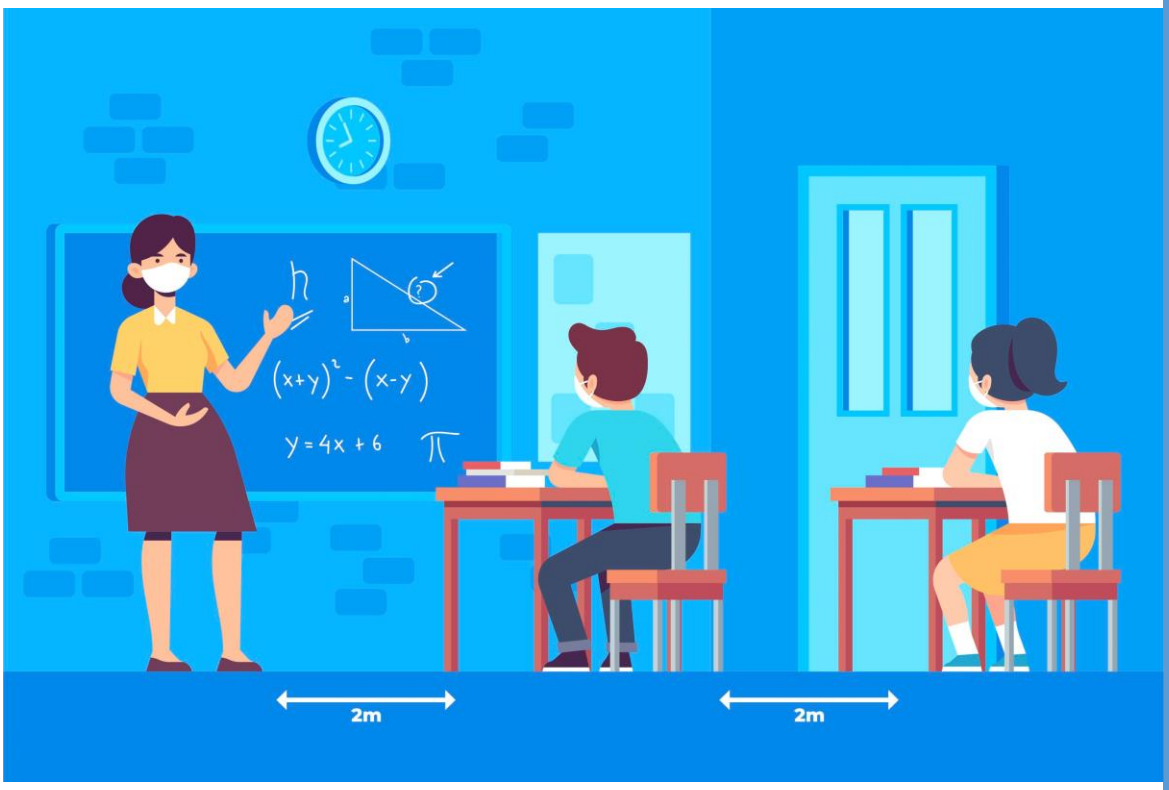
IMMUNIZATION
COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 36 | NOVEMBER 10, 2021



QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

How can I schedule an on-site COVID-19 vaccination clinic?

Louisiana businesses, schools, or other entities that want to quickly have their workforce or students vaccinated as easily and efficiently as possible can request on-site COVID vaccinations through the state's workplace or school vaccination programs.

Entities that are interested in this approach only need to supply enough physical space for pre-screening, conducting the vaccinations, and for after-shot observation.

Another option for employers and others is to have LDH arrange for a reserved set of appointments at a nearby community vaccine event.

Business On-site COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

For more information about vaccinating your employees or setting up an on-site vaccination clinic at your businesses, call VieMed at 866-852-8343.

School On-site COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

For schools, information about the program can be found on the LDH website at ldh.la.gov/schoolsignup.

If you have any questions or concerns about hosting an on-site vaccination event, please email la.immunziation@la.gov.

COMPLETED VACCINE SERIES IN LOUISIANA

2,221,353*

***4,549,584 total doses administered in Louisiana**

REGULAR TESTING IS KEEPING KIDS IN SCHOOL AND COVID-19 OUT

The Safer, Smarter Schools program for COVID-19 testing is proving beneficial in keeping COVID-19 cases down in schools.
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PEDIATRIC COVID-19 VACCINE FOR CHILDREN 5 TO 11 RECOMMENDED BY THE CDC AND OPH

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized under an EUA for children 5 to 11.
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WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

Regular Testing is Keeping Kids in Schools and COVID-19 Out

For the 2021-2022 school year in Louisiana, the Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) implemented the Safer, Smarter, Schools program, a K-12 school-based COVID-19 testing program. The program is integral to Louisiana private, public, and charter schools being able to safely reopen and stay open.

This Safer, Smarter, Schools program preceded an announcement by the Biden administration last week to help states, schools, and school districts establish COVID-19 screening testing programs in more schools.

To date, Safer, Smarter Schools has proven very successful. Here are some of the most recent statistics:

- **Outbreaks Prevented:** 87% of the cases in participating schools have been limited to one or two people.
- **Tests per Week:** For the first 10 weeks of the program, an average of 1,860 people were tested each week.
- **Positive Test Comparisons:** In two participating school districts, there have been 230 COVID-positive tests. In the same two districts for non-participating schools, the number of positive results is 1,416.
- **Positive Cases per Week:** In participating school districts, there have been 32.8 COVID-positive results per week. In non-participating districts, the number of weekly positive cases is 202.3.

