

# IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

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## My child participated in the in-school COVID testing program. How will they get paid?

The Safer, Smarter Schools program is in the process of sending out incentive payments for the youth and adults who are participating in COVID-19 testing in schools. When first registering for the program, participants can choose between a virtual or physical card for incentive payments.

For those who chose a virtual card, an email will be sent out to the registered email account containing directions to activate the card. If the virtual card has not been received, participants should first contact the Safer, Smarter Schools Customer Service line at 877-356-1511 to update their information. Then, to have the card resent, call 866-952-3795.

For those who chose a physical card, that card should arrive within the next 1-2 weeks via USPS mail delivery. When the card arrives, you must call the Safer, Smarter Schools Customer Service line at 877-356-1511 to activate the card.

For more information on the Safer, Smarter Schools program, visit [ldh.la.gov/safer-smarter-schools](https://ldh.la.gov/safer-smarter-schools).

COMPLETED  
VACCINE SERIES  
IN LOUISIANA

2,234,221\*

\*4,584,412 total doses  
administered in Louisiana

UPCOMING  
HOLIDAY WEEK FOR  
VACCINE DELIVERY

The week of November 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a shortened week for deliveries due to an upcoming holiday. (Page 2)

ALL INDIVIDUALS 18  
YEARS AND OLDER  
NOW ELIGIBLE FOR  
COVID-19  
BOOSTERS

LDH recommends COVID-19 vaccine booster doses for all individuals 18 years and older who have completed the mRNA series 6 months prior, or completed the J&J series 2 months prior. (Page 2)

# WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

## Upcoming Holiday Week for Vaccine Delivery

The week of November 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a short week for deliveries.

Providers who ordered by Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> are scheduled to receive vaccine before the holiday.

There will be no deliveries from Mckesson and Pfizer between Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Morris and Dickson, however, will be delivering every day except Thanksgiving Day. Providers will be contacted prior to delivery to verify delivery times.

For any questions or concerns, email [la.immunization@la.gov](mailto:la.immunization@la.gov) or email your regional immunization consultant. To find your regional immunization consultant, visit [lalinks.org](http://lalinks.org).

## All Individuals 18 Years and Older Now Eligible for COVID-19 Boosters



The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) now recommends COVID-19 vaccine booster doses for all individuals 18 years of age and older who have completed their Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series

at least six months ago, or who completed their Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine series at least two months ago.

Heterologous booster administration (receiving an FDA authorized approved booster type that is different from the type one received for their initial series, also known as “mixing and matching”) remains allowable.

As a reminder, the Moderna COVID-19 booster dose is half of the dose (0.25mL) normally administered for a primary series dose. Regardless of the COVID-19 vaccine type an individual receives for their initial series, if they receive a Moderna booster, it should be the half dose of 0.25mL.

LDH reminds health care providers throughout the state to report possible vaccine-related adverse events to the FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System ([vaers.hhs.gov](http://vaers.hhs.gov) or 1-800-822-7967), and to immediately report any possible severe adverse events (those resulting in hospitalization, death, or persistent disability) 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).

## Pfizer Seeks EUA for Novel COVID-19 Oral Antiviral Candidate

On Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, Pfizer announced it is seeking Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of its investigational oral

antiviral candidate, PAXLOVID™, for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in patients at increased risk of hospitalizations or death.

If authorized, PAXLOVID™ would be the first oral antiviral of its kind, a 3CL protease inhibitor specifically designed to combat SARS-CoV-2 that could be prescribed as an at-home treatment to high-risk patients at the first sign of infection, potentially helping patients avoid severe illness which can lead to hospitalization and death.

Pfizer is seeking EUA for PAXLOVID™ based on positive results from the ECI-HE interim analysis, which enrolled non-hospitalized adults aged 18 and older with confirmed COVID-19 who are at increased risk of progressing to severe illness. The data demonstrated an 89% reduction in risk of COVID-19-related hospitalization or death from any cause in patients treated with PAXLOVID™ compared to a placebo within three days of symptom onset, with no deaths in the treatment group. Similar results were seen within five days of symptom onset. Treatment-emergent adverse events were comparable between PAXLOVID™ (19%) and placebo (21%), most of which were mild in intensity. At the recommendation of an independent Data Monitoring Committee, and in consultation with the U.S. FDA, Pfizer ceased further enrollment into the study due to the overwhelming efficacy demonstrated. Rolling submissions have commenced in several countries including the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea, with planned submissions to other regulatory agencies around the world to follow.

