

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 33 | OCTOBER 13, 2021



COMPLETED
VACCINE SERIES
IN LOUISIANA

2,151,287*

*4,414,110 total doses
administered in Louisiana

COVID-19
VACCINATION IS
ENCOURAGED FOR
PREGNANT PEOPLE

The CDC recommends urgent action to increase COVID-19 vaccination among people who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. (Page 2)

SHOT FOR 100
CAMPAIGN
EXPANDS TO
ANYONE IN
LOUISIANA

Louisiana's Shot for 100 vaccine incentive program expands beyond college students to include anyone in Louisiana who gets a COVID shot. (Page 3)

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:

I recently received my third/booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Will this show up on my LA Wallet app?

Yes. In a few days, LA Wallet will release an upgraded version of its app. This update will include a listing of all COVID-19 vaccinations, as well as the green checkmark that indicates your "fully vaccinated status." Note, whether or not you get an extra shot, the green check appears once you receive two doses of Moderna or Pfizer or one dose of J&J.

For more information on LA Wallet, visit lawallet.com.

Can I receive the flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time?

Yes. You can receive the shots in the same visit. CDC and other health experts say that past experience shows that vaccines work as they should and side effects are similar whether the shots are given separately or in the same visit.

For more information on the Flu and COVID-19, visit cdc.gov.

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant People to Prevent Serious Illness, Deaths, and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes from COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends urgent action to increase Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination among people who are pregnant, recently pregnant (including those who are lactating), who are trying to become pregnant now, or who might become pregnant in the future.



CDC strongly recommends COVID-19 vaccination either before or during pregnancy because the benefits of vaccination outweigh known or potential risks. As of September 27, 2021, more than 125,000 laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases have been reported in pregnant people, including more than 22,000 hospitalized cases and 161 deaths.

The highest number of COVID-19-related deaths in pregnant people in a single month of the pandemic was reported in August 2021. Data from the COVID-19-Associated Hospitalization Surveillance Network (COVID-NET) in 2021 indicate that approximately 97% of pregnant people hospitalized (either for illness or for labor and delivery) with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection were unvaccinated.

In addition to the risks of severe illness and death for pregnant and recently pregnant people, there is an increased risk for adverse pregnancy and neonatal outcomes, including preterm birth and admission of their neonate(s) to an intensive care unit (ICU). Other adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as stillbirth, have been reported. As of September 18, 2021, 31.0% of pregnant people were fully vaccinated before or during their pregnancy.

In addition, there are racial and ethnic disparities in vaccination coverage for pregnant people.

Healthcare providers should communicate the risks of COVID-19, the benefits of vaccination, and information on the safety and

effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy. Healthcare providers should strongly recommend that people who are pregnant, recently pregnant (including those who are lactating), who are trying to become pregnant now, or who might become pregnant in the future receive one of the authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines as soon as possible.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant people, visit [emergency.cdc.gov](https://www.emergency.cdc.gov).

U.S. FDA staff says Moderna did not meet all criteria for COVID-19 Boosters

Scientists at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said on Tuesday that Moderna Inc. had not met all of the agency's criteria to support the use of booster doses of its COVID-19 vaccine, possibly because the efficacy of the shot's first two doses has remained strong.

FDA staff said in documents that data for Moderna's vaccine showed that a booster dose increases protective antibodies, but the difference in antibody levels before and after the shot was not wide enough, particularly in those whose levels had remained high.

The documents were released ahead of a meeting later this week of the FDA's outside expert advisors to discuss booster doses of the vaccine.

The FDA typically follows the advice of its experts but is not bound to do so. [A panel of advisors to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) will meet next week to discuss specific recommendations on who can receive the boosters if the FDA authorizes them.](#)

Moderna is seeking authorization for a 50-microgram booster dose, half the strength of the original vaccine given in two shots about four weeks apart.

The company has asked regulators to clear a third round of shots for adults aged 65 and older, as well as for high-risk individuals, similar to the authorization gained by rivals Pfizer-BioNTech for their mRNA vaccine.

