



Immunization Update 98 | 2.16.23

Question of the Week

What does the ending of the COVID-19 emergency declaration mean for my patients?



The Biden administration announced on January 30, 2023, that the COVID-19 emergency declaration would be ending along with the no-cost COVID-19 services on May 11, 2023.

Free COVID-19 tests, COVID-19 treatment, and the COVID-19 vaccines are among the services the U.S. government will no longer cover, and patients will have to rely on their Private Insurance, Medicare or Medicaid for these services. Below is a timeline for COVID-19 services coverage based on insurance type:

COVID-19 Test

- Medicare – No longer will receive at-home tests for free.
- Medicaid – Free tests until 2024.
- Private Insurance – Varies by state and insurance company.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Medicare – Undetermined.
- Medicaid – Free vaccines, no end date determined.
- Private Insurance – Varies by state and insurance company.

COVID-19 Treatment

- Medicare – Covered until 2024.
- Medicaid – Covered until 2024.
- Private Insurance – Varies by state and insurance company.



Moderna's commitment to patient access in the United States

Moderna's vaccines have protected the lives of hundreds of millions of people worldwide from COVID-19 and have dramatically lessened the burden of the pandemic on society.

As the public health emergency ends, the United States government will no longer provide vaccines at no cost. However, Moderna remains committed to ensuring that people in the United States will have access to our COVID-19 vaccines regardless of their ability to pay. Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines will continue to be available at no cost for insured people, whether they receive them at their doctors' offices or local pharmacies. For uninsured or underinsured people, Moderna's patient assistance program* will provide COVID-19 vaccines at no cost.

Everyone in the United States will have access to Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine regardless of their ability to pay.

*Available after the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency expires on May 11, 2023.

Medicaid eligibility is changing. Help your patients maintain their coverage.

In a recent message, Medicaid executive director Tara LeBlanc explained how her program is preparing for the end of continuous Medicaid coverage per the ending of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

LeBlanc wrote, beginning in April, a Medicaid member could lose their health insurance coverage even if they are eligible if they do not respond to letters they received in the mail. These letters will direct members to verify their contact information, including cell phone numbers and email addresses.



Healthcare providers are asked to help spread the word about this eligibility requirement. In addition, your Medicaid patients should go to <https://ldh.la.gov/page/4454> for a list of ways to make contact information updates.

In addition, please remind your patients about the importance of reading and responding to mail from Medicaid. Thank you for helping to spread the word about this critical issue.

Community Opioid Symposium is back. – Dr. Beau Clark to speak

The Community Opioid Symposium hosted by the Women's Foundation is back. To kick off this series, the Women's Foundation has Dr. Beau Clark as a guest speaker.

The objectives for this series are to:

- Understand the definition, potency and tolerance of heroin/fentanyl and how an overdose occurs.
- Understand the statistical analysis of heroin and opioid/fentanyl deaths in East Baton Rouge Parish.
- Understand why this heroin and opioid/fentanyl epidemic has occurred.
- Understand who the drug dealer is and who the drug user is in Louisiana.
- Understand the solution to the heroin and opioid/fentanyl epidemic.

[Click here](#) to register for the symposium.

Download flier [here](#).

QUESTIONS?
 Woman's Foundation
 Ashley Thibodeaux | (537) 804-9392
ashley@womansfoundation.com

A VIRTUAL SERIES

COMMUNITY OPIOID SYMPOSIUM

An educational event for healthcare providers

Register at womansfoundation.com/cos

FEBRUARY 27 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Louisiana's Opioid Epidemic

William "Beau" Clark, MD, D-ABDMI
BIO

Dr. William "Beau" Clark is a native of Baton Rouge. He graduated from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans and completed his residency in Emergency Medicine in Baton Rouge. He is board certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Clark was elected East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner in November 2011 and continues to practice emergency medicine in the Greater Baton Rouge area.

Dr. Clark has served as Medical Director for the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office SWAT Team, Louisiana State Police SWAT Team, Louisiana House of Representatives, and the Louisiana Department of Health Bureau of EMS. Dr. Clark has been certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. Dr. Clark is a third degree black belt. He is also an avid endurance athlete who has completed an Ironman Triathlon and several Spartan Races while continuing to train for other endurance events.

Objectives:

1. Understand the definition, potency and tolerance of Heroin/Fentanyl and how an overdose occurs.
2. Understand the statistical analysis of Heroin and Opioid/Fentanyl deaths in East Baton Rouge Parish.
3. Understand why this Heroin and Opioid/Fentanyl epidemic has occurred.
4. Understand who the drug dealer is and who the drug user is in Louisiana.
5. Understand the solution to the Heroin and Opioid/Fentanyl epidemic.

ACCREDITATION:

This activity has been submitted for CME, Social Worker, LPC, and ADRA credits.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Monovalent shelf-life extension

Several lots of monovalent Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for children aged 6 months – 5 years have received shelf-life extensions. Moderna has verified the new expiry dates below and updated the [Moderna Vial Expiration Checker](#).

