

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 5 | MARCH 10, 2021



VACCINE DOSES
ADMINISTERED IN
LOUISIANA

1,220,563

EXPANSION OF
COVID-19
VACCINATION
ELIGIBILITY

The State of Louisiana has expanded the criteria for Phase 1B, Tier 1. Effective Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What do I do if my COVID-19 vaccine is set to expire soon?

If your vaccine is set to expire within 48 hours, follow these instructions:

1. Identify any eligible persons to offer and administer the vaccine.
2. Contact your facility's vaccine coordinator to determine if any unopened packages that are set to expire can be used to vaccinate any eligible persons at another location or an off-site clinic within 24 hours.

If your vaccine is set to expire within 6 hours, follow these instructions:

1. Identify any eligible persons to offer and administer the vaccine.
2. Administer second dose to any eligible person.
3. Administer vaccine to other persons who want the vaccine.

If you cannot find anyone to administer the vaccine to, or you need additional assistance, contact your regional immunization program supervisor. Regional contacts can be found on lalinks.org.

Here are a few helpful tips to avoid vaccine wastage:

- Monitor the expiration date
- Only take out what you need
- Follow recommended storage and handling guidelines
- Monitor vaccine storage unit temperatures
- Have a vaccine waitlist
- Have a backup power supply
- Educate all staff handling the vaccine

VIAL UPDATE FOR
MODERNA
COVID-19
VACCINE

Moderna has expanded their vial supplier for the COVID-19 Vaccine, causing some vial contents to appear thicker and display a slightly green tint as a result of the vial sterilization process during manufacturing.

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

Here is an overview of major updates that occurred over the week.

State of Louisiana Expands the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Criteria

The State of Louisiana has announced the expansion of the criteria for Phase 1B, Tier 1. This expansion took effect on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. The expansion includes all persons previously available in Phases 1A and 1b, Tier 1 and expands Phase 1B, Tier 1 to include:

- Any staff working in congregate facilities (such as jail/prison staff, shelter staff, dorm staff, rehab/detox center staff, group home staff)
- Individuals aged 18-64 (or 16+ for Pfizer vaccine only) with at least one of the conditions listed by the CDC as placing them at an “increased risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19.” The complete CDC List of Conditions can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>
 - Asthma
 - Cancer
 - Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
 - Chronic kidney disease
 - Chronic liver disease
 - COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
 - Cystic fibrosis
 - Down syndrome
 - Heart conditions (such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies)
 - Hypertension or high blood pressure
 - Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
 - Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
 - Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30kg/m² or higher but < 40kg/m²)
 - Overweight (BMI > 25 kg/m² but < 30 kg/m²)
 - Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
 - Severe neurologic conditions such as dementia
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Severe obesity (BMI > 40kg/m²)

- Smoking
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Persons with above medical conditions should be instructed to complete the [Louisiana COVID-19 Vaccine Attestation Form](#) and give the completed form to their vaccine administrator.

Information for providers on the Attestation Form:

- Providers should have self-attestation forms printed and available for patients who are to be vaccinated by virtue of a qualifying underlying medical conditions. Patients are also able and encouraged to print the form at home and bring it with them if they are able.
- You must keep all self-attestation forms for those claiming high-risk medical conditions for a period of 6 months, in a HIPAA-safe manner. After 6 months, they may be destroyed. These records may be requested and audited if necessary.
- Providers can incorporate the self-attestation form into their online scheduling platforms. However, they must be able to retain an electronic copy for each patient.
- Other “proof” of a high-risk health condition, beyond self-attestation, is not necessary.
- Attestation need only occur on the first dose, not the second dose.

Vial Update for Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

In order to meet the volume demands of the COVID-19 pandemic, Moderna has engaged multiple suppliers of vials for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. Thus far, the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine has been filled and distributed in clear vials.



With the addition of new vial suppliers, a portion of the vials recently entering distribution may appear thicker and display a slight green tint as a result of the vial sterilization process during manufacturing. This tinting is strictly visual and has no impact on the vaccine. A range of vial colors under various lighting conditions may be encountered in the field and over time, vial tinting may fade naturally, resulting in a faint yellow color.

Continue to inspect each dose of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine prior to administration in accordance with the Administration section of the [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine \(Vaccination Providers\)](#).

Administration:

Visually inspect each dose of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine in the dosing syringe prior to administration. The white to off-white suspension may contain white or translucent product-related particulates. During the visual inspection:

- Verify the final dosing volume of 0.5 mL.
- Confirm there are no other particulates and that no discoloration is observed.
- Do not administer if vaccine is discolored or contains other particulate matter.

Administer the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine intramuscularly.

CDC Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

This is the first set of public health recommendations for fully vaccinated people. The guidance will be updated and expanded based on the level of community spread of SARS-CoV-2, the proportion of the population that is fully vaccinated, and the rapidly evolving science on COVID-19 vaccines.

People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19:

- 2 weeks or longer after receiving the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech/Moderna)
- 2 weeks or longer after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson [J&J/Janssen])

The following recommendations apply to non-healthcare settings.

Fully vaccinated people can:

- Visit other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing a masks or physical distancing
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- Take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing
- Adhere to other preventative measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who have unvaccinated household members who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease
- Adhere to other preventative measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households
- Avoid medium to large-sized in-person gatherings
- Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- Follow guidance issued by individual employers
- Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations

COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 66.98%
- **Black:** 21.62%
- **American Indian:** 0.21%
- **Asian:** 1.79%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.20%
- **Unknown:** 1.58%
- **Other:** 7.62%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 0.02%
- **18-29:** 4.74%
- **30-39:** 7.14%
- **40-49:** 7.89%
- **50-59:** 10.02%
- **60-69:** 16.22%
- **70+:** 53.97%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 60.16%
- **Male:** 39.55%
- **Unknown:** 0.29%

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

No, the Tuskegee Study is Not the Top Reason Some Black Americans Question the COVID-19 Vaccine –

This article talks about the misconceptions of why Black Americans are hesitant to get the coronavirus vaccine and why the Tuskegee Study is an excuse some use instead of actually asking Black Americans.

Read more about the misconceptions of Black Americans hesitancy in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine at [kqed.org \(tinyurl.com/55mtv487\)](https://kqed.org/tinyurl.com/55mtv487).

A Year Later, Doctors and Nurses Recall Early Days of Coronavirus: ‘I can’t believe we did that.’ – Louisiana

doctors recall the early days of coronavirus appearing in the state.

Read more about the early days of coronavirus in Louisiana at [nola.com \(tinyurl.com/58su334u\)](https://nola.com/tinyurl.com/58su334u).