What resources are available for providers to communicate COVID-19 treatment therapies to patients and the public?

It's common for the public to have questions about FDA approved and authorized COVID-19 treatment options. The FDA continues to make that information available through reader and user-friendly resources, while simultaneously monitoring authorized and approved treatments as variants change.

Earlier this month, the FDA published an updated version of the Consumer Update Know Your Treatment Options for COVID-19 with the latest information on COVID therapies. The tool provides a general overview of the FDA-approved COVID-19 treatments: Veklury (remdesivir) and Olumiant (baricitinib). Veklury (remdesivir) is an antiviral drug for adults and certain pediatric patients with COVID-19. This is an
intravenous therapy (IV). Olumiant (baricitinib) is an immune modulator for certain hospitalized adults with COVID-19.

The FDA has also provided this video, which providers can share via social media, in waiting room areas, at community outreach initiatives, etc.

COVID-19 vaccination schedule at-a-glance

The CDC has released an at-a-glance COVID-19 Vaccination Schedule. Providers can use the schedule to determine how many how many total COVID-19 vaccine doses are recommended based on primary series product, age, and immune status. The schedule does not include clinical details necessary for administering COVID-19 vaccines. It does provide resources for clinical details.

CDC addresses COVID-19 recurrence after Paxlovid treatment

On May 24, the CDC alerted healthcare providers, health departments and the public on potential for COVID-19 recurrence or COVID-19 rebound:

“Paxlovid continues to be recommended for early stage treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 among persons at high risk for progression to severe disease. Paxlovid treatment helps prevent hospitalization and death due to COVID-19. Known as COVID-19 rebound; this has been reported to occur between 2 and 8 days after initial recovery, and is characterized by a recurrence of COVID-19 symptoms or a new positive viral test after having tested negative.

A brief return of symptoms may be part of the natural history of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) infection in some persons, independent of treatment with Paxlovid and regardless of vaccination status. Limited information currently available from case reports suggests that persons treated with Paxlovid who experience COVID-19 rebound have had mild illness; there are no reports of severe disease. There is currently no evidence that additional treatment is needed with Paxlovid or other anti-SARS-CoV-2 therapies in cases where COVID-19 rebound is suspected.

Regardless of whether the patient has been treated with an antiviral agent, risk of transmission during COVID-19 rebound can be managed by following CDC’s guidance on isolation, including taking other precautions such as masking.” Read more.

Protecting vaccine storage during hurricane season

LDH-OPH Immunization Program advises all COVID-19 vaccination providers to review your vaccine emergency storage plan for all COVID-19 vaccines in your inventory, as the 2022 hurricane season begins on June 1.

In accordance with the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement Emergency Vaccine Management Plan, an emergency vaccine storage plan is required of all COVID-19 providers. This plan helps save millions of dollars in vaccines in the event of a hurricane-related or other natural disaster.
Providers can help prevent needless and unsustainable loss of vaccine by detailing a plan for vaccine in your office in the event of a power failure.

The Immunization Policies and Procedures Manual (revised March 2022) provides step-by-step guidance to assist with your planning. Please make note of the following sections:

- “Procedures for Vaccine Protection and Hurricane/Disaster Preparedness” (pages 188-192)
- “Policy on Power Outage” (pages 41-42)

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**CDC expands eligibility for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose to children ages 5 to 11**

On May 19, the CDC accepted the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and issued a recommendation that children ages 5 through 11 years should receive a COVID-19 booster dose at least 5 months after their initial 2-dose Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series.

The dose for Pfizer booster shots in 5–11-year-olds is the same as the primary series dose in this age group. It comes in an orange-topped multi-dose vial, is given as a 0.2 mL injection (after dilution) and contains 10 mcg of mRNA vaccine.

In addition, the CDC strengthened its recommendation that those 12 and older who are immunocompromised and everyone 50 and older should receive a second booster dose at least 4 months after their first.

**Updated FDA Pfizer-BIONTECH COVID-19 Vaccine Age 5-11 Factsheets**

- Fact Sheet for Providers: [https://www.fda.gov/media/153714/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/153714/download)
- Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers: [https://www.fda.gov/media/153717/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/153717/download)

**Reporting Adverse Events**

- LDH reminds providers to report possible vaccine-related adverse events to the FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at [https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html or by calling 1-800-822-7967.](https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html)
- Any possible severe adverse events (those resulting in hospitalization, death, or persistent disability) should be immediately reported to the Office Public Health (OPH) Infectious Disease/Epidemiology Hotline at 1-800-256-2748.
- If you have vaccine-related questions, please contact [la.immunization@la.gov](mailto:la.immunization@la.gov)
- Any member of the public with questions on COVID-19 testing, therapeutics, vaccines, or other related issues can call the Louisiana COVID Community Hotline at 855-453-0774.

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**CDC shares tips for COVID-19 vaccinations for children**
The CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccination for children 5 years and older and offers six things to know about vaccinating children:

1. **The COVID-19 vaccination for children is safe.** Ongoing safety monitoring shows that COVID-19 vaccination continues to be safe for children and that the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks.

2. **Getting vaccinated can help protect children against COVID-19.** Vaccination can prevent serious illness in children, including children with underlying medical conditions. Vaccination helps keep them involved in activities such as school, childcare, sports, and extracurricular activities.

3. **Children may have some side effects after COVID-19 vaccination.** Side effects may affect a child’s ability to do daily activities. Side effects should go away in a few days, and some children do not experience side effects. Side effects are more common after the second shot.

4. **Children who have already had COVID-19 should still get vaccinated.** The COVID-19 vaccine for children contains the same active ingredients as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for individuals ages 12 years and older. However, children receive a smaller dose of the vaccine, **and** the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines for teens and adults cannot be given to children ages 5-11.

5. **COVID-19 vaccination offers added protection.** Emerging evidence indicates that people can get added protection by getting vaccinated after they have been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

6. **Children can safely receive other vaccines the same day they receive their COVID-19 vaccine.** If multiple vaccines are given at a single visit, each injection will be given in a different injection site, according to recommendations by age.

Read more.

### Louisiana COVID-19 vaccine demographics

#### Vaccination Status by Race

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<th>Race: Other</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tr>
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**Good reads**

- COVID-19 cases trending upward in Louisiana
- A New Study Explores Why the Gym Can Be a COVID-19 Spreading Hotspot
- FDA advisers to meet to discuss COVID-19 shots for kids, vaccines for fall
- Are COVID Vaccines Still Blocking Severe Disease?
- Opponents of federal COVID-19 vaccine mandate ask appeals court to reconsider
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