



## Question of the Week

### Why can't I delay some vaccines if I'm planning for my baby to get them all eventually?



**Young children have the highest risk of contracting a serious disease that could cause hospitalization or death.** Delaying or spreading out vaccine doses leaves your child unprotected when they need vaccine protection the most.

For example, diseases such as Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type B) can lead to meningitis or pneumococcus, and almost always occur in the first two years of a baby's life. And some diseases, like hepatitis B and whooping cough (pertussis), are more serious when babies get them.

**It is always better to prevent a disease than to treat it after it occurs.**

- Vaccination is a highly effective, safe and easy way to help keep your family healthy.
- Vaccination timing depends on how your child's immune system responds to vaccines at various ages and how likely your child may be exposed to disease.
- Vaccines are tested to ensure they are safe and effective for children to receive at the recommended ages.

CDC [vaccine information statements](#) (VISs) explain a vaccine's benefits and risks. VISs are available for each immunization.

Do you believe there's a benefit in delaying vaccinations for babies?

Yes

No

# Upcoming event: "Out of Crisis: Still in COVID: What Do We Do Next?"

The Louisiana Department of Health's [Bureau of Community Partnerships & Health Equity](#) is hosting a moderated roundtable entitled, "Out of Crisis, Still in COVID: What Do We Do Next?" on February 9, 2023, at 10 a.m. for healthcare professionals, public health practitioners, community health workers and other service providers. A panel of local and statewide health and community experts will share lessons learned, information and resources to help our communities move forward. Registration is required for this hybrid event. Attendees can participate in person at LDH headquarters at **628 North 4th Street in Baton Rouge** (limited space) or via Zoom. Please click [here](#) to register. Email LDH at [LDH\\_OCPHE@la.gov](mailto:LDH_OCPHE@la.gov) for more information.

[Click here](#) to share the event flyer with your networks.



## CDC's latest Vaccine Confidence Report now available

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has published the [2022 Quarter 3 State of Vaccine Confidence Report](#) which identifies the public's questions, concerns and frustrations, as well as misinformation circulating about vaccines that has the potential to impact vaccine confidence.

The main themes from the report—and what you can do to help address them—can be found below.

### Reporting Rumors

CDC partners can now report vaccine-related rumors directly to CDC. To report a rumor, go to: [www.cdc.gov/report-rumors](http://www.cdc.gov/report-rumors) and start the subject line with: "Rumors:" In the question box, give as much information about the rumor as you can, such as a description of the rumor, where you heard it, and how many times you have heard it.

### Major themes identified from social media, news, and other sources that may impact vaccine confidence:

- [Questions about the availability and effectiveness of the updated COVID-19 booster dose](#)
- Questions about the safety of the updated COVID-19 booster dose as well as the primary series, especially related to myocarditis
- Concerns about the spread of **Mpox** and the public health response
- Pandemic fatigue, especially with the continued transmission of SARS-CoV-2

### Ways public health and partners can take action to improve vaccine confidence.

- Create communications materials with data explaining why and how updated vaccines were developed. Additionally, explain why booster doses continue to be important and necessary.
- Collaborate with community leaders, health care providers, and others to craft and disseminate messaging to encourage individuals to receive the updated COVID-19 booster dose when eligible.
- Provide easy-to-read clinical findings showing the safety of all U.S.-approved vaccines.
- Collaborate with trusted messengers to explain all the benefits of the updated COVID-19 booster dose.
- Promote positive vaccine experiences, emphasize vaccine safety.

## COVID-19 is a leading cause of death in children and young people in the United States

In a [study released this week](#) by the University of Oxford, researchers found that between August 2021 and July 2022, COVID-19 was a leading cause of death in children and young people in the U.S., ranking eighth overall.

The data for this study is from the CDC's databases, and the full results have been published in the journal *JAMA Network Open*.

### Other key findings include the following:

- COVID-19 was the top cause of death in children from an infectious disease in the same period.
- During the Delta and Omicron waves, death in children from COVID-19 was highest in the U.S.
- Infants aged less than one year were the most vulnerable, with a COVID-19 death rate of 4 per 100,000.
- Pharmaceutical and public health interventions continue to be essential to limit virus transmission and mitigate severe disease in this age group.

Read more [here](#).

