

IMMUNIZATION Update

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Question of the Week

Is there a way for young people to help promote vaccine awareness?



Yes. Intentional youth engagement is a critical strategy for sustainable progress in the fight against COVID-19. Along with their drive and enthusiasm to do good, young people bring an unparalleled commitment, much-needed energy, and a diversity of fresh perspectives that are beneficial to raising awareness, dispelling myths and mobilizing their peers to support COVID-19 and other vaccinations.

Now in its second year, the Louisiana Department of Health's Youth Ambassador Program includes young people from across the state leading efforts in their schools, communities and on social media to highlight the continued urgency around COVID-19 vaccinations. The program encourages ambassadors to post graphics and videos using their authentic voices and experiences. The Immunization Program supports these ambassadors through additional message development and paid social media strategies.

This unique statewide campaign is for all youth, ages 12-17, regardless of their current vaccination status. The program provides youth training, leadership development opportunities, and incentives to encourage and support engagement throughout the school year.

If you know anyone interested, encourage them to join the movement by applying as an individual, forming a new group/team, or applying through an existing youth group, sports group, team or club. To find out more or to sign up, visit: www.layouthambassadors.org.

2023 LDH business plan

Invest: Teaming Up for a Stronger LDH and a Healthier Louisiana is the Louisiana Department of Health's business plan for state fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023). This plan builds on progress made under the FY 2022 business plan, which was reported in the [Outcomes Report](#) released with the 2023 business plan. In addition to deepening and learning from our efforts over the past year, LDH has set a new course for 2023 with ambitious initiatives and goals that will deliver results for Louisianans.

[Please view the full letter from our Secretary, Dr. Courtney N. Phillips and the LDH business plan](#)



Dr. Courtney N. Phillips, Secretary

Pfizer and Moderna shelf-life extensions

Ten additional lots of Moderna products have received shelf-life extensions. With these extensions, the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech monovalent COVID-19 vaccines will last into spring 2023. Per best practice, please verify expiry dates using the manufacturers' online checkers before vaccine disposal.

PFIZER

Pfizer has received shelf-life extensions of all TRIS products (i.e., all mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, including monovalent and bivalent vaccines). Expiry is now 18 months from the date of manufacture (stored ULT frozen). Please use the [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Expiry](#) tool to check expiration dates.

MODERNA

Additional monovalent Moderna products have received shelf-life extensions. All lots in the set below are MOD 5 (ages 6–11) for primary use only. Moderna has verified the new expiry dates below and updated the [Moderna Vial Expiration Checker](#).

REMINDER

We continue to encourage you to manage and report your inventory properly:

- Practice first-in/first-out inventory management.
- Store older vaccines in the front of the refrigerator or freezer unit
- Continually monitor vaccines to help reduce administration errors.
- Update / zero out inventory in VaccineFinder to avoid turning away customers.
- Dispose of any expired vaccine according to state and local regulations.
- Verify expiry dates using the manufacturers' online checker

EXPIRY DATES FOR:

- Pfizer: <https://lotexpiry.cvdvaccine.com>
- Moderna: <https://modernacovid19global.com/vial-lookup>
- Novavax: <https://us.novavaxcovidvaccine.com/hcp>
- Johnson and Johnson/Janssen: <https://vaxcheck.jnj/>

CDC's COVID-19 Vaccine Lot Number and Expiration Date Report:

<https://vaccinecodeset.cdc.gov/LotNumber>

Week 48 FluView report

Flu activity continues to increase across the country, with the highest in the southeast and south-central parts of the country, followed by the Mid-Atlantic and the south-central West Coast regions. Click below for key points summarizing FluView data and other relevant flu-related information.

In Louisiana during Week 48:

- 8.42% of patient visits reported through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to influenza-like illness (ILI).
- This percentage is above the regional baseline of 3.9%.
- The ILI case definition changed starting with the 2021–2022 season: fever >100.3 AND cough and/or sore throat.

Cumulative 2022-23 influenza vaccinations statewide:

1. Flu vaccines given to individuals 0–17 years of age: 116,849
2. Flu vaccines given to individuals 18+ years of age: 577,792

[FluView Report Week 48](#)

Vax Matters podcast: The flu vaccine



Be immune from misinformation with the Office of Public Health's Vax Matters podcast.

With flu cases on the rise, it is a good time for a throwback Thursday episode of Vax Matters podcast (originally posted on October 5, 2022) for a discussion of the flu.