[The FDA's advisors will also consider booster doses for Johnson & Johnson's \(J&J\) single-dose vaccine on Friday.](#) The FDA has not yet released its briefing documents on those shots.

J&J has asked the FDA to authorize a booster at least two months after the initial shot. It said that data suggest high-risk adults should receive boosters earlier, but those lower-risk individuals could benefit from waiting at least six months for their second shot.

For more information on booster doses, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

Shot for 100 Campaign Expands to Anyone in Louisiana Who Gets COVID Vaccine



Louisiana's Shot for 100 vaccine incentive program expands beyond college students to include anyone in Louisiana who gets their

COVID vaccine. Individuals looking to get vaccinated must receive the vaccine at participating community-based sites listed on ShotFor100.com.

Anyone receiving their first shot is eligible, and individuals may only participate once. Minors are eligible for the cash incentive as well, but require parental consent to receive the vaccine.

Individuals will receive a deactivated Visa gift card upon vaccination. After registering online at ShotFor100.com, the card will be loaded with \$100. **This limited-time offer to college students and the general public will end on October 30, or while supplies last.**

"Louisiana has made considerable progress in increasing vaccinations across the state, but we need more people to go 'Sleeves Up' to slow the spread of COVID-19," said Gov. Edwards. "By expanding the Shot for 100 campaign to everyone in Louisiana, we hope to see tens of thousands of additional people get their first dose of the safe and effective COVID vaccines, so we can end this pandemic once and for all. If you've not yet been able to go Sleeves Up yet, we're hoping a cool \$100 will help make the decision easier."

"Our COVID data show that Louisiana is thankfully coming down from our fourth and most dangerous surge. That's the good news. Unfortunately, the bad news is that we still have a lot of COVID in all 64 parishes. We must do everything we can to stay safe and stop the next surge, and that includes getting the COVID vaccine," said Dr. Joseph Kanter, State Health Officer and Medical Director. "Vaccines are totally free, highly safe, and readily available all across the state. It's never been more urgent to get the shot, and we hope this new perk will encourage Louisianans to get vaccinated sooner rather than later."

More than 2.3 million Louisianans already have gone sleeves up against COVID-19. However, it's not nearly enough to put an end to this pandemic, particularly as the highly transmissible Delta variant continues to circulate. During our last and most dangerous surge, COVID killed seven children and resulted in 14 severe pregnancy outcomes.

To learn more about Shot For 100, visit ShotFor100.com or call Louisiana's COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at 1-855-453-0774. In addition to learning more about Shot For 100, the COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline can answer questions about the vaccines and connect callers to medical professionals.

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.35%
- **Black:** 30.18%
- **American Indian:** 0.37%
- **Asian:** 2.79%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.19%
- **Unknown:** 1.46%
- **Other:** 6.65%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 5.24%
- **18-29:** 12.33%
- **30-39:** 13.07%
- **40-49:** 13.83%
- **50-59:** 17.09%
- **60-69:** 19.39%
- **70+:** 19.04%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 54.26%
- **Male:** 45.47%
- **Unknown:** 0.27%

All breakdowns shown here are for Louisiana residents only. Race data completeness is expected to improve as we continue our outreach with vaccine providers.

Good Reads

Johnson & Johnson seeks FDA approval for booster shots – This article talks about how Johnson & Johnson has asked the FDA to authorize booster shots for its COVID-19 vaccine.

Read more at wdsu.com.

Vaccines likely prevented 600 COVID deaths among Louisiana seniors, study estimates – This article talks about how a report from the U.S. HHS states that Louisiana's oldest residents getting vaccinated has most likely saved hundreds of Louisiana's most vulnerable lives.

Read more at theadvocate.com.

COVID-19 rates are declining, but what will colder weather mean for the Delta wave? – This article talks about how cold weather will affect COVID-19 cases during the Delta wave.

Read more at wdsu.com.