## FDA committee votes to roll out new COVID vaccination strategy

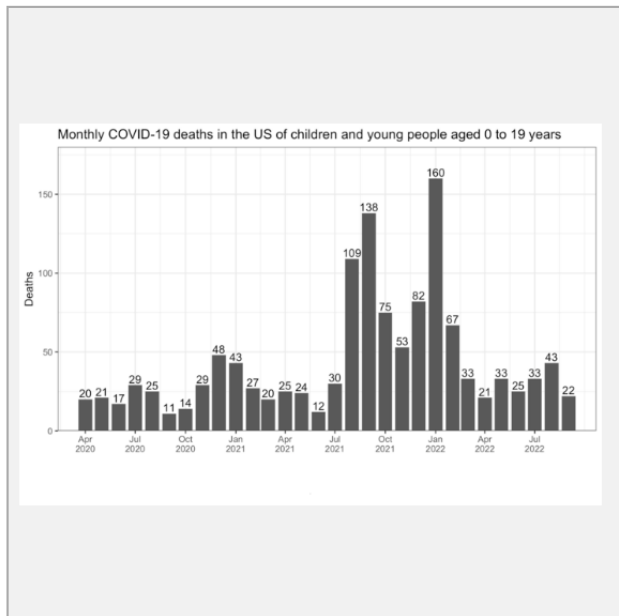


IMAGE: MONTHLY NUMBER OF DEATHS IN THE US OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (AGED 0-19), WHERE COVID-19 WAS LISTED AS THE CAUSE OF DEATH ON THE DEATH CERTIFICATE. IMAGE CREDIT: FLAXMAN ET AL. JAMA NETWORK OPEN.

As reported by several news organizations, a committee of advisers to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently voted unanimously to simplify the nation's strategy for vaccinating people against COVID-19.

[According to NPR](#), the recommendation is that future COVID-19 vaccines should be interchangeable. Whether receiving the first





dose or a booster, the vaccines would all have the same formulation, regardless of the manufacturer.

The FDA committee also considered (but didn't vote on) proposals to have an annual COVID vaccination schedule, much like the U.S. has for the flu. If this happens, the FDA would advise most people to get just one shot every fall with a new vaccine designed to match whatever variant is predicted to spread each winter.

"Because of [the coronavirus's] rapid evolution, we've needed to adjust our approach over time, and we're now in a reasonable place to reflect on the development of the COVID-19 vaccines to date to see if we can simplify the approach to vaccination," said Dr. Peter Marks, FDA's top vaccine official.

## Week 3 FluView report



Seasonal influenza is steadily declining in Louisiana but remains a threat; keep encouraging vaccination. Click below for key points summarizing FluView data and other relevant flu-related information.

### In Louisiana during Week 3:

- 2.6% 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 **below 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: **137,265**
2. Flu vaccines given to individuals 18+ years of age: **633,242**

## Vax Matters podcast: "Childhood Vaccines and Autism"

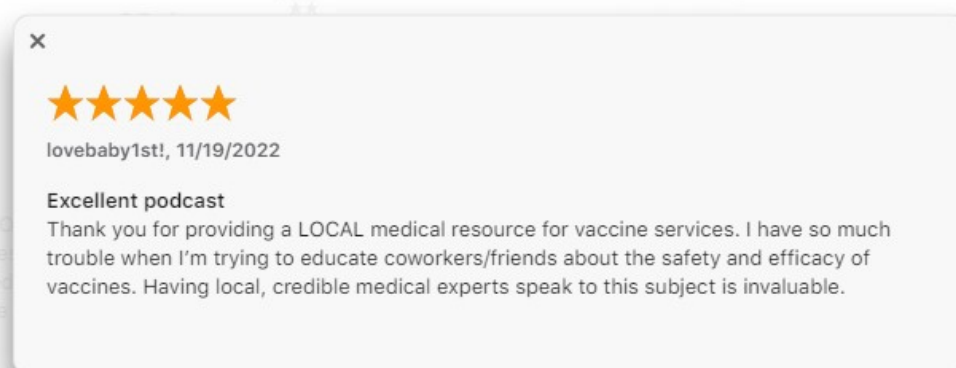


Be immune from misinformation with the Office of Public Health's Vax Matters podcast.

Guest Dr. Sanjay Juneja explores the relationship between cancer and vaccines. He currently serves as Baton Rouge General's chief of oncology service line. In addition, Dr. Juneja is triple board certified in hematology, medical oncology and internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

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](mailto:jourdan.barnes@la.gov)



## WHO learning opportunity: Infodemic management 101

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone around the globe. Strengthening the public health response, health systems and global health security depends on improving the management of our entire information ecosystem. Unfortunately, the rapid overflow of information, combined with information voids and confusing messaging, has created an "infodemic" that is making it hard for people to find trusted information and know what actions to take to protect their health and their communities.

