



Question of the Week

Is it necessary to get my child vaccinated?



Vaccines reduce your child's risk of infection by working with the body's natural defenses to help safely develop protection against disease. In addition, vaccines can prevent severe conditions that once killed or harmed many infants, children and adults. Without vaccines, your child is at risk for serious illness or even death from diseases like measles and whooping cough.

Vaccines, like medicine, can have some side effects. Most people who get vaccinated have mild or no side effects. The most common side effects may include fever, tiredness, body aches, redness, swelling and tenderness at the site where the shot was given. **Mild reactions usually go away on their own within a few days. Serious, long-lasting side effects are extremely rare.** These infrequent side effects should not deter you from getting your child vaccinated.

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 think parents should get their children vaccinated?

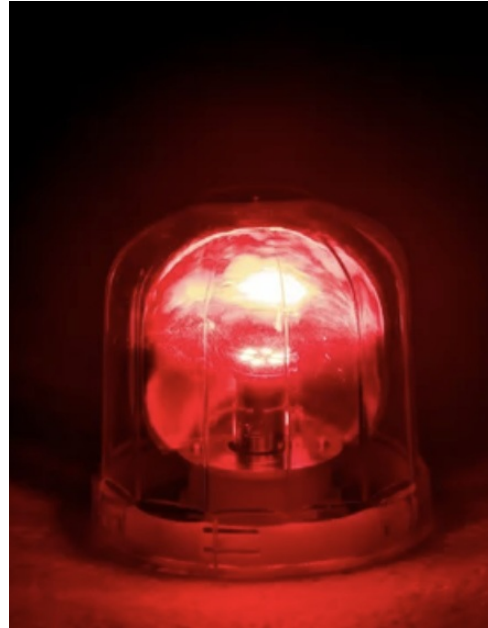
Yes

No

Update: Safety signal for Pfizer's bivalent COVID-19 vaccine

Friday, January 13, 2023, CDC announced that a [vaccine safety monitoring system](#) called the Vaccine Safety Datalink picked up a "safety signal," possibly linking Pfizer's COVID-19 bivalent vaccine with an increased risk of stroke in people 65 and older.

Since then, federal health officials have thoroughly reviewed the data (from the Datalink system and other safety monitoring systems) and concluded it's improbable that there's an actual clinical risk of stroke associated with Pfizer's vaccine. However, with confusing media coverage and misinformation, questions about vaccine safety continue to circulate.



Get the answers

To help address tough questions on this issue, Public Health Communication Collaborative (PHCC) updated their [Answers to Tough Questions](#). Here are key messages from their updated guidance:

- After an extensive review of the latest vaccine safety data, federal health officials have said it's doubtful that there's an actual clinical risk of stroke associated with Pfizer's COVID-19 booster.
- The safety system that monitors COVID-19 vaccine safety is the most extensive in U.S. history.
- The COVID-19 vaccines and updated boosters are safe. In addition, getting vaccinated and boosted remains the best defense against serious illness and hospitalization due to COVID-19.

For additional resources, see PHCC's [Talking Points on Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness](#) to help address vaccination misinformation, and underscore the importance of staying up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination.

How updated vaccines for kids reduce disease resurgence

In central Ohio, at least 77 children have contracted measles, a disease eliminated from the U.S. for over 20 years. As the largest measles outbreak since 2019, it may stem from growing vaccine resistance across the country.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 28 percent of adults surveyed last summer are against vaccine requirements for kids entering kindergarten. Compared to 16 percent of adults in 2019, this jump increases the potential for disease resurgence of



formerly controlled diseases.

Children who receive their scheduled vaccines on time have a lower chance of catching and spreading preventable diseases to others.

Learn more from NPHIC [here](#) about how staying up to date on your child's routine vaccination schedule prevents them from contracting these diseases and lessens disease severity if they become ill.

Novavax and Pfizer inventory updates

Novavax

Novavax will NOT receive shelf-life extensions at this time and will stop shipping in early February. Please use the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine Expiry Date Check to check expiration dates. **The remaining inventory of Novavax (NDC 80631-100-10) will expire on February 28, 2023.**

LINKS ordering for this product will turn off on January 31, 2023. The USG is working on solutions for future use and will share additional information when available.

