational exposure

- Anyone who has been determined to be at high risk by a healthcare provider or public health official

Vaccination following a known exposure to monkeypox to help prevent illness from monkeypox virus (Post-exposure prophylaxis or PEP) continues to also be available. Individuals who are eligible for PEP are identified by LDH epidemiologists during case investigations. These individuals will be contacted by public health staff and referred to parish health units for PEP vaccination.

For more information, read **Health Alert Network Message 22-29: Update for Louisiana Clinicians on Expanded Eligibility for JYNNEOS Vaccine and TPOXX Availability**.

Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster doses available for order on Sept. 1



With the recent authorization by the CDC and FDA for the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent booster dose vaccines, providers can make orders in LINKS for these new products starting September 1.

The bivalent vaccines have an added Omicron BA.4/5 spike protein component to the current vaccine composition to help protect the public from newer and more prominent strains of the COVID-19 virus. The vaccines should be administered to individuals 12 years and older (Pfizer) and 18 years and older (Moderna) who have already completed their primary series of COVID vaccine. Eligibility for administration does NOT vary by the number or type of prior booster doses received.

Please note: Appointments for monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna boosters in people 12 years of age and older must be rescheduled for when locations have the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines available.

Storage and Handling
Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is packaged in 6-dose vials in cartons of 10 vials each (60 doses total), with a minimum direct order quantity of 300 doses and an M&D minimum order quantity of 6 doses. The vaccine vial will have a Gray Cap and a Gray Border which is identical to the adult primary series Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine. It is important to differentiate between these two products to ensure individuals receive the appropriate vaccine.

Training on Pfizer COVID-19 bivalent boosters

Pfizer Medical is offering virtual training for providers on the potential authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 bivalent vaccine as a booster dose in individuals 12 years of age and older. These sessions are for training purposes only. As of August 31, 2022, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 bivalent vaccine has NOT been authorized for use in the United States. However, the CDC is expected to act soon to authorize this vaccine that is protective against both the original coronavirus strain and the BA.4 and BA.5 omicron subvariants. To access dates and links for upcoming training sessions, **visit the Pfizer website**.

Study reports laboratory-confirmed COVID-19–associated hospitalizations among adults during SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.2 variant predominance

According to a new **CDC study,** increased hospitalization rates among adults ages 65 and older compared with rates among younger adults were most pronounced during the Omicron BA.2–predominant period. Among hospitalized nonpregnant patients, 44.1% had received primary vaccination and at least one booster or additional dose. Hospitalization rates among unvaccinated adults were approximately triple those of vaccinated adults. View the study **here**.

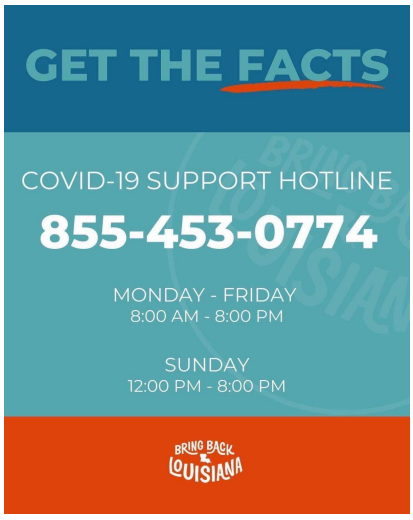
FDA updates on Paxlovidn & COMIRNATY

- **On Aug. 26**, the FDA provided additional guidance to help prescribers evaluate potential drug interactions when using Paxlovid therapy for COVID-19. Prescribers should review each patient's full list of medications and use other resources to evaluate for potential drug interactions in patients who take medications that are not included on the Fact Sheet or checklist at this time. Please see the updated **Prescriber Patient Eligibility Screening Checklist** for more information.

- **Last week,** the FDA approved a single-dose vial presentation of COMIRNATY (COVID-19 vaccine, mRNA). The single-dose vials have gray caps and labels with gray borders, and the vaccine must not be diluted before use. Each vial contains one dose of 0.3 mL. This presentation is approved for use in individuals 12 years of age and older. COMIRNATY is manufactured by Pfizer Inc. for BioNTech Manufacturing GmbH.

Good reads

- U.S. plans to move COVID vaccines, treatments to private markets in 2023
- Paxlovid Cuts Covid Deaths Among Older People, Israeli Study Finds
- COVID cases in school system during 1st week are 3 times higher compared to last year
- FDA to approve new omicron COVID-19 boosters
- LDH: Louisiana experiencing "sixth surge" of COVID
- Moderna sues Pfizer over COVID-19 vaccine patents
- Scientists hope nasal vaccines will help halt Covid transmission



Submit a Question of the Week

Do you have a frequently asked question that you would like to submit or have answered in the QOW?

SUBMIT HERE

Office of Public Health | Immunization Team | 1450 Poydras Street, Suite 1938, New Orleans, LA 70112