



Immunization Update 99 | 2.23.23

Question of the Week

Why did it take longer for the FDA to approve vaccines for children under five than for other age groups?



All the COVID-19 vaccines have undergone a rigorous review before being authorized for a given age group. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) evaluation of vaccines for young kids has been part of this thorough review process. Clinical trials were not started in children until after the trials in adults showed the safety and efficacy of the vaccines.

Additionally, part of what made the review process longer for young kids is that experts were determining what dosage and series would be safe and effective for children under five.

After reviewing initial data on the vaccine's effectiveness in young kids, the FDA waited to receive additional findings from clinical trials to ensure its recommendation was based on substantial clinical data.

Checklist of Current Versions of U.S. Vaccination Guidance and Clinic Support Tools

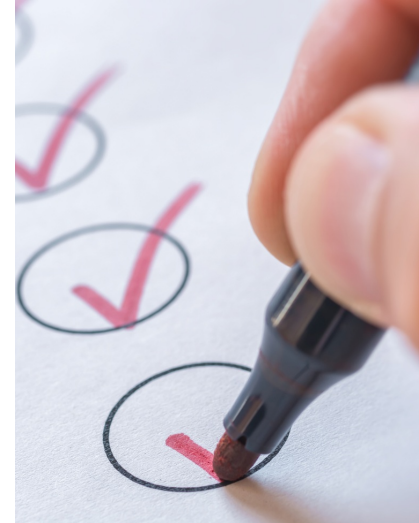
Immunize.org expanded its [Checklist of Current Versions of U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance and Clinic Support Tools](#) on February 5 to help providers keep up with changes to COVID-19 vaccine guidance and resources.

This expanded version now includes the following:

- Links to translations of COVID vaccine fact sheets for recipients and caregivers
- New storage and handling sections providing links to expiration-date tools, storage-temperature logs, and guidance for transporting vaccines to off-site locations

Immunize.org updates this checklist at least monthly, prominently indicating when it was last edited at the top of the page.

All COVID-19 vaccination providers should review this checklist each time it is revised to ensure that practices stay current.



New strategies to protect your workforce from COVID-19



The national COVID-19 emergency declaration is ending, but the virus is still circulating, and 3 in 5 Americans are at high risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. Convenient treatment is available, and is still provided for free by the federal government—for now.

Join Health Action Alliance (HAA) and the National Safety Council on **Tuesday, February 28, at 2:00 pm ET**, to hear how employers can empower their workers to access treatment now and after the conclusion of the national COVID-19 emergency.

In addition, attendees will be the first to receive a comprehensive new toolkit to help employees understand their risk for severe COVID-19 and create the right plan to prevent severe illness.

This event is made possible with additional financial

support from Ada Health.

[Click here](#) to register.

CDC's latest efforts to address health inequities and make advances

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recently established the Office of Health Equity. As one of many recent changes to the overall agency's structure, this new office will provide the vehicle for reducing health disparities and enhancing community engagement.

The Office of Health Equity is just one of several overhauls the CDC is making in its organizational and leadership structure. CDC offers free resources on various health and prevention topics that users can [view and download](#), including the Health Equity Video Series, available [here](#).

Worse pregnancy outcomes found for Black sickle cell patients in a new study

A new study reported that Black women in California with sickle cell disease (SCD) have worse pregnancy outcomes than Black women in the state who don't have the inherited blood disorder.

The study found that for pregnant Black women with SCD, the rates of both stillbirth and pregnancy-related complications are higher.

Even after accounting for age, insurance status, and other sociodemographic factors, Black SCD patients were still more likely to have worse pregnancy outcomes than those without SCD. The most significant risks were sepsis—a life-threatening response to infection—and a blood clotting complication called venous thromboembolism.

“Our results highlight the importance of multidisciplinary perinatal care, ongoing studies to target SCD modification, and increased public health efforts to reduce disparities in pregnancy-related outcomes for women with SCD,” the researchers wrote.



- Read the full article [here](#).
- View the [“Pregnancy outcomes in women with sickle cell disease in California”](#) study.
- [View LDH’s sickle cell webpage](#).

CDC's updated COVID-19 Data Tracker now includes bivalent booster information for young children

CDC has updated its COVID-19 Data Tracker to include COVID-19 bivalent booster data for children under five years of age. The COVID-19 Data Tracker provides an integrated county view of key data for monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. In addition, it allows for the exploration of standardized data across the country.

CDC recommends the use of the following:

- [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) to determine the impact of COVID-19 on communities and to take [action](#).
- [Transmission Levels](#) (also known as Community Transmission) to describe the amount of COVID-19 spread within each county/parish. Healthcare facilities use Transmission Levels to determine [infection control](#) interventions.

