



## Question of the Week

### Is HPV a concern for men?



Yes, men can develop cancer from certain strains of the virus. Men may develop HPV-associated cancer of the mouth and throat, penis or anus. HPV infections are common among sexually active people, and infections often cause no symptoms. The immune system usually clears HPV infections.

HPV-related cancers can be prevented in both women and men with the HPV vaccine.

#### How to improve HPV vaccination rates:

- Remind patients and/or parents that the HPV vaccine is available.
- Schedule the next appointment automatically to complete the three-part vaccination series.
- Make HPV vaccinations a standing order for all eligible patients.
- Remind patients and/or parents that insurance will cover the cost of the HPV vaccine.

#### Resources

- [Call-to-action flyer](#)
- [How does HPV cause cervical cancer \(Video\)](#)
- [HPV talking points](#)
- [LCP: Cervical Cancer & HPV](#)

Did you know HPV could also impact men?

Yes

No

# Louisiana finds creative ways to provide access to COVID-19 vaccinations

When COVID-19 vaccines became available to the public in early 2021, governments and healthcare workers across the United States faced the daunting task of vaccinating as many people as possible. That massive undertaking continues today, but the State of Louisiana has risen to the challenge by implementing various creative approaches to providing access to vaccines.

## Strike teams conducted mobile events

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently recognized Louisiana for its efforts to make COVID-19 vaccinations available to people in with little access to healthcare services. In an article posted to its website this week, CDC wrote, "In Louisiana, state officials worked with local partners to deploy mobile vaccine "strike teams" to areas with little access to health care. Businesses, schools, and other organizations could sign up to request that a mobile vaccination strike team provide an event."



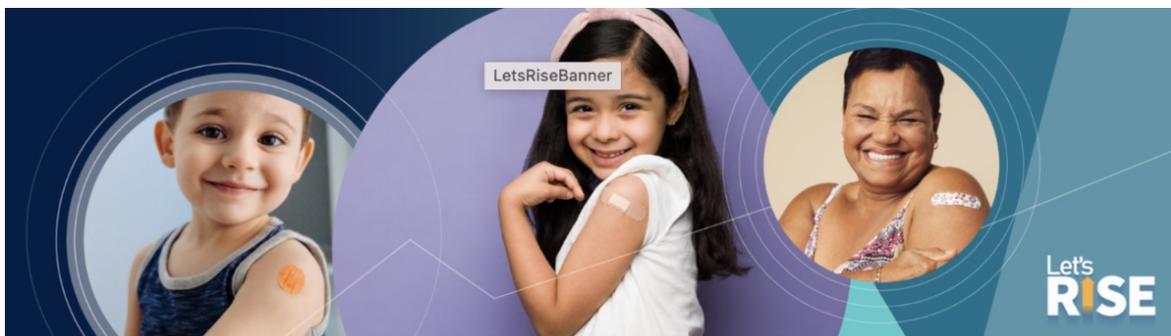
The article continued, "As a result, from January 2021 through September 2022, over 11,000 mobile COVID-19 vaccination events were conducted at over 1,900 unique locations throughout Louisiana, providing over 4,200 COVID-19 vaccinations to homebound individuals and collectively administering over 300,000 shots at these states sponsored events."

Read the [full article here](#), to learn how the Louisiana Department of Health reduced disparities in COVID-19 vaccinations, created successful communication strategies and launched a youth ambassador program to ignite the fight against COVID-19.

## COVID-19 vaccination strategies applied by the Louisiana Department of Health:

- [Vaccine Ambassadors](#)
- [Effective Messages Delivered by Trusted Messengers](#)
- [School-Located Vaccination Programs](#)
- [Home-Delivered Vaccination](#)

# CDC launches "Let's RISE" initiative to get routine vaccinations back on track



CDC launched its [Let's RISE \(Routine Immunizations on Schedule for Everyone\)](#) campaign to provide practical strategies, resources and data to support getting all Americans back on schedule with their routine immunizations to protect everyone from vaccine-

preventable diseases.

The "Let's RISE" campaign features calls to action, resources for healthcare professionals and partners, patient education talking points and visual aids, and data for action.

Use [Let's RISE](#) campaign resources to encourage catching up on routine vaccinations and to communicate why being up to date on vaccinations is critical for staying healthy.

## Week 1 FluView report



Seasonal influenza activity remains high but is declining in most areas. The highest levels are 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 1:

- **4.1%** 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: **118,142**
2. Flu vaccines given to individuals 18+ years of age: **623,730**

### [FluView Report Week 1](#)

## Vax Matters podcast: HPV



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

Episode guests Gretchen Schulz and Alex Michel from Johns Hopkins University talk about

why many remain hesitant to receive vaccines and how fears about the COVID-19 vaccine may have encouraged that feeling.

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

## Immunize.org continues to expand its translations of new and updated Vaccine Information Statements for several vaccines

Immunize.org substantially expanded its repository of [Vaccination Information Statement \(VIS\)](#) translations thanks to CDC support. Immunize.org posted new and updated VIS translations for HPV, rotavirus, Td and Tdap vaccines.

All translations are available in print-ready PDF format.

