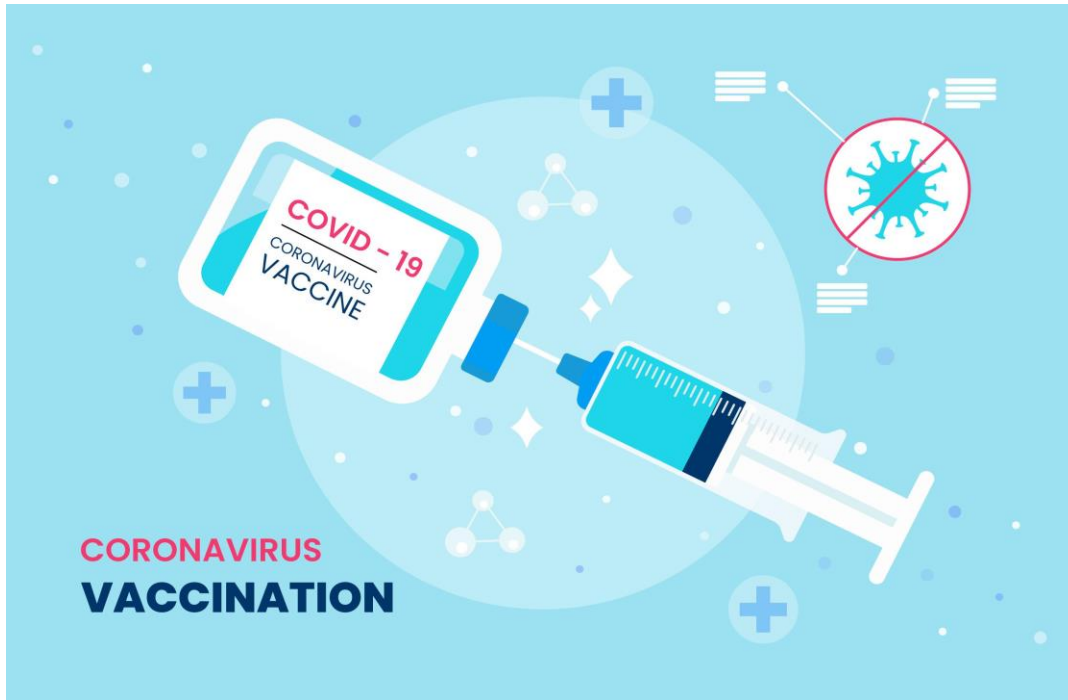


IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 45 | FEBRUARY 3, 2022



COMPLETED
VACCINE SERIES
IN LOUISIANA

2,389,317*

*4,918,397 total doses
administered in Louisiana

MODERNA
VACCINE RECEIVES
FULL FDA APPROVAL

The next step is for the CDC's immunizations advisory committee, ACIP, to endorse FDA's approval.
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QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Are there any differences in the FDA approval status of the purple and gray top Pfizer vaccines? Both vaccine information sheets for providers and patients explain that one is "EUA" and one is "approved" by the FDA.

There are differences in which Pfizer vaccines are FDA-approved and which are approved under EUA, based upon the age of those eligible for the vaccine. The table below provides further explanation.

Pfizer-BioNTEC Vaccine <i>FDA-Approved</i>	Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine <i>FDA Emergency Use Authorization</i>
Eligible ages: 16 and older PURPLE or GREY cap color Formally named Comirnaty	Eligible ages: 5 - 15 ORANGE cap (ages 5-11) PURPLE or GREY cap color (ages 12-15)

VACCINE QUALITY
ASSURANCE VISITS
SET FOR 2022

The Office of Public Health's Immunization Program is on pace to facilitate more than 200 QA visits to vaccine providers this year.
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WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

Moderna vaccine receives full FDA approval

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued full approval for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. The approval follows months of reviews of safety and effectiveness data of the Moderna vaccine.

Full approval means FDA has 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 8/23/2021) as receiving full FDA approval.



The next step is for the CDC's immunizations advisory committee, ACIP, to endorse FDA's approval. This is expected soon.

Prior to this week's approval, hundreds of millions of Americans had received the Moderna vaccine while it was granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

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 FDA approval is given when enough data demonstrate that the vaccines are safe and effective for most people who receive them. FDA also reviews each 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.

For more information on Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, visit covidvaccine-us.com.

Vaccine quality assurance visits & what to expect

OPH's Immunization (IZ) Program will facilitate 231 vaccine quality assurance (QA) visits this year throughout Louisiana's nine regions.

