

# IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 11 | APRIL 21, 2021



VACCINE DOSES  
ADMINISTERED IN  
LOUISIANA

2,443,129

WHAT TO DO IF  
YOU RECEIVED  
THE J&J  
VACCINE

CDC gives recommendations on what you should do if you have received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. (Page 2)

COVID-19  
VACCINE  
HOTLINE GOES  
LIVE TO ASSIST  
RESIDENTS

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) added a vaccine hotline as part of the Bring Back Louisiana campaign to help residents find and register for a COVID-19 vaccination. (Page 2)

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:

**If a patient does not come back on time for the second dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, do we need to re-start the vaccine series?**

No. Administer the second dose to complete the series.

Although the second dose should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible, it may be administered up to 42 days after the first dose when a delay is unavoidable.

**If the second dose is administered beyond the allowable interval, the series does not need to be restarted.** Providers should not hold or save doses for patients who have not returned more than 42 days after their first dose. Providers should regularly assess missed second doses and repurpose those doses as first doses for eligible persons to initiate the vaccination series.

For more information, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

**If the second dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine may be given before the recommended interval because of the 4-day grace period, should we offer the option routinely?**

No. People should not be scheduled to receive dose 2 earlier than recommended (21 days for Pfizer-BioNTech, 28 days for Moderna). Schedulers should offer second dose appointments beginning on the date of the recommended interval or later. CDC guidance allows for dose 2 to be given up to four days before the recommended interval in order to avoid missed vaccination opportunities when a recipient unexpectedly arrives early and might not return on schedule.

**The series never needs to be restarted due to a delay in the second dose.**

# WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

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

## What to Do If You Received the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine

The use of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine is paused for now. This is because the safety monitoring systems that ensure vaccine safety received a small number of reports of people who got this vaccine experiencing a rare and severe type of blood clot with low platelets.

### What should you do if you received the J&J COVID-19 vaccine?

- If you received this vaccine more than three weeks ago, your risk of developing a blood clot with low platelets is very low.
- If you received this vaccine within the last three weeks, your risk of developing a blood clot with low platelets is also very low. However, you should be on the lookout for possible symptoms of a blood clot with low platelets:
  - Severe headache
  - Backache
  - Blurred vision
  - Fainting
  - Seizures
  - Severe pain in your abdomen or stomach
  - Severe pain in your chest
  - Leg swelling
  - Shortness of breath
  - Tiny red spots on the skin (petechiae)
  - New or easy bruising or bleeding

**Providers should work with individuals** who were scheduled to receive the J&J COVID-19 vaccine in the days ahead to reschedule their appointments to receive another authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccine (i.e., Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna).

For more information, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

## LDH Added Vaccine Hotline as part of Bring Back Louisiana Campaign

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) added a vaccine hotline as part of the Bring Back Louisiana campaign to help residents find and register for a COVID-19 vaccination. The hours of operation are:

- **Monday through Saturday | 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**
- **Sunday | 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

To find and register for a COVID-19 vaccination, call:

**1-855-453-0774**

The hotline will be able to schedule vaccine appointments for residents at any LDH vaccination sites or with other providers that use a phone number to schedule. For providers who only offer web-based scheduling, call agents may be able to help residents navigate those systems.

The hotline is part of the greater Bring Back Louisiana campaign effort which aims to meet people where they are – breaking barriers so that everyone has the opportunity to get the vaccine. The goal of the hotline is to help those with technology or internet barriers and those with a lack of access to medical professionals in their communities to ask vaccine questions.

## VACCINE HOTLINE

**1-855-453-0774**

The hotline is here to help you:

- Schedule your vaccine appointment
- Find vaccine providers in your area
- Connect with medical professionals who can answer your vaccine questions

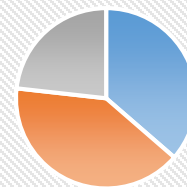
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday – Saturday  
12 p.m. – 8 p.m. Sunday



## Poll: Vaccine Confidence Grows Despite J&J Pause

Based on a poll by de Beaumont, **Americans consider the CDC and FDA's decision to pause the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine proof that rigorous safety monitoring is working.** This poll was conducted on April 15-16, 2021, by pollster Frank Luntz for the de Beaumont Foundation.

Are you more or less likely to get vaccinated than you were one month ago?



- no change
- more likely
- less likely

Seventy-six percent said the action does not decrease their likelihood of getting vaccinated, and an overwhelming majority said they would definitely make the same decision again.

“Americans recognize the Johnson & Johnson vaccine pause for what it is – a clear sign that our safety protocols are working the way they’re supposed to,” said Brian C. Castrucci, DrPH, President and chief executive officer of the de Beaumont Foundation.

“Government officials must continue to be transparent and to use clear, consistent language about the vaccines.”

“The communication efforts, for the most part, are working,” Luntz said. “But to reach the more hesitant populations, it’s going to take doctors and public health leaders, not politicians.”

The poll suggests that the perception gap about vaccines between Republicans and Democrats is narrowing. Sixty-three percent of all respondents, 60% of Trump voters, and 72% of Biden voters said they agree with the statement “The bottom line is COVID-19 vaccines save lives, and Americans should continue to get vaccinated as soon as possible.”

Overall, 40% of respondents said they were more likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine than they were a month ago – including 38% of Trump voters and 48% of Biden voters. Among all poll respondents, 46% said they had already been vaccinated, including 43% of Trump voters and 52% of Biden voters. Of those, 48% have received the Moderna vaccine; 46% Pfizer; and 7% Johnson & Johnson. Among those who have not been vaccinated, only 19% said they would “definitely not” get vaccinated, including 23% of Trump voters and 10% of Biden voters.

“There are still meaningful, measurable differences between Republicans and Democrats when it comes to their acceptance of COVID vaccines,” Luntz said. “The good news is that the partisan gap is decreasing and overall vaccine confidence is rising.”

To read more on the vaccine confidence poll, visit [debeaumont.org](https://debeaumont.org).



## LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

### SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 62.17%
- **Black:** 27.28%
- **American Indian:** 0.26%
- **Asian:** 2.29%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.18%
- **Unknown:** 1.35%
- **Other:** 6.47%

### SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 0.27%
- **18-29:** 6.77%
- **30-39:** 9.54%
- **40-49:** 11.11%
- **50-59:** 16.78%
- **60-69:** 25.29%
- **70+:** 30.24%

### SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 57.84%
- **Male:** 41.88%
- **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

**Half of US adults have received at least one COVID-19 shot** – This article talks about half of the US population receiving a COVID-19 shot, marking another milestone in the nation’s largest-ever vaccination campaign.

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

**Axios-Ipsos poll: Americans say J&J pause was the right call** – This article talks about how most Americans polled support the pause in the distribution of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

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

**States see rise in unused vaccines as demand flattens, shifting focus to hesitancy** – This article talks about states seeing big slowdowns in the share of vaccine doses administered.

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