



Immunization Update 102 | 3.16.23

### Question of the Week

#### Can vaccines prevent certain disabilities?



March is a significant month dedicated to developmental disability awareness. It is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of individuals with disabilities, and raise awareness about their inclusion in society.

One issue that affects individuals with disabilities is the spread of vaccine misinformation. There is a common misconception that vaccines can cause disabilities. However, scientific evidence proves vaccines do not cause developmental disabilities, including autism.

On the contrary, vaccines are crucial in preventing diseases that can cause disabilities. Illnesses like measles, rubella, polio, mumps, Hib, and pneumococcal disease can all cause long-term disabilities, including symptoms ranging from paralysis and blindness to permanent brain damage. Luckily, all of these diseases—and the disabilities they cause—can be safely and effectively prevented by immunization.

It is a time to celebrate and advocate for individuals with disabilities. It is also a time to raise awareness about the importance of vaccines in preventing diseases that can cause disabilities. Throughout March, let us continue to promote the health, well-being and inclusion of all individuals, regardless of ability.

### COVID-19 vaccination mapping tool

On March 10, 2023, the CDC announced its newly released COVID-19 vaccination-mapping tool via CDC's COVIDVaxView. This geographic information system (GIS) tool allows jurisdictions and other partners to use web maps, applications and services to inform planning for vaccine-related activities.

This tool allows users to understand the local-level indicators that contribute to vaccine confidence and coverage, visualize data for populations at increased risk, identify community resources and barriers, and connect community stakeholders.

[Click here](#) to view the new COVID-19 vaccination-mapping tool.



## Temporary suspension of Td ordering

CDC put restricted allocations into place effective March 10, 2023 for all three Td vaccines (Grifols vial presentation; Sanofi vial presentation; Sanofi syringe presentation).

At this time, due to current supply being extremely low, Louisiana Department of Health Immunization Program will be suspending Td ordering in LINKS.

Tdap vaccine remains available without any supply or ordering constraints at this time.

Contact the Immunization Program at 504-568-2600 if you have questions.

## Adult Mental Health First Aid training

The Louisiana Department of Health is offering Adult Mental Health First Aid training from April through June 2023. There is no cost to participate, but registration is required.

Just as CPR helps even those without clinical training to assist an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) prepares participants to interact with a person experiencing a mental health crisis.

MHFA is an evidence-based public education program that introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health challenges, and builds understanding of appropriate detection techniques, interventions, and resource and referrals.

View flyer [here](#) for additional information. Please share this information with others.



## Message by the director of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals and WHO

Kate O'Brien, Director of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals at the World Health Organization, discussed the revitalization of the Measles and Rubella Initiative under the new banner of the **Measles and Rubella Partnership**.



The initiative brings together UNICEF, CDC, the American Red Cross, Gavi, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Measles and Rubella Initiative was launched in 2000. Since then (2000 to 2021), the annual number of estimated measles deaths decreased 83 percent.

“Then came the pandemic, and because of COVID and related disruptions, we have witnessed the worst continued backsliding in global immunization coverage in 30 years,” O’Brien wrote. “Measles vaccination coverage has suffered, with the latest data indicating that 40 million children missed at least one dose of measles vaccine in 2021 alone.”

The goal of the MRP is to collaborate with countries and partners to achieve the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) target, to save another 50 million lives through access to essential vaccines by the end of 2030, with measles immunization contributing a large percentage.

Here are some key facts:

- In 2021 alone, **25 million children missed** at least one essential vaccine, and
- **18 million children received no vaccines at all.**

“Our action on immunization in the years leading to 2025 will shape how the story of the pandemic is written. If we fail, we will see tragedies like unprevented cervical cancer and increased child mortality, leading to more deaths in generations that should have been living longer.”

[Continue reading WHO article by Kate O'Brien, Director of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals at WHO](#)

## The Vax Matters podcast: Childhood vaccinations and autism



Tune in to the OPH Immunization Program’s Vax Matters podcast to hear about ways to be immune from vaccine misinformation. The podcast is now easier than ever to find; 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.

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 get to the bottom of it. Today’s episode is brought to you in part by The Autism Society of Greater New Orleans. Listeners can find out more about the work they do for the New Orleans autism community by visiting [www.asgno.org](http://www.asgno.org)



Jump to the episode [here](#).

