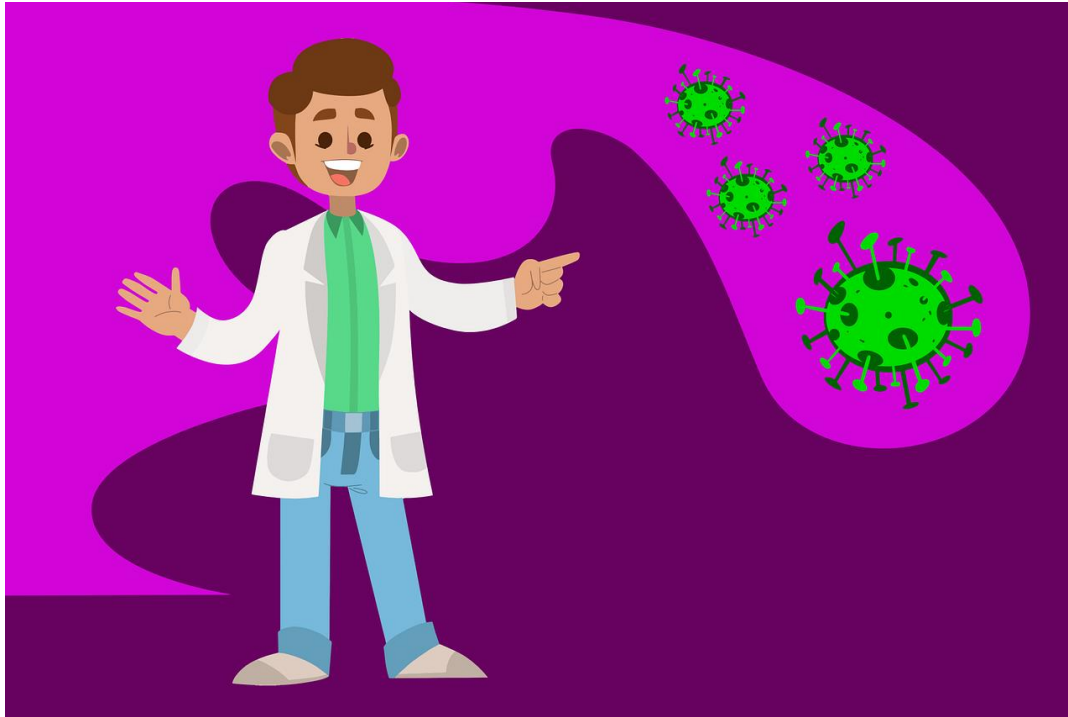


IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 46 | FEBRUARY 10, 2022



COMPLETED
VACCINE SERIES
IN LOUISIANA

2,400,769*

*4,938,295 total doses
administered in Louisiana

CDC GRANTS FULL
APPROVAL TO
MODERNA COVID-
19 VACCINE

The Moderna vaccine is now approved for individuals ages 18 and over.
(Page 2)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

How can providers help address misinformation about COVID-19?

The pandemic remains a fluid public health emergency, and new developments can occur at any time. For health advocates and providers, health related misinformation is considered a “[threat to the public](#).” Fortunately, there are several proactive steps providers can take to ensure the public has the most accurate information:

- Share news and updates from authoritative sources (CDC, LDH, etc.).
- Share news articles provided from [reputable news outlets](#).
- Revisit the toolkits OPH provides and share the most up-to-date information.
- Share information from credible social media outlets (CDC, LDH, etc.).
- Double check and verify information prior to distribution to others.

To learn more about the challenges and opportunities to abate misinformation, read this [article](#).

VACCINE NAME
CHANGES

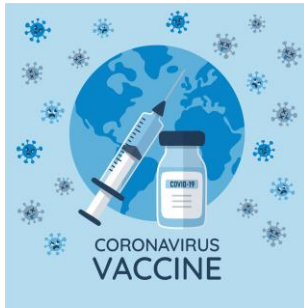
Two COVID-19 vaccines that were issued under emergency use authorization receive formal names for the market.
(Page 2)

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

CDC grants full approval to Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

On Friday, February 4, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) endorsed the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) full approval of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine for those aged 18 and over.

The vaccine has been in use under the FDA's emergency use authorization since December 2020 and is now the second fully approved vaccine for COVID-19 in the United States. The approval follows months of reviews of safety and effectiveness data of the Moderna vaccine.



Full approval means CDC and the FDA have completed the same rigorous, time-consuming reviews for the Moderna vaccine as it has done for all other approved vaccines. The Moderna vaccine now joins the Pfizer vaccine (approved on August 23, 2021) as receiving full approval.

The approval process for the COVID-19 vaccines involves several different clinical trials with healthy volunteers. **The trials assess the safety, side effects and immune response to the vaccine.** The studies determine the most effective safe dose, the ability of the vaccine to stimulate an immune response and comparisons with a control group to compare incidence of infection.

