

IMMUNIZATION Update

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Question of the Week

What should I do to protect myself from the "Tripledemic" - RSV, COVID-19 and Flu?



The "Tripledemic" is a term that some public health leaders and the news media are using to describe the current spread of three respiratory illnesses: COVID-19, influenza (flu), and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Many precautions can help you stay healthy and reduce your chances of getting sick with or spreading these three illnesses. Here are a few of the most important and effective measures:

1. **Get vaccinated and boosted.** You should get a flu shot if you haven't already this year, and stay up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations with an updated booster dose. Everyone ages six months and older can be vaccinated against flu and COVID-19. There is no vaccine to prevent RSV.
2. **Wash your hands.** Washing your hands is simple and essential in preventing the spread of viruses like RSV, flu, and COVID-19. Read more from the CDC about [how and when to wash your hands.](#)
3. **Wear a mask.** Wearing a high-quality, well-fitting mask effectively reduces the spread of COVID-19, and data show it also likely reduces the transmission of other respiratory illnesses like RSV and flu.
4. **Stay home if you're sick.** If you're feeling unwell, you should stay home and away from others. You should also test for COVID-19.

5. **Contact your healthcare provider.** Consult your healthcare provider if you have questions about your health, testing and treatment, especially if you or your child are at high risk for complications from flu, RSV or COVID-19. There are effective treatments for COVID-19 and flu, but both need to be administered early in the course of the illness to be effective. In addition, your healthcare provider can help you manage symptoms of [RSV](#) if you or your child are sick.

ULL Survey: What is the perception of the COVID-19 vaccination?

The University of Lafayette, Louisiana (ULL) would like your help understanding public perceptions of the COVID-19 vaccination. The survey will take about 5 to 10 minutes. This project may allow vital research to occur for the people of Louisiana in the future. As this is an anonymous survey, the results of this survey may be published in professional journals. However, no personal information about the participants will be part of the reports.

For more information about the survey, [click here](#).



You can be naughty or nice, but don't get sick.

As you complete your holiday shopping and prepare for family gatherings, don't forget to add, "Get vaccinated" to your list. COVID-19, the flu and RSV are surging in many parts of the country. With rising cases and hospitalizations, some public health authorities are revisiting indoor mask guidance.

The CDC recommends people wear masks indoors in areas with a high COVID-19 Community Level. Regardless of Community Level, anyone can wear a mask as an additional precaution to protect themselves and their families from respiratory infections during the holiday season.

Use our new [Answers to Tough Questions](#) on the "triple-demic", [Talking Points and Answers to Tough Questions](#) on overall mask guidance and the CDC Community Level, and our ["What Mask Should I Wear?"](#) graphic to promote the use of the most effective kinds of masks this winter.



Week 49 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 49:

- 6.62% 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: **121,590**
2. Flu vaccines given to individuals 18+ years of age: **592,721**

[FluView Report Week 49](#)

Vax Matters podcast: Hepatitis A & B



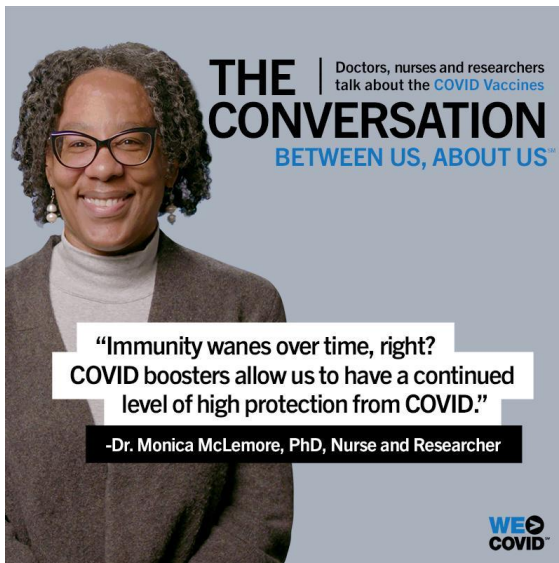
Be immune from misinformation with the Office of Public Health's Vax Matters podcast.

Dr. Gia Tyson, head of hepatology and the Liver Center at Ochsner Health in Baton Rouge, lends her expertise in this episode as we explore hepatitis A & B and the vaccine developed to defend us against these diseases.

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

Greater than COVID



With COVID cases rising, individuals must stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccine boosters especially seniors and other vulnerable populations.

A [new KFF survey](#) finds only about four in ten seniors aged 65+ have gotten the latest COVID booster, and those who have not are skeptical of its value.

[Greater Than COVID](#), a public information campaign from KFF, offers [rights-free videos and motion graphics designed for sharing on digital and social media](#) to help increase understanding of the importance of

COVID vaccine boosters in protecting against serious illness.

[View and Share](#)

Coalition to Stop Flu

The [Coalition to Stop Flu](#), a multi-sector advocacy coalition dedicated to ending deaths from seasonal and pandemic influenza, applauds the Protecting America from Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza Act.

The Influenza Act introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Rick Larsen, along with Representatives Deborah Ross, Ami Bera, Salud Carbajal, Nanette Diaz Barragán and Eleanor Holmes Norton. The legislation comes at a critical moment, as influenza rates are at their highest level in over a decade and many hospitals have been pushed to the brink. Moreover, the bill is the first comprehensive effort to enact proactive federal policy changes to stop flu deaths in our lifetime.

The Influenza Act would strengthen and modernize America's seasonal and pandemic influenza infrastructure, including:

- Enhancing and diversifying influenza vaccine development, manufacturing and supply chain,
- Promoting innovative approaches and use of new technologies to detect, prevent and respond to influenza,
- Increasing influenza vaccine and therapeutics access and coverage across all populations, and
- Authorizing sustainable funding for the influenza ecosystem

Read more [here](#).

Thank you and see you next year!

We did it. We've made it to the end of 2022! The immunization Program of Louisiana would like to wish you a happy and safe holiday personally. It has been a pleasure to keep you in the loop with all of the Immunization updates nationally and statewide. There is a lot to be proud of as we close 2022, including:

- Distribution of the updated COVID-19 bivalent booster to everyone 6 months and older
- Initiating 9,335 and completing 5,438 mpox (formerly known as Monkeypox) vaccinations with no new cases reported as of 12/18/22

- Vaccinating over 714,000 in Louisiana for the flu virus
- 22 episodes of Vax Matter podcast
- 91 weekly Immunization updates to over 2,500 providers, partners, and friends

Lastly, we would like to thank you for serving your communities and reminding your networks, patients, family and friends to keep their vaccinations up to date. You have been an essential key in keeping Louisiana healthy.

#StrongerImmunities #StrongerCommunities

Sincerely,

Louisiana's Immunization Program

