

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

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VACCINE DOSES
ADMINISTERED IN
LOUISIANA

2,255,300

J&J COVID-19
VACCINE
ADMINISTRATION
PAUSED IN
LOUISIANA

Following FDA and CDC recommendations, providers in Louisiana are advised to pause administering the J&J COVID-19 vaccine immediately. (Page 2)

LINKS COVID-19
VACCINE
ORDERING
STARTS TODAY

Starting today, COVID-19 vaccine providers will start placing orders through the Louisiana Immunization Network Web Application (LINKS). (Page 2)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

With the recent news about Johnson & Johnson vaccine and a possible link to blood clots, how can consumers be confident of the safety of the vaccine?

Using research from the Rockefeller Foundation, the State and Territory Alliance for Testing (STAT) developed these message strategies to help public health leaders and organizations address questions and concerns about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine news. Messages should start by reminding people that vaccines are tools that give them a sense of protection, not a burden they're being pressured to take on. For example:

Every day, millions of people make the decision to get vaccinated—including many who originally weren't so sure they would. They're getting the vaccine because it's one more way to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Follow-up messages should give people confidence about getting vaccinated, so they can start to feel confident themselves.

The reason people are comfortable making that decision is because they trust the recommendations of their doctors, they trust the experiences of their friends and family, and they trust that the FDA and CDC are doing absolutely everything in their power to ensure the safety of these vaccines.

Finally, your messages must demonstrate how the announcement about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should increase that confidence rather than undermining it. For example:

So far, almost seven million people have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and there have only been a total of six reported cases of this blood clot. That this problem was identified after just a handful of cases—and use of the vaccine was paused so health care providers are prepared to respond—shows that the system is working as it should.

The millions of people who have gotten vaccinated in the United States so far have done so because it gives them the upper hand against the virus. It ensures that even if they are exposed, they'll be OK.

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

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

Immediate Pause in the use of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine in the United States

Following the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommendations, [providers in Louisiana should pause administering the J&J COVID-19 vaccine](#) immediately, and all shipments to providers will be temporarily suspended until more information is gathered.

As of April 12, more than 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccine have been administered in the US. CDC and FDA are reviewing data involving six reported US cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J vaccine.

In these cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination.

CDC will convene a [meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) today](#) to further review these cases and assess their potential significance. FDA will review that analysis as they also investigate these cases.

If you are a provider with J&J doses, while you should pause administration, please continue to store them in your refrigerator.

To review the full FDA statement, visit [fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov).

LINKS COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering Process Begins Today



Louisiana COVID-19 vaccine providers will start placing orders today through the LINKS system today, Wednesday, April 14. Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna will be the only available vaccines to order at this time. The order form is always open, meaning COVID-19 vaccine orders can be

placed at any time.

How do I access expiration dates for the COVID-19 vaccines?

Pfizer can be located on the printed label on the vial. Moderna and J&J are found through an online expiration tool.

- **Moderna:** <https://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/providers/vial-lookup#vialLookupTool>
- **Johnson & Johnson:** <https://vaxcheck.jnj/>

Do I have to order second doses or are they automatically ordered?

You will need to place an order for all doses needed. There will no longer be a difference between prime and booster doses, so if you have remaining first doses, use those remaining doses as second doses before ordering additional doses.

How long is the entire ordering process?

Once you submit your order, it will be approved in one to two business days. Once approved, it will take one to three business days for the vaccine to be delivered.

What amounts can I order the vaccines in?

Smaller amounts shipped by Morris & Dickson:

- **Pfizer:** increments of 6 doses
- **Moderna:** increments of 10 doses

Larger amounts shipped direct from Pfizer and McKesson:

- **Pfizer:** increments of 1,170 doses
- **Moderna:** increments of 100 doses

Larger orders will be rounded up or down depending on the order amount for it to be shipped direct. For example, if you order 120 doses of Moderna, your order will be rounded down to 100 to be shipped directly from McKesson. If you need an additional 20 doses of Moderna, you will need to place a separate order for 20 doses to be approved to be delivered by Morris and Dickson.

Who is authorized to place an order in LINKS?

By default, the two users authorized to order vaccine in LINKS are the primary and backup vaccine coordinators. To change permissions for ordering, email your regional immunization consultant and request the change. If the person you would like to add to order vaccine is not a user in LINKS, you must complete the [Individual User Agreement](#) found in the Document Center on lalinks.org.

Collecting Race and Ethnicity Data in LINKS

To evaluate and address health and healthcare disparities, collecting information in LINKS on patients' race and ethnicity is crucial. Race and ethnicity data in LINKS is used to ensure all population in Louisiana are receiving equitable distribution of vaccines. But how should providers gather such potentially sensitive information? Studies have shown that:

- most patients are uncomfortable being asked about racial information, even though most agree hospitals and clinics should document the racial and ethnic makeup of their patients.

- patients feel more at ease if they know why this information is being collected.
- patients feel more comfortable when the information is gathered from doctors and nurses.

Why do we collect data on race and ethnicity? We collect data to:

- identify disparities and differences.
- target interventions to address gaps.
- improve quality of care and service for all.
- maintain accreditation.
- ensure federal compliance.

How should we ask a patient for their race and ethnicity?

Never “eyeball” a patient. Just because a patient’s looks favor a certain race or ethnic background, doesn’t mean that they are. By doing this you are gathering inaccurate data. Instead, you want to make sure the patient clearly understands why the data is collected for race and ethnicity in LINKS.

For more information or to view a sample script, visit the [Flip the Script: Provider Talking Points webpage](#) on the covidvaccine.la.gov.



COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling Online Training

There will be an online provider training on COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling at 11 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday, April 14, 2021.)

This training will discuss storage and handling for the recently approved Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine, as well as previously approved COVID-19 vaccines, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

This training will be recorded and later posted on the [LDH YouTube channel](#). This training does not offer continuing education (CE). Limited to 250 participants.

Meeting URL:

<https://ldhophbcpreion2.zoom.us/j/89292426552>

For more information, visit the [COVID-19 Vaccination – Provider Training webpage](#) found on covidvaccine.la.gov.

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 62.75%
- **Black:** 26.85%
- **American Indian:** 0.25%
- **Asian:** 2.13%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.18%
- **Unknown:** 1.38%
- **Other:** 6.47%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 0.15%
- **18-29:** 5.97%
- **30-39:** 8.76%
- **40-49:** 10.17%
- **50-59:** 15.89%
- **60-69:** 25.94%
- **70+:** 33.13%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 55.42%
- **Male:** 41.3%
- **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.

Recent Rise in US COVID-19 Cases Driven by Younger People – This article talks about increasing COVID-19 rates in younger people, with school sports being a major source of transmission.

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

FEMA Opening Mass Vaccination Site in Baton Rouge – This article talks about Louisiana opening its first FEMA site in Baton Rouge on April 16.

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

The Warning Signs of a Longer Pandemic – This article talks about how variants of the coronavirus are causing new outbreaks and infecting more children in the US. The US is getting a preview of what the future could hold if the vaccination push loses steam.

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