

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

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COMPLETED
VACCINE SERIES
IN LOUISIANA

2,189,636*

*4,482,319 total doses
administered in Louisiana

LOUISIANA COVID-
19 PROVIDERS
ENCOURAGED TO
PRE-ORDER
PEDIATRIC COVID-
19 VACCINES

Providers are encouraged to pre-order an initial quantity of pediatric COVID-19 Pfizer vaccines through LINKS. (Page 2)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What is the current state guidance to limit the spread of COVID-19?

Effective October 27, 2021, the statewide mask mandate has been lifted in all settings except for:

- K-12 schools, and
- Those that fall under federal regulation, including mass transit and health care facilities.

Masks will **NOT** be mandated in most other places, including government buildings, college and university campuses, and businesses unless those entities choose to have their own mandates in place.

School districts can opt out of the mask mandate if they choose to, but only if they continue to adhere to CDC quarantine guidance to better separate exposed students and faculty members from others and avoid outbreaks on campus.

Local leaders may implement mitigation measures that are more comprehensive and restrictive than the current state guidelines, should they feel this is best for their communities.

For more information or to view the [Executive Order](#) effective 10/27/21 or [Press Conference slides](#) from 10/26/2021, visit gov.louisiana.gov.

CDC RECOMMENDS
BOOSTER SHOTS FOR
SOME FULLY
VACCINATED
PEOPLE

The CDC's ACIP recommends a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccines in certain populations. (Pages 2-3)

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

Louisiana COVID-19 Providers Encouraged to Pre-Order Pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccines

Once fully authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), pediatric COVID-19 Pfizer vaccines for children ages 5-11 will initially be available in limited quantities. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet to discuss the recommendation of the vaccine on November 2 and 3.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) will release official guidance through a Health Alert Network (HAN) message once the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine can be administered. Providers are now encouraged to pre-order an initial quantity of pediatric COVID-19 Pfizer vaccines through a designated pediatric vaccine order submission in LINKS. Providers should order enough vaccine to last 2 to 3 weeks. The initial pediatric COVID-19 vaccine order submission deadline is by 5 p.m. today (Wednesday, October 27).

Providers should order enough vaccine to cover both first and second doses for pediatric patients seeking the vaccination; there will not be any automatic second doses shipped, as was done when adult vaccines were limited. (For example, if you expect to vaccinate 100 pediatric patients in the first 2-3 weeks, please pre-order 200 vaccines to provide each patient with their first and second doses.) Single pre-order dose quantities must be at least 20 doses.

First vaccine shipments to providers will begin arriving at provider sites the week of November 1, and shipments could arrive into the following week (week of November 8) as well. Even if you receive doses before the full CDC recommendations are announced, no doses should be administered until a final announcement from LDH has been released. Please do not schedule appointments until after doses have been received.

Be advised that quantities are limited in this first wave of vaccine availability and distribution, so originally submitted pre-order quantities may be reduced by the Immunization Program to allow for equitable distribution of vaccines across the state.

During this first wave of vaccine availability and distribution, Morris & Dickson, the state's COVID-19 vaccine redistributor, will deliver all pediatric COVID-19 vaccine shipments. Morris & Dickson will transport and deliver all pediatric vaccines at refrigerated temperatures (2-8 degrees Celsius) and vials cannot be refrozen upon receipt.

Storage and Handling for the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine for Children

Pfizer COVID-19 pediatric vaccines will be available in 10-dose vials in packages containing 10 vials. **The pediatric vaccines will have an orange cap and label to distinguish them from the adolescent/adult formulation (purple cap).** The pediatric vaccines will require diluent that will be provided with other supplies for use in children. The vaccines can be stored for 10 weeks in a refrigerator at 2-8 degrees Celsius. This is not yet official, but we do expect the recommended period between first and second dose administration to be 21 days, following the same period as the adult/adolescent version of the vaccine. More detailed information on the pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be provided once the vaccine has been fully authorized and recommended for use.

If you have any questions, email la.immunization@la.gov.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines for children and teens, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

CDC Recommendation for Booster Shots for Some Fully Vaccinated People

On Friday, October 22, CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH, endorsed the CDC's ACIP recommendation for a booster shot of COVID-19 vaccines in certain populations. The FDA's recommendation and the CDC's recommendation for use are important steps forward as we work to stay ahead of the virus and keep Americans safe.

For individuals who received a **Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine**, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in [long-term care settings](#)
- Age 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#)
- Age 18+ who work or live in [high-risk settings](#)

For the nearly 15 million people who got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago.

There are now booster recommendations for all three available COVID-19 vaccines in the United States. Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received and others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix-and-match dosing for booster shots.

Millions of people are newly eligible to receive a booster shot and will benefit from additional protection. However, today's action should not distract from the critical work of ensuring that unvaccinated people take the first step and get an initial COVID-

19 vaccine. More than 65 million Americans remain unvaccinated, leaving themselves – and their children, families, loved ones, and communities – vulnerable.

Available data right now shows that all three of the COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized in the United States continue to be highly effective in reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating Delta variant. Vaccination remains the best way to protect yourself and reduce the spread of the virus and help prevent new variants from emerging.

For more information on who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Vial Puncture Limit

When extracting only booster doses or a combination of primary series and booster doses, the maximum number of doses that may be extracted from either vial presentation should not exceed 20 doses. Do not puncture the vial stopper more than 20 times.

It is recommended that providers discard the vial and its contents after a maximum of 20 punctures. With the Moderna COVID-19 booster dose being a half dose (0.25 mL), some providers had initially understood that up to 28 patients could be vaccinated with a half dose from the 14 full dose vial. Per the guidance listed in the FDA EUA, a vial can cover up to a maximum of 20 patients.

Stay Safe and Healthy This Halloween



Here's what trick-or-treaters, their friends and family, and others in the community should remember this Halloween:

1. Do incorporate a cloth or surgical mask into your costume, and don't use a costume mask as a substitute for a cloth or surgical mask.
2. Outdoors is safer than indoors, and stay home if you're feeling sick. Trick-or-treat in small groups outdoors or enjoy other outdoor activities, and avoid crowded indoor parties.
3. Wash your hands before eating candy.
4. Track local virus transmission rates; take extra precautions where rates are high.
5. Get vaccinated. Adults and children age 12 and older should get a COVID-19 vaccine, and everyone should get a flu shot.

For more information, visit publichealthcollaborative.org.

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.35%
- **Black:** 30.36%
- **American Indian:** 0.38%
- **Asian:** 2.78%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.19%
- **Unknown:** 1.42%
- **Other:** 6.52%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 5.35%
- **18-29:** 12.58%
- **30-39:** 13.19%
- **40-49:** 13.86%
- **50-59:** 16.99%
- **60-69:** 19.16%
- **70+:** 18.85%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 54.22%
- **Male:** 45.5%
- **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

Gov. John Bel Edwards lifts statewide mask mandate excluding K-12 schools – This article talks about how Gov. John Bel Edwards announced he is lifting the statewide mask mandate.

Read more at [wdsu.com](https://www.wdsu.com).

Masks optional in Livingston Parish Schools; district will reinstate COVID quarantines – This article talks about how starting Thursday, masks will be optional in Livingston Parish Schools.

Read more at theadvocate.com.

Louisiana orders 148K COVID vaccines for kids ages 5 to 11; pediatricians prepare to receive it – This article talks about how Louisiana has ordered 148,000 initial doses for the 421,000 kids in that age group in the state.

Read more at [nola.com](https://www.nola.com).