

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 7 | MARCH 24, 2021



VACCINE DOSES
ADMINISTERED IN
LOUISIANA

1,622,640

EXPANSION OF
COVID-19
VACCINATION
ELIGIBILITY

The State of Louisiana has expanded the criteria for vaccine eligibility to include all adults over the age of 18 – effective Monday, March 29, 2021. (Page 2)

FDA UPDATES ON
CURRENT COVID-
19 TOPICS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) touches on current topics such as fetal cell usage, education vaccine directive, and Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna studying COVID-19 vaccines in older children. (Page 2)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

How do I locate and schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment?

To schedule an appointment for the vaccine, go to covidvaccine.la.gov and click on **Where Can I Get Vaccinated?**. There are currently 652 vaccine providers, at least one in every Louisiana parish.

To schedule an appointment at some locations, you will need to call the provider. Other locations require you to make your appointment online. There is also a list of community vaccination sites on the page. These are listed by date. Please note that because the availability of vaccine brands change, LDH is not listing the brand of the vaccine used at particular sites.

COVID-19 Vaccination Information

Am I Eligible?

Where Can I Get Vaccinated?

Vaccination News

How Can I Volunteer?

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

Today, Governor Edwards announced that starting Monday, March 29, 2021, **all adults over the age of 18 are eligible for the vaccine** (for those getting the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, the minimum age is 16).

This means no one will have to demonstrate an underlying health condition or show employment in an essential industry.

Any self-attestation forms required to be collected prior to March 29th must still be kept on record by the vaccine provider for six months, following guidance for PHI records. These forms may be stored electronically to meet this requirement.

COVID-19 vaccine providers are encouraged to begin taking appointments now, in advance, for individuals wishing to become vaccinated under the expanded eligibility criteria starting March 29th.

FDA COVID-19 Updates

Fetal Cell Usage in Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 Vaccine Messaging

The fetal cells used in J&J (PER.C.6 cell line) were taken from a single therapeutic abortion in 1985. The cell line allows J&J to make the adenovirus and has enabled thousands of lives to be saved.

Many clergy members have taken the perspective that this happened in the past, is not ongoing, and has led to thousands of lives saved in the past and present day.

Equity Messaging with the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

Having a one shot COVID-19 vaccine may be a valuable resource for those who do not want to get the 2-dose series. Currently, J&J is conducting a 2-dose series trial. If this proves to have higher efficacy, booster doses may be provided.

With the J&J vaccine being different from the first two COVID-19 vaccines that came out before the J&J vaccine, we must ensure that all vaccines are distributed equitably so that no one is receiving an inferior vaccine. The testing for the J&J COVID-19 vaccine is very different than the testing of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine; therefore, we cannot equally compare them in the same manner.

Education Vaccine Directive

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, the White House initiated a program to vaccinate all K-12 educators, staff, and childcare workers through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program. Teachers will have priority to get vaccinated at any participating pharmacy during the month of March.

Vaccine Licensing

Pfizer-BioNTech is looking to file for a biological use authorization (BUA) in the not so distant future. Before this can be carried through, the FDA would like at least 6 months' worth of safety data for each COVID-19 vaccine authorized as emergency use. It is possible that all three current COVID-19 vaccines could meet BUA criteria by the start of the 2021 school year.

Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Both Studying COVID-19 Vaccines in Older Children

The current minimum age for Pfizer-BioNTech is 16 years of age and for Moderna it is 18 years of age. There is a potential expansion of 12 years of age and older for both vaccine brands by summer of 2021. Studies for children 12 and under are more carefully conducted due to inflammatory syndrome occurring in young children.

How to Talk about COVID-19 Vaccines with Friends and Family

LISTEN TO THEIR QUESTIONS WITH EMPATHY

COVID-19 vaccines are new, and it's normal for people to have questions about them. The sheer amount of information – and misinformation – about COVID-19 vaccines can be overwhelming to anyone. You can help by listening without judgement and identifying the root of their concern.

ASK OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE THEIR CONCERNS

Open-ended questions are meant to elicit more than a yes-or-no answer. Asking open-ended questions can help you understand what your friend or family member is worried about, where they learned any troubling information, and what they have done to get answers to their questions.

ASK PERMISSION TO SHARE INFORMATION

Once you understand your friend or family member's question or concern, ask if you can provide some information, and tell them where you get information you trust. If they agree, they will be more willing to listen to you instead of feeling like you're pushing unwanted information on them.

HELP THEM FIND THEIR OWN REASON TO GET VACCINATED

Everyone who chooses to get vaccinated does it for a reason. You may choose to share your reasons for getting vaccinated or discuss common goals you may have. The reasons that someone may choose to get vaccinated will always be those that are most compelling to them personally.

HELP MAKE THEIR VACCINATION HAPPEN

Once someone decides on their “why,” help them make a commitment to get vaccinated. Help make the path to vaccination shorter, easier, and less stressful for them. Offer to help your family member or friend make a vaccination appointment at a location nearby and, if needed, go with them to the appointment.

Possible Side Effects After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects.

Common Side Effects

On the arm where you got the shot:



- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling

Throughout the rest of your body:



- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Fever
- Nausea

COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 65.41%
- **Black:** 23.86%
- **American Indian:** 0.21%
- **Asian:** 1.86%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.18%
- **Unknown:** 1.47%
- **Other:** 7.0%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 0.02%
- **18-29:** 4.66%
- **30-39:** 7.07%
- **40-49:** 8.03%
- **50-59:** 11.45%
- **60-69:** 23.2%
- **70+:** 45.57%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 59.59%
- **Male:** 40.13%
- **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

AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 Vaccine is Found to Be 79% Effective in U.S. Study – This article talks about the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine trials proving to be very effective in the United States.

Read more at [msn.org](https://www.msn.org) (tinyurl.com/t7vzdupe).

A Rapid COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Backfired in Some U.S. States – This article talks about some states seeing negative results from opening vaccine eligibility much faster than other states.

Read more at [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com) (tinyurl.com/87xcjtz7).

Sleeves Up: Louisiana Launches Intensive Vaccination Effort – This article talks about the Louisiana vaccination campaign to get COVID-19 vaccines to communities of concern through targeted pop-ups and outreach.

Read more at [ksla.com](https://www.ksla.com) (tinyurl.com/3ck3nu76).