For more information on the Safer, Smarter Schools program, visit ldh.la.gov/safer-smarter-schools.

Here are some additional resources:

- **Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Announces Additional Actions to Increase COVID-19 Screening Testing in Schools and Keep Students Safe** – A fact sheet providing information on actions to create an in-school testing program
- **Start-Up Guide for COVID-19 Testing in Schools** – A one-page startup guide on regular COVID-19 testing in schools.
- **Family FAQ About Testing** – A one-page quick reference guide for families with questions about COVID-19 testing in schools.

Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Ages 5 to 11 Years

On Wednesday, November 3, CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH, endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation that children 5 to 11 years old be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine. CDC now expands vaccine recommendations to about 28 million children in the United States in this age group and allows providers to begin vaccinating them as soon as possible. Enrolled COVID-19 vaccination providers can continue to place orders for the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine in LINKS.

COVID-19 cases in children can result in hospitalizations, deaths, multi-inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), and long-term complications, such as "long COVID", in which symptoms can linger for months. The spread of the Delta variant resulted in a surge of COVID-19 cases in children throughout the summer. During a 6-week period in late June to mid-August, COVID-19 hospitalizations among children and adolescents increased fivefold.

Vaccination, along with other preventative measures, can protect children from COVID-19 using the safe and effective vaccines already recommended for use in adolescents and adults in the U.S. Similar to what was seen in adult vaccine trials, vaccination was nearly 91% effective in preventing COVID-19 among children ages 5 to 11 years old. In clinical trials, vaccine side effects were mild, self-limiting, and similar to those seen in adults and with other vaccines recommended for children. The most common side effect was a sore arm.

PEDIATRIC AND ADULT DOSE DIFFERENCES

Pediatric Dose	Adult Dose
For children ages 5 to 11 years old	For individuals ages 12 years and older
Orange cap	Purple cap
10 mcg	30 mcg
Injection volume: 0.2 mL	Injection volume: 0.3mL
Amount of diluent: 1.3 mL	Amount of diluent: 1.8 mL
Doses per vial: 10	Doses per vial: 6

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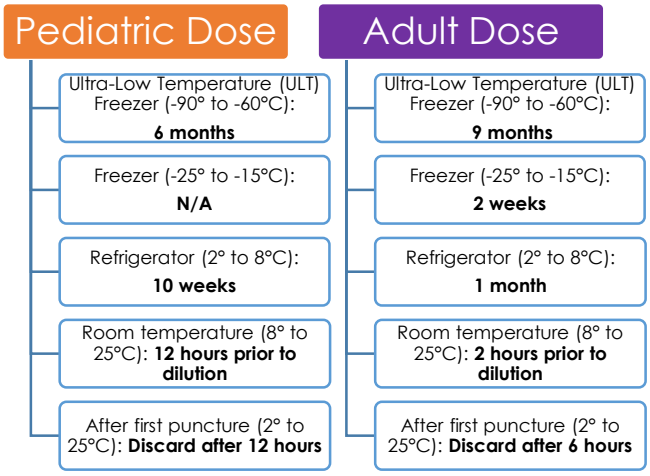
STORAGE CONDITIONS DIFFERENCES



- EUA Fact Sheet for Vaccination Providers (5 to 11 years)
- EUA Fact Sheet for Vaccination Providers (12 years and older)

For more information on Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccination, visit cdc.gov or cvdvaccine-us.com.

Bust Common Myths and Learn the Facts about COVID-19

Can COVID-19 vaccines cause variants?

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not create or cause variants of the virus that causes COVID-19.

New variants of a virus happen because the virus that causes COVID-19 constantly adapts through a natural ongoing process of mutation (change). Even before the COVID-19 vaccines, there were several variants of the virus. Looking ahead, variants are expected to continue to emerge as the virus continues to change.

COVID-19 vaccines can help prevent new variants from emerging. As it spreads, the virus has more opportunities to change. High vaccination coverage in a population reduces the spread of the virus and helps prevent new variants from emerging. CDC recommends that everyone 12 years of age and older get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Learn more about variants.

Do any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States shed or release any of their components?

No. Vaccine shedding is the term used to describe the release or discharge of any of the vaccine components in or outside of the body. Vaccine shedding can only occur when a vaccine contains a weakened live version of the virus. None of the COVID vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. contain the virus. mRNA and viral vector vaccines are the two types of currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines available.

Learn more about mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines.

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.42%
- **Black:** 30.54%
- **American Indian:** 0.39%
- **Asian:** 2.78%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.19%
- **Unknown:** 1.37%
- **Other:** 6.33%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 5.42%
- **18-29:** 12.77%
- **30-39:** 13.29%
- **40-49:** 13.88%
- **50-59:** 16.9%
- **60-69:** 18.94%
- **70+:** 18.77%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 54.2%
- **Male:** 45.53%
- **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

An expert explains how COVID-19 vaccination for kids impacts Thanksgiving – This article talks about vaccinated children and the impact it can have on Thanksgiving.

Read more at wdsu.com.

No, those letters from schools don't say the COVID vaccine is mandatory for students – This article talks about how some Louisiana parents have received letters from schools that seem to suggest COVID vaccines are mandatory for their kids.

Read more at theadvocate.com.

Louisiana COVID hospitalizations go from highest to lowest among U.S. states – This article talks about how Louisiana has made a turnaround to become the state with the lowest rate of hospitalizations for the virus.

Read more at nola.com.