Visit the relevant health department website for the most complete and up-to-date data for any particular county or state. Additional data and features are forthcoming.



Week 6 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 6:

- **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: **142,599**
2. Flu vaccines given to individuals 18+ years of age: **644,465**

[FluView Report Week 6](#)



The Vax Matters podcast is now on YouTube



The Office of Public Health (OPH) Immunization Program is excited to announce we have additional ways to be immune from misinformation with the OPH Vax Matters podcast. Instead of having to search podcast sites, Vax Matters can now be found on the Louisiana Department of Health's (LDH's) YouTube channel. Click [here to subscribe](#) and be notified when new episodes have been uploaded.

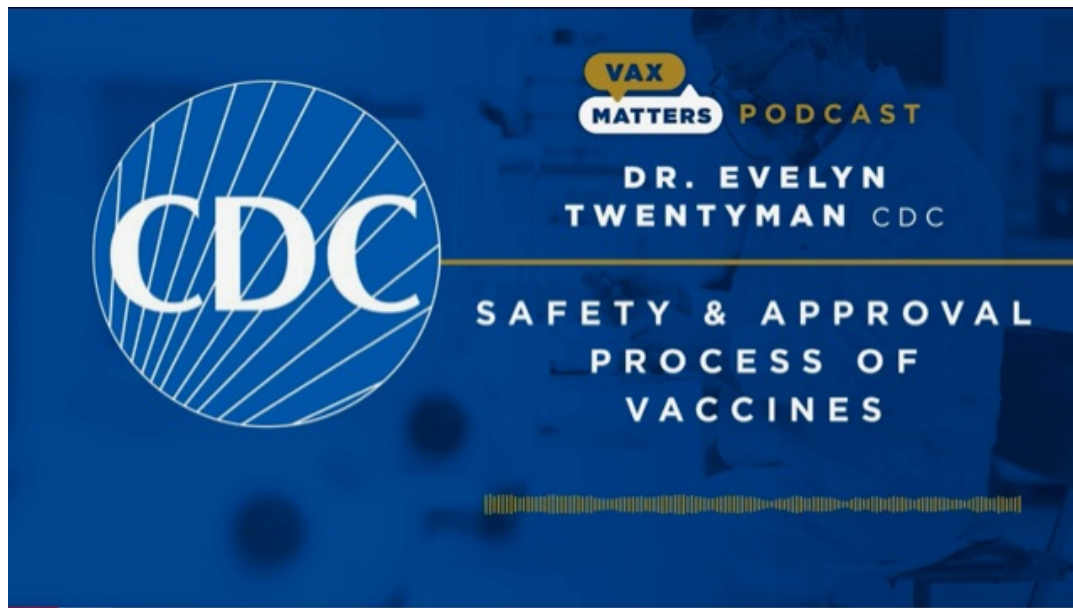
How are vaccines approved?

We have plenty of vaccines today, but how does a vaccine become approved for public use? CDC Epidemiologist Dr. Evelyn Twentyman runs us through the details on this heavily discussed and relevant subject.

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



Building family confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine

If you are a school nurse, school health services coordinator, or anyone who talks with families about COVID-19 vaccines, there are resources to help you have productive discussions about what may be a touchy subject.



FrameWorks Institute's toolkit offers evidence-based tips and techniques to support conversations and communications that are more productive in getting kids vaccinated. The resources in this toolkit can equip you to build the confidence of families who still need to vaccinate their children against COVID-19.

The National Association of School Nurses offers this toolkit as part of the [Champions for School Health project](#), which aims to increase confidence in and access to pediatric COVID-19 vaccinations. Champions for School Health is created in partnership with the Institute for Educational Leadership and with the financial support of Kaiser Permanente.

View the toolkit and contents [here](#).

Cultivating Gen Z as Partners for Healthier Communities: Part 2

ASTHO will host a virtual conversation on effective communication strategies for rebuilding trust in public health and engaging Gen Z as public health advocates on [Monday, March 13, at 12:00 pm CST](#). This webinar will detail the importance of public health messaging, social media, outreach and engagement and data; provide tips and advice for creating new or updating existing crisis communications plans; and share information on tools and resources to assist public health leaders and health communicators in combating misinformation and disinformation.

Panelists:

- Brandi Hight Bank, Vice President for Public Health and Policy, Klick
- Emily Dore, Director, Stakeholder Coalitions, Klick
- Nick O'Toole, Policy & Advocacy Manager, Klick

[Click here](#) to register.



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

Was IZ Newsletter Issue 99 informative?

Yes

No

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