For more information on Pfizer seeking EUA for PAXLOVID™, visit [pfizer.com](http://pfizer.com).

## Understanding and Recording Pfizer-BioNTech Pediatric Vaccine Expiration Dates in LINKS

There are three important dates to know for the pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. There is the **MANUFACTURED DATE**, **EXPIRATION DATE**, and **USE BY DATE**.

### MANUFACTURED DATE:

- The **MANUFACTURED DATE** is printed on the carton and vial of the pediatric Pfizer vaccine, not the **EXPIRATION DATE**.
- This date is when the vials were manufactured by Pfizer and are used to calculate the **EXPIRATION DATE**.

### EXPIRATION DATE:

- The pediatric Pfizer vials expire six months after the **MANUFACTURED DATE**. Record the **EXPIRATION DATE** in LINKS as occurring six months from the printed **MANUFACTURED DATE**.
- Be sure to include the printed month as the first month in the six-month time frame
- For example: Using the image below, the **MANUFACTURED DATE** is August 2021. You would count August as month one

and then continue counting until the sixth month. So, August (month 1), September (month 2), October (month 3), November (month 4), December (month 5), and January (month 6). The vial would expire on the last day in the month of January 2022. The **EXPIRATION DATE** would be recorded in LINKS as 1/31/2022.



**USE BY DATE:**

- For the foreseeable future, pediatric vaccines in Louisiana will be arriving refrigerated from Louisiana’s in-state redistribution partner, Morris and Dickson. While the **EXPIRATION DATE** needs to be recorded in LINKS, this is not when the refrigerated doses actually expire.
- The vaccine **USE BY DATE** is 10 weeks after the vaccine has been transferred to refrigerated storage. The **USE BY DATE** is to be marked where the vaccine is stored and for your personal records.
- Allowing for one day of transport, this will be 10 weeks from the day the vaccine was shipped to your facility to actually administer the doses. This is the day before it arrived at your facility.
- Example: If the vaccine was shipped on November 1, 2021, and it arrived to you on November 2, 2021, counting 10 weeks after the shipped date, January 9, 2022, would be the 10-week mark from November 1. Record the **USE BY DATE** on the vials and carton as appropriate. *You can also use the [beyond-use date \(BUD\) tracking labels](#) to keep track of the **USE BY DATE**.*

November 2021							December 2021							January 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
													30	31						

In the future, vaccines may arrive to providers via direct shipment at ultra-low temperature (ULT). If this occurs, the **USE BY DATE** and **EXPIRATION DATE** will be the same if the vaccine is stored at the provider’s facility in an ultra-cold freezer. If the ultra-cold doses are moved to the refrigerator, the 10-week **USE BY DATE** begins.

**LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS**

**SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:**

- **White:** 58.4%
- **Black:** 30.61%
- **American Indian:** 0.39%
- **Asian:** 2.78%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.19%
- **Unknown:** 1.36%
- **Other:** 6.28%

**SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:**

- **5-17:** 5.45%
- **18-29:** 12.83%
- **30-39:** 13.33%
- **40-49:** 13.9%
- **50-59:** 16.86%
- **60-69:** 18.86%
- **70+:** 18.75%

**SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:**

- **Female:** 54.19%
- **Male:** 45.54%
- **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**

**New Orleans’ proof of vaccine, PCR test rule will remain throughout Mardi Gras** – This article talks about how the mitigation measure of showing proof of vaccination/negative PCR test will remain in place through Mardi Gras in the city of New Orleans.

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

**COVID hospitalizations dwindle in Baton Rouge after summer surge: ‘We need every victory’** – This article talks about how local hospitals are holding just a few COVID patients each, down from dozens in August.

Read more at [theadvocate.com](http://theadvocate.com).

**New Orleans federal court declines to lift stay on vaccine mandate** – This article talks about how the federal court in New Orleans declined to lift its stay on the Biden administration’s vaccine mandate for businesses with 100 or more workers.

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