

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 4 | MARCH 3, 2021



VACCINE DOSES
ADMINISTERED IN
LOUISIANA

1,025,411

FDA AUTHORIZES
EMERGENCY USE
FOR JANSSEN
COVID-19
VACCINE

FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine on Saturday, February 27, 2021.

LDH UPCOMING
TRAINING:
LUNCH WITH
LINKS

The Immunization Program will host a LINKS training week. Judi Greene and Katie Lei will present a new LINKS process each day with a Q&A session to follow.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:

How do I find a vaccine location near me?

The Louisiana Department of Health website has a searchable listing of sites that are providing the vaccine, which you can find at <https://ldh.la.gov/covidvaccine-locations/>. To find the vaccine locations, scroll down from the main LDH website until you see a heading that says "COVID-19 Vaccine Information," then click on "Vaccine Locations."

You will see the full listing of who is currently eligible for a vaccine, followed by a table showing vaccine providers listed alphabetically by parish. You can also use the search box at the top of the table to enter your parish to see providers near you. Vaccines have been provided to hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, and select community locations, with plans for larger-scale vaccination drives coming soon as more doses become available.

By getting your shot, you will be helping us all get closer to a happier, healthier Louisiana. In the meantime, please remember to mask up, wash your hands, and maintain good social distancing.

I have heard that some Catholic leaders are saying the Janssen vaccine is morally wrong. Should I get the vaccine?

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is safe and effective. It is another tool that will help us protect communities to ultimately end the COVID pandemic that has cost us more than 9,600 lives in Louisiana. We encourage residents to consult their doctors or medical professionals in their communities in making an informed decision. We also encourage residents to take the first vaccine made available to them.

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

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

FDA Issues an Emergency Use Authorization for the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the third vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The EUA allows the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine to be distributed in the U.S. for use in individuals 18 years of age and older.

The Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is a single-dose vaccine, given intramuscularly with each vial containing 5 doses. The vaccine does not need to be mixed with diluent before administration.

The Phase 3 Ensemble study for the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine included 43,783 participants over the age of 18, with 34% of the participants being over the age of 60. The trial was conducted in eight countries across three continents.

The efficacy for the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine in the U.S. for preventing severe to moderate COVID-19 was 72%, while the efficacy in Latin America was 66% and 57% in South Africa. This averages out to an overall 66% effectiveness.

Side effects for the Janssen vaccine include:

- Injection site reactions: pain, redness of the skin, and swelling
- Headache
- Feeling very tired
- Muscle aches
- Fever

There is a remote chance that the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction. A severe allergic reaction would usually occur within a few minutes to one hour after getting a dose of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of face and throat
- Fast heartbeat
- All-over body rash
- Dizziness and weakness

These may not be all the possible side effects of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. Serious and unexpected effects may occur. The Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is still being studied in clinical trials.

An unopened vaccine vial can be stored in the refrigerator at 2° to 8°C (36° to 46°F) for up to 3 months. Punctured vials can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 6 hours. Do not store frozen.

For more information, visit:

- **Janssen Website:** <https://www.janssencovid19vaccine.com/>
- **CDC Website:** <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/index.html>.

Pfizer Updates COVID-19 Vaccine Storage Temperatures

Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine vials can now be stored at freezer temperatures when shipped from Pfizer.

Cartons of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Multiple Dose Vials arrive in a thermal container with dry ice. Once received, remove the vial cartons immediately from the thermal container.

The vaccine vials can then be stored in an ultra-low temperature (ULT) freezer between -80° to -60 °C (-112° to -76°F) until the expiration date on the label, or in a freezer at -25° to -15°C (-13° to 5°F) for up to two weeks. Vials stored in the freezer for up to 2 weeks may be returned one time to the recommended storage condition of -80° to -60°C.

For more information, visit:

- **Pfizer:** <https://www.cvdvaccine-us.com/>

Lunch with LINKS: A Week of Online LINKS Trainings

The Immunization Program will host a LINKS training week. All LINKS trainings will be held from 12-12:30 p.m. CT. Judi Greene and Katie Lei will give an online training presentation every day for one week, with a new topic presented each day. After the training presentation, a question and answer session will follow.

Each meeting will be recorded and made accessible on lalink.org, under the LINKS Training Videos link, shortly after the training is complete.

The training schedule is as follows:

- **Monday, March 8 | Patient Demographics**
 - Searching for a patient
 - Updating patient demographics
 - Meeting URL: <https://ldhophbcpreion2.zoom.us/j/83032822458>
- **Tuesday, March 9 | Vaccine Administration**
 - Entering vaccines as administered vs. historical
 - Meeting URL: <https://ldhophbcpreion2.zoom.us/j/89076202685>
- **Wednesday, March 10 | Vaccine Orders & Transfers**
 - Accepting & verifying orders
 - Transferring vaccine

- Meeting URL:
<https://ldhophbcregion2.zoom.us/j/84275060648>
- Thursday, March 11 | Vaccine Management & Accountability
 - Reconciling and adjusting inventory
 - Meeting URL:
<https://ldhophbcregion2.zoom.us/j/83230816779>
- Friday, March 12 | Reports
 - Running and interpreting reports
 - Meeting URL:
<https://ldhophbcregion2.zoom.us/j/88621778506>

For more information, go to <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/4093>.

Important Ways to Slow the Spread of COVID-19

- [Wear a mask](#)
- [Stay 6 feet away from others](#)
- [Avoid crowds](#)
- [Avoid poorly ventilated spaces](#)
- [Wash your hands often](#)
- [Cover coughs and sneezes](#)
- [Clean and disinfect](#)
- [Monitor your health daily](#)
- [Get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19](#)



COVID-19 Vaccine Demographics

SERIES INITIATED BY RACE:

- **White:** 63.66%
- **Black:** 23.27%
- **American Indian:** 0.21%
- **Asian:** 1.8%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.24%
- **Unknown:** 2.06%
- **Other:** 8.76%

SERIES INITIATED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 0.04%
- **18-29:** 4.44%
- **30-39:** 6.85%
- **40-49:** 7.73%
- **50-59:** 11.24%
- **60-69:** 24.39%
- **70+:** 45.3%

SERIES INITIATED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 60.08%
- **Male:** 39.6%
- **Unknown:** 0.32%

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

You asked, we answered: Do the COVID-19 vaccines contain aborted fetal cells? – Answered by the Infectious Diseases Expert James Lawler MD, Lawler explains the differences between fetal cell lines and fetal tissue used in the creation of COVID-19 vaccines.

Read more about aborted fetal cells in COVID-19 vaccines at nebraskamed.com (tinyurl.com/57pa5bh5).

A practitioner’s guide to the principles of COVID-19 vaccine communications – There is a set of principles for sharing vaccine information that can help increase trust, acceptance and demand for vaccination. In this guide, we’ll help you understand this complexity and nuance, and offer principles and insights drawn from leading experts in vaccine communications that can guide your efforts.

Read more about COVID-19 vaccine communication principles at covid19vaccinescommunicationprinciples.org/ (tinyurl.com/7stwp7)