CDC requires states to conduct these visits to ensure the federally supplied vaccines are properly stored and managed at the provider level. The QA visits will also include a review of vaccine policies and procedures to ensure they are conducive to the highest number of vaccine recipients possible.



Last year, the IZ program conducted 71 QA visits. IZ will more than triple the number of visits this year, with QA visits to:

- 25 vaccine providers per region (225 overall)
- Five Health Resources and Services Administration sites
- One Indian Health Service site

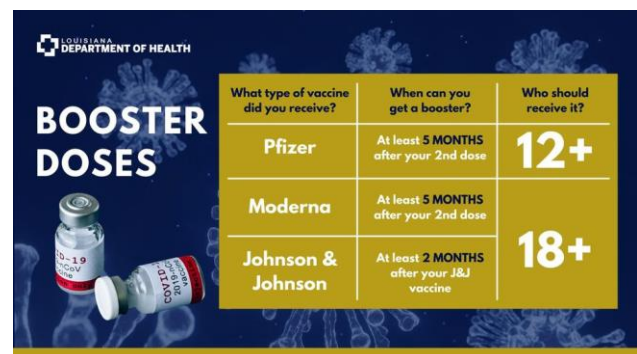
All regions have been notified about the upcoming visits, which will take place throughout the fiscal year. In addition, IZ will also conduct a visit of the state's vaccine storage depot located in Shreveport.

Study explores long COVID and U.S. labor shortages

For many, COVID symptoms last beyond infection, which raises health and economic based questions. "Long COVID" has affected more than 31 million (or 1 in 7) working Americans, according to the [Brookings Institute](https://www.brookings.edu/). The study sought to determine if long COVID has any bearing on the current U.S. labor shortages?

It is important to note that Brookings conducted its study based upon several assumptions. Brookings suggests that the "U.S. labor market may be missing 1.6 million full-time workers due to long COVID." The findings are not conclusive, considering the assumptions used in the study, but shed potential insight on long COVID and labor shortages.

Learn more about the [Brookings study](https://www.brookings.edu/).



What type of vaccine did you receive?	When can you get a booster?	Who should receive it?
Pfizer	At least 5 MONTHS after your 2nd dose	12+
Moderna	At least 5 MONTHS after your 2nd dose	18+
Johnson & Johnson	At least 2 MONTHS after your 1&J vaccine	

Vaccine guidance for older adults and people with disabilities

The CDC offers substantial guidance on providing vaccine accessibility to older adults, individuals with disabilities and individuals who may have difficulties receiving the vaccine due to these [various factors](#).

- **Work with partners.** Suggestions for partnerships include state and local agencies, senior nutrition programs, independent living centers, home healthcare agencies, tribal organizations, entities that provide transportation services to older adults and people with disabilities, community-based organizations, veterans groups, faith-based organizations, and other groups that can provide similar services.
- **Make vaccine outreach plans that take into consideration the needs of older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers.** Consider including community-based group homes, hospice workers, direct care providers and home health agencies in vaccination outreach efforts. Create opportunities for caregivers to get vaccinated on the same day of the care recipient, and schedule at-home vaccination opportunities for homebound individuals when possible.
- **Establish convenient vaccination locations.** These can include senior and community centers, residential care facilities, adult day services and other sites.
- **Accommodate the needs of individuals** who are homebound and/or who live in rural or remote areas. Collaborate with partners on mobile vaccination opportunities.
- **Ensure COVID vaccine information is accessible and derives from trusted sources.** Communications should meet the necessary requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Plain Language Act, and other applicable disability rights laws for accessibility.
- **Involve family members and caregivers** to schedule vaccination appointments and to identify and mitigate challenges to vaccine access.
- **Monitor vaccination clinic accessibility** for older adults and people with disabilities.

Read the full guidance [here](#).

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 57.02%
- **Black:** 32.31%
- **American Indian:** 0.43%
- **Asian:** 2.78%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.19%
- **Unknown:** 1.22%
- **Other:** 6.04%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 7.1%
- **18-29:** 13.23%
- **30-39:** 13.44%
- **40-49:** 13.76%
- **50-59:** 16.27%
- **60-69:** 18.12%
- **70+:** 18.11%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 53.64%
- **Male:** 46.09%
- **Unknown:** 0.28%

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

There's one population that gets overlooked by the 'everyone will get COVID' mentality – This article explores the risks COVID presents to immunocompromised individuals and their families.

Read more at [npr.org](https://www.npr.org).

COVID hospitalizations decrease by 40 in Louisiana – The article provides an update on hospitalizations statewide.

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

Pfizer seeks US authorization of COVID vaccine for children under five – This article reports on Pfizer's application to the FDA to receive EUA on a vaccine for children under five.

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