Everyone has a role in managing the infodemic, and this journey starts by understanding and identifying its fundamental mechanisms and actors. This online course facilitated by the World Health Organization (WHO) is for anyone interested in understanding what an infodemic is, how it dramatically affects public health and what we can do about it now and into the future.

Participants can expect to be exposed to a broad range of infodemic management skills and topics and learn how to decrease the negative impact of misinformation and disinformation on public health.

[Click here](#) to enroll in the course.

## Free graphic: " Things We ♥: A New Way of Looking At Equity."

In 2017, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) [crafted a simple illustration](#) of four people riding bikes to explain equality and equity. (To sum it up quickly, "equality" means everyone gets the same kind of bike, while "equity" means everyone gets a bike tailored to their needs.)

The response to the graphic was overwhelmingly positive, with people telling RWJF that the graphic helped them understand and explain the concept of equity. However, the RWJF team didn't stop there—they decided to make it even better!

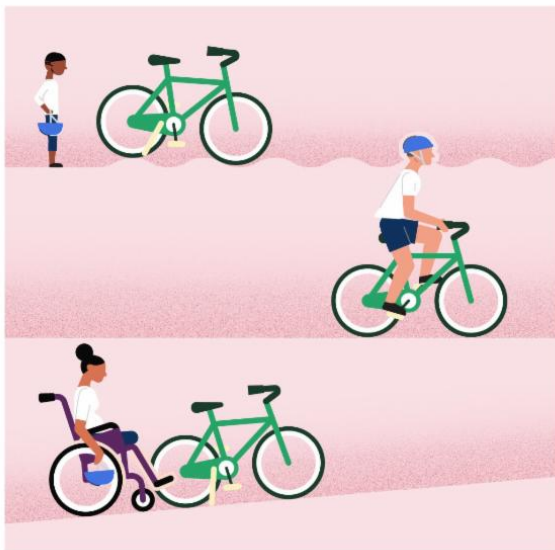
This year, RWJF redesigned the graphic to reflect the organization's commitment to advancing health equity. They followed a [human-centered design](#) process by:

- Surveying RWJF newsletter subscribers
- Gathering feedback from people who have experienced barriers to access—like people with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities
- Considering how and where people would use the graphic

Based on audience feedback, RWJF updated the bike image *and* created an all-new graphic with a crosswalk scene. The crosswalk image shows how curb cuts and accessible traffic signals help *everyone* cross the street safely. Both graphics paint a more nuanced picture, illustrating how barriers to access impact different groups of people. Additionally, RWJF added captions to make the main message crystal clear.

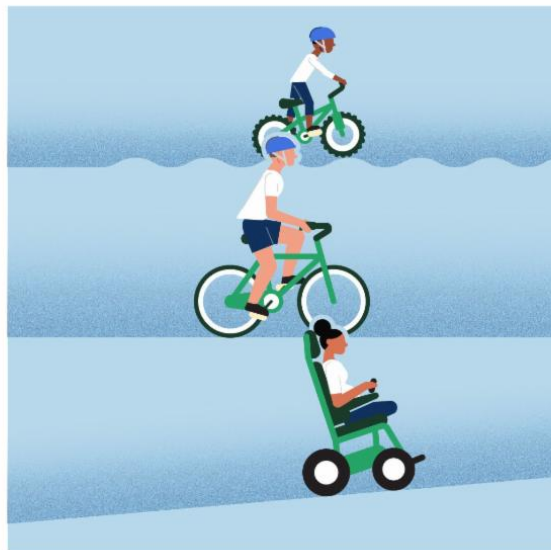
### EQUALITY:

Everyone gets the same—regardless if it's needed or right for them.



### EQUITY:

Everyone gets what they need—understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.



**EQUALITY:**

Everyone gets the same – regardless if it’s needed or right for them.



**EQUITY:**

Everyone gets what they need – understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.



## ICYMI: CDC Learning Connection: COVID-19 boosters, onboarding, polio vaccination and ME/CFS courses

Continue the start of your New Year with CDC Learning Connection’s featured training and earn free CE credits. Learn about recent vaccine effectiveness data, schedules for different age groups and ways to talk with patients in [Clinical Guidance and Patient Education for Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

Is your organization bringing on new staff in 2023? Learn how to create an onboarding plan that sets staff up for success with [Onboarding New Employees](#).

Last year, CDC supported public health partners in New York State in investigating and responding to a case of polio in an unvaccinated adult resident. Review vaccination guidance to prevent the disease in [You Call the Shots: Polio](#).

Sign up for their [newsletter](#) to stay informed about quality public health training from CDC and partners.



Was IZ Newsletter Issue 96 informative?

Yes

No



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

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