All lots in the tables below are for primary use only for children aged 6 months – 5 years. The lots are split into two groups:

- 7 lots with the earliest expiry represent lots in the field and CDC depots.
- 5 lots with the latest expiry for Moderna monovalent vaccines are all in the warehouse.

7 lots (in the field/at CDC depot) with earliest expiry:

Description	Lot	Original Expiry	New Expiry
Peds 6mo-5y; 10 dose/vial	AR9237B	2/8/2023	5/8/2023
Peds 6mo-5y; 10 dose/vial	AS1412B	2/10/2023	5/10/2023
Peds 6mo-5y; 10 dose/vial	AS1417B	2/14/2023	5/14/2023
Peds 6mo-5y; 10 dose/vial	AS1415B	2/17/2023	5/17/2023
Peds 6mo-5y; 10 dose/vial	AS1416B	2/18/2023	5/18/2023
Peds 6mo-5y; 10 dose/vial	AS1418B	2/19/2023	5/19/2023
Peds 6mo-5y; 10 dose/vial	AS1419B	2/20/2023	5/20/2023

5 lots (in the warehouse) with the latest expiry:

Description	Lot	Original Expiry	New Expiry
Peds 6mo-5y; 10 dose/vial	AS1903B	3/14/2023	6/14/2023
Peds 6mo-5y; 10 dose/vial	AS3266B	3/16/2023	6/16/2023
Peds 6mo-5y; 10 dose/vial	AS3268B	3/17/2023	6/17/2023
Peds 6mo-5y; 10 dose/vial	AS3269B	3/19/2023	6/19/2023
Peds 6mo-5y; 10 dose/vial	AS3794B	3/20/2023	6/20/2023

Week 5 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 5:

- **2.3%** 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: **141,207**
2. Flu vaccines given to individuals 18+ years of age: **641,894**

[FluView Report Week 5](#)

The Vax Matters podcast is now on YouTube



We are excited to announce that we have added additional ways to be immune from misinformation with the Office of Public Health's Vax Matters podcast. Now you can listen to the Vax Matters podcast on YouTube. Click [here to subscribe](#) and be notified when new episodes have been uploaded.

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

Jump to the episode [here](#).

All Vax Matters episodes are still 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



The road to ending stigma. Harm reduction in clinical and community settings.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health is introducing a six-part webinar addressing the unseen impact of stigma in substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery, as well as the life-saving role of harm reduction strategies and programs. Learn from field experts and those with lived experience about best practices and novel approaches to improve health outcomes and save lives.


View the flier here for more details.

[Register here.](#)

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THE ROAD TO ENDING STIGMA

Harm Reduction in Clinical and Community Settings






[REGISTER HERE](#)

- Webinars will be held bi-weekly from 12 – 1 PM CT / 11 AM – 12 PM MT -

1 - Introduction to Harm Reduction	March 1, 2023
2 - Trauma-Informed Care	March 15, 2023
3 - Supporting Perinatal Patients with Substance Use Disorders	March 29, 2023
4 - Healthcare Worker Burnout and Substance Use Disorder	April 12, 2023
5 - Taking a Syndemic Approach to Harm Reduction	April 26, 2023
6 - Reaching Underserved Populations	May 10, 2023

All webinars are free and open to the public. Webinars are recommended for healthcare providers and staff as well as community partners. For more information, contact sarah.schildecker@hhs.gov.

 **OASH** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health  **SAMHSA** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration 

Sponsored by the Region 6 Harm Reduction Workgroup, a group of federal, state, local, and community partners working to increase awareness of SUD and improve health outcomes for those living with SUD.

2023 Recommended Immunization Schedules now online

The 2023 ACIP Recommended Immunization Schedules were released on February 9, 2023. In collaboration with CDC's healthcare partners, CDC has updated versions of the recommended U.S. immunization schedules for children, teens and adults.

Several additional formats of the schedules, including parent-friendly versions, are available on the [CDC Immunization Schedules website](#).
CDC's resources:

- [Schedule changes & guidance](#)
- [Download the schedules app for healthcare providers](#)
- [Syndicate the schedules on your website](#)
- [Routine immunizations on schedule for everyone \(RISE\)](#)

Plain language for public health resources is now available

Effective public health communications are critical to helping people stay informed and make decisions about their health. When accurate information about public health is hard to find or understand, it is easier for false and misleading information to circulate. Plain language can help your audience **find what they need and understand what they find**.

PHCC has created a new [Plain Language for Public Health](#) guide to support public health communicators in creating messaging to **advance health literacy, build trust in your organization as a source of information, and promote overall community health**. This guide walks through the following three steps:

- Step 1: Prepare Your Communications
- Step 2: Develop and Organize Your Communications
- Step 3: Review and Testing

The guide also shares other plain language techniques to help you build your communication skills. Please **download and share** the guide with your network so more people can have access to public health information that is easy to find, understand, and use.

Download guide [here](#)

Use PHCC's new plain language guide to help your audience to:



Find what they need



Understand the information the first time they read or hear it



Use the information to meet their needs

Was IZ Newsletter Issue 98 informative?

Yes

No

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