Monovalent Pfizer EUA to BLA

Based on current ordering patterns, the remaining inventory of Pfizer adult (12+) monovalent EUA-labeled vaccine is expected to be depleted in the coming weeks. **LINKS ordering for this vaccine (NDC 59267-1025-04) will turn off on January 31, 2023.**

Providers can still order the BLA-labeled (COMIRNATY) product (NDC 00069-2025-10). Pfizer BLA-labeled vaccine is interchangeable with the EUA-labeled product and has received the same shelf-life extension as the EUA-labeled product.

[Click here](#) to view Novavax office hours and registration.

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.



Week 2 FluView report



**DON'T LET THE FLU
RUIN YOUR WORKDAY.**

Get your flu AND COVID shots.



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 2:

- 2.8% 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: **135,010**
2. Flu vaccines given to individuals 18+ years of age: **628,718**

[FluView Report Week 2](#)

Vax Matters podcast: "Childhood Vaccines and



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

Do childhood vaccines play a role in causing autism? This episode of Vax Matters answers that question. Dr. Elizabeth Margolis, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, joins the show to help us answer this and other questions.

This episode is brought to you in part by The Autism Society of Greater New Orleans. Listeners can learn more about their work for the New Orleans autism community by visiting www.asgno.org.

Jump to this episode [here](#).

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

Immunize.org webinar: "Improving the Vaccination Experience: Reducing Pain and Anxiety for Children and Adults."

Anxiety about needles and injections affects as many as two out of three children and one out of four adults. This anxiety can contribute to dreading, delaying or avoiding vaccinations, even when the importance of preventing illness is understood.

The good news is that vaccinators, vaccine recipients, and caregivers can take safe, effective, and practical steps to reduce vaccination-related pain and anxiety. In addition, creating a less stressful vaccination experience increases confidence in vaccination.

Mark your calendar

In this live, one-hour webinar hosted by Immunize.org, [Improving the Vaccination Experience: Reducing Pain and Anxiety for Children and Adults](#) at 1:00 p.m. (E.T.) on February 28, we will learn more about the principles behind vaccination pain and anxiety and discuss simple, evidence-based strategies to reduce apprehension. The experts from [HELP Eliminate Pain in Kids and Adults](#) developed and promoted these strategies. Their work was used by the World Health Organization (WHO), Public Health Canada, and others to create guidelines for reducing vaccination pain.

The panelists will be:

- Anna Taddio, BScPhm, Ph.D.; Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto; Senior Associate Scientist, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), Toronto, Ontario

- Kelly L. Moore, MD, MPH; President and CEO, Immunize.org
- Lucie Marisa Bucci, MA; Director, Policy and Government Relations, Society for Infodemic Management (SIM), Québec, Québec
- Sharon Humiston, MD, MPH; Director for Research, Immunize.org

Following the presentation, ample time is reserved for your questions.

[Register now](#) to be sure you attend this important session designed to help you make vaccination a more positive experience for everyone.

January MMWR: "Reasons for Receiving or Not Receiving Bivalent COVID-19 Booster Vaccinations among Adults

CDC published [Reasons for Receiving or Not Receiving Bivalent COVID-19 Booster Vaccinations among Adults—United States, November 1–December 10, 2022](#), in the [January 20 issue of MMWR](#). A summary appears below.

An updated bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is recommended to restore waning protection from severe disease. However, by the end of 2022, just 31 percent of eligible U.S. adults had received an updated vaccine. An online survey conducted in November–December 2022 assessed reasons for this among 1,200 COVID-19–vaccinated U.S. adults.

The most commonly reported reasons for not receiving an updated vaccine were:

- Lack of awareness of eligibility (23%)
- Lack of availability (19%)
- Perceived existing protection against infection (19%)

The frequency varied by age, with younger adults more likely to report being unaware they were eligible and adults aged 60 years or older more likely to report they felt they already had adequate protection.

After viewing vaccine availability information and eligibility criteria, two-thirds of the participants who had yet to receive an updated vaccine reported planning to do so. One month later, 29 percent of the participants who planned to receive the vaccine had done so. Most of the respondents who had yet to receive the vaccine still intended to receive it, but many reported being too busy (36%).

Healthcare professionals and public health practitioners should convey information about vaccination recommendations, eligibility, and waning immunity and encourage patients to get vaccinated.

Access the *MMWR* article in [HTML](#) or [PDF](#).

ICYMI: 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](#)

Was IZ Newsletter Issue 95 informative?

Yes

No

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