Get the answers to questions such as, "Why do people have to receive the flu shot each year?" Dr. Brody LeBlanc, a family medicine doctor at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center, lends his expertise to help us learn why.

All Vax Matters episodes are available on most major podcast platforms. Click here to listen now: [Apple](#), [Spotify](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Stitcher](#), [Amazon](#), [Audible](#).

If you would like to be a future guest on the Vax Matter podcast, contact jourdan.barnes@la.gov

CDC expands updated COVID-19 vaccines to include children ages six months through 5 years

Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent COVID-19 vaccine boosters are now authorized for administration to children down to six months of age. On December 9, 2022, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized](#) and the CDC recommended the expanded use of updated (bivalent) COVID-19 vaccines for children ages six months through 5 years.

With this authorization, the Louisiana Department of Health recommends these updated vaccines for these age groups.

- Moderna: Children ages six months through 5 years who previously completed a Moderna primary series are eligible to receive a Moderna bivalent booster two months after their final primary series dose.
- Pfizer-BioNTech: Children ages six months through 4 years who are currently completing a Pfizer primary series will receive a Pfizer bivalent vaccine as their third primary dose. **No booster is currently recommended for those children who have completed the 3-dose Pfizer series.** [See this link for details.](#)

Updated COVID-19 vaccines are formulated to protect against some recently circulating viruses. Most importantly, COVID-19 vaccines provide ongoing protection as immunity wanes and the virus continues to mutate.

The vast majority of children in this age group have not received any doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. CDC is working to increase parent and provider confidence in COVID-19 vaccines and improve uptake among the 95% of children who are not vaccinated or have not completed the COVID-19 vaccine primary series. Parents should talk to their child's healthcare provider to ensure their child is up to date on COVID-19 and other vaccines.

[View Louisiana Health Alert Network \(LA HAN\) bulletin](#)

Nearly 40 million children are dangerously susceptible to the growing measles threat

Measles vaccination coverage has steadily declined since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a joint report issued by CDC and the World Health Organization, a record high of nearly 40 million children missed a measles vaccine dose in 2021, another 25 million children missed their first dose and an additional 14.7 million children missed their second dose.

This decline is a significant setback in global progress toward achieving and maintaining measles elimination, leaving millions of children susceptible to infection.

In 2021, an estimated nine million cases and 128,000 deaths from measles worldwide, and 22 countries experienced large and disruptive outbreaks. In addition, declines in vaccine coverage weakened measles surveillance. The continued interruptions and delays in immunization activities due to COVID-19 and large persistent outbreaks in 2022 mean that measles is an imminent threat in every region of the world.

Read more [here](#).

CDC updates mpox agreement

CDC has updated section 15 of the [mpox program provider agreement](#). Please make your mpox providers aware of this change to the agreement.

This change highlights that concerns about intradermal administration should not be a barrier to vaccination. The change aligns the provider agreement with the [interim clinical considerations](#) providing flexibility regarding the route of administration. Public health jurisdictions and healthcare providers can offer the intradermal or subcutaneous regimen based on balancing optimal vaccine use and acceptance, the feasibility of administration, and available vaccine supply.

Both subcutaneous and intradermal vaccine regimens provide a similar, safe immune response against mpox.

PEAR training video series has launched

These training videos will provide users with a step-by-step guide to using the online PEAR system. Information about the target audience, learning objectives, relevant videos, resources and a summary is provided for each video.

Videos are grouped by the user (*i.e.*, *Awardee Staff, Content Administrators, Project Officers/CDC Users*) to assist you with navigating PEAR. While viewers do not need to watch videos in sequence, the suggested order of videos is recommended to build upon the knowledge learned from the preceding videos. The proposed order may be beneficial if you are new to PEAR or need a refresher on the system. If you need help figuring out where to start, 'PEAR Basics' is a good option.

You can access the PEAR Training Videos home page from the "Help" tab in [PEAR](#) by clicking the "PEAR Training Videos" hyperlink under the Quick Tips & Training Video section. Please contact your Project Officer for assistance if you need SAMS and/or PEAR access.

Newly released ACIP videos describe how United States recommendations are developed

To support communities and individuals in better understanding vaccines and the recommendations behind them, the Public Health Foundation (PHF) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed an educational video, *Understanding the ACIP and How Vaccine Recommendations are Made in the U.S.*

This short video sheds light on the process, science, and safety behind vaccine recommendations, equipping healthcare and public health professionals with information to help them confidently incorporate ACIP recommendations as standards of care in their practice.

[Watch the video to learn more about the ACIP and vaccine recommendations.](#)