### **HPV (human papillomavirus) VIS** (view in [English](#)):

Updated: [Farsi](#)

New! [German](#)

Updated: [Hindi](#)

New! [Italian](#)

Updated: [Khmer \(Cambodian\)](#)

New! [Polish](#)

New! [Swahili \(Kiswahili\)](#)

New! [Urdu](#)

New! [Yiddish](#)

### **Rotavirus VIS** (view in [English](#)):

Updated: [Farsi](#)

New! [German](#)

Updated: [Hindi](#)

New! [Italian](#)

Updated: [Khmer \(Cambodian\)](#)

New! [Polish](#)

New! [Swahili \(Kiswahili\)](#)

New! [Urdu](#)

New! [Yiddish](#)

### **Td (tetanus, diphtheria) VIS** (view in [English](#)):

Updated: [Armenian](#)

Updated: [Farsi](#)

Updated: [German](#)

New! [Hindi](#)

New! [Italian](#)

New! [Japanese](#)

Updated: [Khmer \(Cambodian\)](#)

Updated: [Korean](#)

New! [Polish](#)

New! [Swahili \(Kiswahili\)](#)

Updated: [Tagalog](#)

New! [Urdu](#)

New! [Yiddish](#)

### **Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) VIS** (view in [English](#)):

Updated: [German](#)

New! [Italian](#)

New! [Polish](#)

Updated: [Swahili \(Kiswahili\)](#)

New! [Urdu](#)

New! [Yiddish](#)

Check the version dates of your office copies of newly updated translations. Discard previous VIS versions now that translations of the current versions are available.

## CDC announces negative COVID-19 test requirement from air passenger entering the United States from the People's Republic of China

CDC announced on December 28, 2022, that it would implement a requirement for a negative COVID-19 test or recovery documentation for air passengers boarding flights to the United States from the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

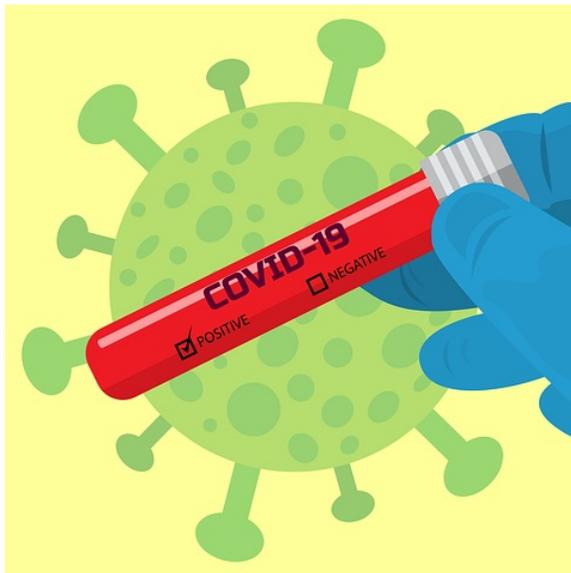
CDC is announcing this step to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the United States during the surge in COVID-19 cases in the PRC, given the lack of adequate and transparent epidemiological and viral genomic sequence data being reported from the PRC.

These data are critical to monitor the case surge effectively and decrease the chance for entry of a novel variant of concern. CDC will continue to monitor the situation and adjust its approach as necessary.

Read more [here](#).



## AstraZeneca's preventative COVID-19 treatment likely not effective against XBB.1.5: FDA



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said on Friday, January 6, 2023, that AstraZeneca's preventative monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19 is likely ineffective against the XBB.1.5 omicron subvariant due to its similarity to other mutations of the virus that are also not neutralized by the treatment.

In a statement, the FDA said it "does not anticipate that Evusheld will neutralize XBB.1.5."

Evusheld is a combination of two monoclonal antibodies that have been authorized as pre-exposure prophylaxis to prevent COVID-19 infections in those who are moderate to severely immunocompromised.

Read the full [article here](#).

## The newly updated 65+ Flu Defense website offers resources for healthcare professionals serving older adults

Confident recommendations for influenza vaccines from healthcare providers are powerfully persuasive. [Immunize.org](https://immunize.org), in collaboration with CSL Seqirus, updated the [65+ Flu Defense](https://www.influenza-defense.org) website to assist you in maximizing protection for your patients.

Older adults are at increased risk of severe influenza and COVID-19 illness, including hospitalization and death, especially if they are not up to date on these vaccinations. An updated fact sheet on the website, [The Importance of Preventing Influenza and COVID-19](#), offers responses to help guide discussions with patients on the importance of preventing influenza and COVID-19.

This helpful site includes information, tools, and tips for communicating with adults 65 and older about the scope and severity of influenza. Resources include:

- [Influenza in Adults 65+: The Facts](#)
- [Influenza Vaccination: Questions Patients Aged 65 and Older Frequently Ask Their HCP](#)
- [The Importance of Preventing Influenza and COVID-19](#)

Check out the updated 65+ Flu Defense website at [www.influenza-defense.org](https://www.influenza-defense.org) to assist your ongoing efforts in protecting this vulnerable population.

## ICYMI: Medicare Part D eliminates recipients' out-of-pocket costs for all ACIP-recommended vaccines starting January 1, 2023

Beginning January 1 of this year, the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA) eliminated out-of-pocket costs for [Medicare Part D](#) beneficiaries who receive vaccines recommended for adults by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). As a result, for the first time, people with Medicare's prescription drug coverage will pay no deductible and will not be responsible for any cost-sharing for ACIP-recommended vaccines, including those for shingles, Tdap, and travel.

[Medicare Part D plans](#) cover all vaccines that are commercially available, reasonable and necessary to prevent illness, and not covered by Medicare Part B. Medicare Part B vaccines (including influenza and pneumococcal vaccines) have been given to adult beneficiaries without cost-sharing for many years.

This important new Medicare Part D benefit removes financial barriers to vaccination for millions of people 65 years and older: share the news with your patients, colleagues, and friends. Encourage those with Medicare Part D to get the vaccines they need today.

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