

# IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 Update

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## Question of the Week

**What are the current recommendations for COVID vaccinations for children and teens?**

The CDC recommends that children and teens get vaccinated, as research shows that vaccination provides added protection against infection. Unfortunately, children are not immune to COVID-19. They can spread the disease to others and may experience short-term or long-term health problems. In addition, children and teens who have weaker immune systems are at a greater risk of getting severely ill from COVID-19.

In Louisiana, COVID-19 continues to spread. While hospitalizations remain low at this time, cases and percent positivity are both on the rise statewide. We need many more people, including young people whose vaccination and booster rates remain too low, to make sure they are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations to stay safe.

For more information, read the science about [immunity from COVID-19 infection and vaccination](#).



**FDA expands Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine booster dose to children ages 5 – 11**



This week, the FDA announced that children ages 5 to 11 who completed the primary series of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at least five months ago are now eligible to receive a single booster dose of the vaccine. The action amends the emergency use authorization for the Pfizer vaccine and makes the booster dose accessible to more children. On Jan. 3, 2022, FDA previously authorized a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine teens ages 12 to 15.

The FDA cited a prior analysis and data to support this recommendation: “The EUA for a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for children 5 through 11 years of age is based on FDA’s analysis of immune response data in a subset of children from the ongoing randomized placebo-controlled trial that supported the October 2021 authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine primary series in this age group.”

The FDA further reported, “Antibody responses were evaluated in 67 study participants who received a booster dose 7 to 9 months after completing a two-dose primary series of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. The antibody level against the SARS-CoV-2 virus one month after the booster dose was increased compared to before the booster dose.” [Read more.](#)

## FDA approves a new indication for Olumiant for certain individuals hospitalized for COVID-19

On May 10, 2022, the FDA approved a [new indication](#) for Olumiant (baricitinib) for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalized adults requiring supplemental oxygen, non-invasive or invasive mechanical ventilation, or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO).

Olumiant is the first immunomodulatory treatment for COVID-19 to receive FDA approval. Olumiant, in combination with remdesivir, was approved under emergency use authorization in November 2022. Olumiant was previously approved as a stand-alone treatment in July 2021.

According to the FDA, “Olumiant remains under EUA status for hospitalized pediatric patients ages 2 to less than 18 years of age requiring supplemental oxygen, non-invasive or invasive mechanical ventilation, or ECMO.”

The following resources are available for more information:

- [FDA revised Letter of Authorization](#)
- [Associated fact sheets](#) to remove the population covered under the approved indication.
- [Prescribing information](#) that addresses the common side effects of Olumiant
- The FDA’s [Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program](#)—a collaboration between the FDA, developers, researchers, and partners to address the development and availability of therapeutic drugs and biological products to prevent or treat COVID-19

[Read more.](#)

## Study finds booster effectiveness among nursing home residents

A recent [analysis of COVID-19 surveillance in 15,000 U.S. based nursing facilities](#) found nursing home residents who received an additional or booster dose reported “greater protection” when compared to residents who only received the primary series of a vaccination.



The study, “Effectiveness of a COVID-19 Additional Primary or Booster Vaccine Dose in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Nursing Home Residents During Widespread Circulation of the Omicron Variant,” was published in the CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on May 6, 2022 and covers a study period of February 14 – March 27, 2022.

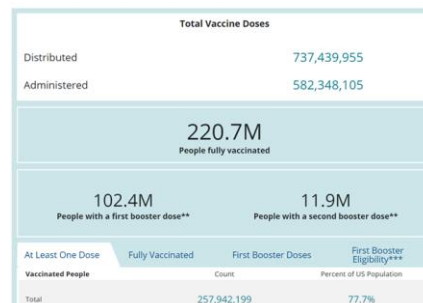
The study relied on data from nursing homes certified by Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS). The facilities provide weekly reports to CMS regarding SARS-CoV-2 infections among staff and residents by vaccination status. [Read the study.](#)

## Access updated vaccine storage information

The [Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit](#) was recently updated with a COVID-19 Vaccine Addendum, which provides best practices for storing and handling COVID-19 vaccines. All vaccination providers participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program are required to store and handle COVID-19 vaccines under proper conditions to maintain the cold chain as outlined in the toolkit and addendum.

## Second booster data now available in COVID Data Tracker

More than 11.9 million people have received a second COVID-19 vaccine booster to date, the CDC reports. Data on the number of individuals in the U.S. who have obtained second boosters is now available via the CDC COVID Data Tracker. Visit the [COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States](#) webpage to view the information. In addition, the [COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review](#) contains recent updates for providers and the public to reference. **Note:** Maps, charts and data provided by the CDC is updated daily by 8pm ET.



## Good reads

- [Massachusetts reaches a \\$56 million settlement for a deadly veteran's home Covid-19 outbreak](#)
- [Another round of free COVID-19 antigen tests available for residents](#)
- [Covid-19 wastewater surveillance is promising tool, but critical challenges remain](#)
- [Rapides Parish reports 23 new COVID cases; Louisiana cases surge 54.7%](#)
- [Coronavirus in Louisiana: State reports 889 new cases, 4 new deaths on May 17](#)

**REMINDER**

**COVID-19 vaccines effectively protect people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and even dying—especially people who are boosted.**

As with vaccines for other diseases, you are protected best when you stay up to date. CDC recommends that everyone who is eligible stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, including people with weakened immune systems.



## Submit a Question of the Week

Do you have a frequently asked question that you would like to submit or have answered in the QOW?

[SUBMIT HERE](#)

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