Be sure to like, comment and share your favorite episodes of the Vax Matters podcast and be a part of the 1000+ listeners nationwide.

Vax Matters is now expanding to include topics other than vaccines. If you are interested in being a guest on Vax Matters, send a note to Jourdan Barnes at [jourdan.barnes@la.gov](mailto:jourdan.barnes@la.gov). Include your contact information and the subject you would like to discuss.



## Week 9 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.

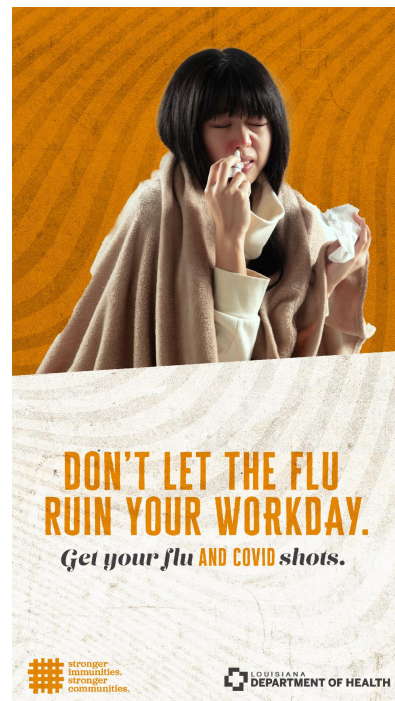
### In Louisiana during Week 9:

- 1.5% 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: 145,831
2. Flu vaccines given to individuals 18+ years of age: 650,072

### [FluView Report Week 9](#)





# Don't lose Medicaid coverage

## Update your contact info

[www.healthy.la.gov](http://www.healthy.la.gov)



## New CDC universal hepatitis B screening recommendations will save lives

Last week, CDC released updated guidelines recommending universal adult hepatitis B screening in the U.S.

The report updates previous guidelines, now recommending that **all adults be screened for HBV infection with a triple-panel test at least once in their lifetimes.**

The new guidelines also recommend that people who are not vaccinated for hepatitis B, but are at increased risk of HBV infection, receive periodic testing.

Risk-based testing has been expanded to include more conditions:

- People incarcerated or formerly incarcerated in a jail, prison, or other detention setting
- People with a history of sexually transmitted infections or multiple sex partners
- People with a history of hepatitis C virus infection

Anyone can be infected with hepatitis B. Because risk may be transient or unrecognized, all adults can benefit from knowing their status and being protected from infection.

To provide increased access to testing, anyone who requests HBV testing should receive it, regardless of disclosure of risk. In addition to screening, CDC recommends vaccination of all people younger than age 60 years and all people age 60 or older at increased risk. Anyone age 60 or older may be vaccinated.

A person who is unvaccinated may have blood drawn for screening, followed by the first dose of vaccine at the same visit. If vaccination is indicated, it should not be delayed if screening is not feasible.

[View Hepatitis B Foundation press release](#)

[View CDC's Morbidity Mortality Weekly Report highlight Hepatitis B](#)



## Addressing vaccination misinformation

Knowing what misinformation is being shared can help you generate effective messaging.

The Public Health Communications Collaborative has designed a platform that provides insight to misinformation

and its source. Public health data analysts base these insights on a combination of automated media monitoring and manual review.

Media data are publicly available data from many sources, such as social media, broadcast television, newspapers and magazines, news websites, online video, blogs and other sources.

Analysts from the Public Good Projects triangulate this data along with other data from fact checking organizations and investigative sources to provide an accurate, but not exhaustive, list of currently circulating misinformation.

[Click here](#) to view and stay up to date with misinformation alerts.



## CDC issues alert about measles exposures and outbreaks

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to notify clinicians and public health officials about a confirmed measles case at a large gathering.

On February 24, 2023, the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) identified a confirmed case of measles in an unvaccinated individual with a history of recent international travel.



While infectious, the individual attended a sizable religious gathering on February 17–18, 2023, at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. An estimated 20,000 people attended the gathering from Kentucky, including individuals from other U.S. states and other countries, and an undetermined number of these people may have been exposed.

This Health Advisory also highlights other recent large global measles outbreaks and associated U.S. importations, as well as the importance of early recognition, diagnosis and appropriate treatment. CDC recommends clinicians be alert for measles cases that meet the [case definition](#).

View CDC Health Alert [here](#).

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Yes

No

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