FDA also reviewed real-world evidence from the more than 200 million doses administered in the U.S. since the vaccine was authorized in December 2020.

Lastly, full approval is given when enough data demonstrate that the vaccines are safe and effective for most people who receive them, as well as a comprehensive **review of the vaccine maker's manufacturing process and facilities.**

Moderna will now market the vaccine under the brand name Spikevax. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was rebranded as Comirnaty.

Approved for adults age 18 and above

In the U.S., the Moderna vaccine is available as a two-dose primary series only for individuals 18 years of age and older, as a third primary series dose for individuals 18 years of age and older who are immunocompromised, and as a single booster dose for individuals 18 years of age and older at least five months after completing a primary series of the vaccine.

Vaccine Name Changes

The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines that are currently available were contractually purchased by the U.S.

Government after the FDA granted authorizations for emergency use (EUA) in 2020.

Since then, these companies have been working towards receiving full approval for their respective COVID vaccines. Companies may market their vaccines under brand names once approval is granted.



After the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine received full FDA approval on August 23, 2021, the vaccine was marketed as COMIRNATY for individuals ages 16 years and older. **No change was made to the vaccine's formula.** The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine label remains for individuals ages 5–15 years, since the vaccine is authorized, but not yet approved, for this age group.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine branded as SPIKEVAX was approved by the FDA on January 31, 2022, as a two-dose series for individuals 18 years of age and older. **No change was made to the vaccine's formula.**

At this time, there is no concrete timeline for when brand name vaccines (COMIRNATY and SPIKEVAX) will be available directly to consumers. Both Pfizer and Moderna continue to distribute EUA labeled vaccine to fulfill the U.S. Government's contractual agreements.

For more information on the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, please visit: [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Overview and Safety | CDC](#)

HHS guidance affirms the civil rights of individuals with disabilities during public health emergencies

This week, the Department of Health & Human Services' Office for Civil Rights issued guidance to providers clarifying that the civil rights protections of individuals with disabilities "stand no matter what." This includes during the current public health emergency when access to care may be scarce, HHS advised.

The HHS guidance applies to:

- Health care providers, including those administering COVID-19 testing, medical supplies, and medication.
- Entities providing hospitalization, long-term care, intensive treatments, and critical care, such as oxygen therapy and mechanical ventilators.
- State Crisis Standard of Care plans, procedures, and related standards for triaging scarce resources that hospitals are required to follow.

For more information, read the [HHS guidance](#) and associated [FAQs](#).

CDC adds wastewater surveillance to COVID tracker

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently introduced the [Wastewater Surveillance](#) tab to [the COVID Data Tracker](#). Wastewater surveillance detects and tracks the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in shed waste from symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. The practice has also been used to detect other diseases like polio.

The CDC began wastewater surveillance for COVID-19 in 2020. The process starts with collecting samples from wastewater that flows into treatment plants. The samples are then sent to environmental laboratories that test for SARS-CoV-2. Lastly, the data are submitted to participating health agencies and the CDC. The CDC analyzes and reports the data in real time. Currently, there are more than 400 participating testing sites throughout the nation. The data collected is helping public health experts better understand the spread of COVID-19 in communities.

Learn more [here](#).

Louisiana retailers providing free N95 masks

Louisiana residents and individuals visiting provider facilities will have more options to secure free N95 masks from major retailers. The masks will be available at all Winn-Dixie stores in the state, as well as participating Walmart and Sam's Club locations. Masks are also available at the following Walgreens locations:

- 6485 Groom Rd., Baker
- 5450 Plank Rd., Baton Rouge
- 5955 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge
- 217 Superior Ave., Bogalusa
- 1401 Rees St., Breaux Bridge
- 101 Florida Ave. SE, Denham Springs
- 920 W Gloria Switch Rd., Lafayette
- 718 S Carrollton Ave., New Orleans
- 1260 Front St., Slidell
- 10200 Florida Blvd., Walker
- 5349 Cypress St., West Monroe
- 5061 Main St., Zachary



LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.22%
- **Black:** 31.66%
- **American Indian:** 0.42%
- **Asian:** 2.9%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.19%
- **Unknown:** 1.12%
- **Other:** 5.55%

FULLY VACCINATED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 169,314
- **18-29:** 310,306
- **30-39:** 314,716
- **40-49:** 321,891
- **50-59:** 380,057
- **60-69:** 422,894
- **70+:** 422,378

FULLY VACCINATED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 1,265,233
- **Male:** 1,070,600
- **Unknown:**

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

U.S. Omicron surge underscores benefits of COVID-19 vaccinations. Read more at thenationshealth.org.

CVS drops limit on customer purchases of at-home COVID-19 tests. Read more at msn.com.

How COVID vaccines saved a million lives, in charts. Read more at vox.com.

When will LA's emergency declaration for COVID-19 end? Read more at vox.com.