

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 12 | APRIL 28, 2021



VACCINE DOSES
ADMINISTERED IN
LOUISIANA

2,589,967

JOHNSON &
JOHNSON
COVID-19
VACCINE PAUSE
LIFTED

FDA and CDC lift recommended pause on J&J COVID-19 vaccine use following thorough safety review. (Page 2)

MODERNA
VACCINE VIAL
UPDATE AND
GENERAL STATE
EXPECTATIONS

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine can now remain at room temperature conditions for a longer period of time. (Page 2)

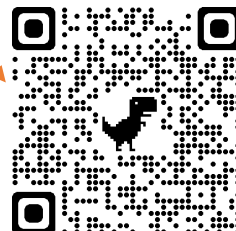
QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Where can I get proof that I was vaccinated if I lost my vaccine card?

Anyone who was vaccinated can register online with the **MyIR Mobile application** to access their immunization record. To access MyIR Mobile, visit app.myirmobile.com.

You can also use the **V-safe smartphone-based tool**. This tool uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

Through V-safe, you can quickly tell CDC if you have any side effects after receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. Depending on your answers, someone from CDC may call to check on you and get more information. V-safe will also remind you to get your second COVID-19 vaccine dose if needed. For more information on V-safe, go to cdc.gov or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

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

FDA & CDC Lift Recommended Pause on Johnson & Johnson (J&J) Vaccine Use

Following a thorough safety review, including two meetings of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have determined that the **recommended pause regarding the use of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine in the US should be lifted and use of the vaccine should resume.**

The pause was recommended after reports of six cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals following administration of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine. During the pause, medical and scientific teams at the FDA and CDC examined available data to assess the risk of thrombosis involving the cerebral venous sinuses, or CVST (large blood vessels in the brain), and other sites in the body along with thrombocytopenia, or low blood platelet counts. The teams also conducted extensive outreach to providers and clinicians to ensure they were made aware of the potential for these adverse events and could properly manage and recognize these events due to the unique treatment required for these blood clots and low platelets. also known as thrombosis-thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS).

The two agencies have determined the following:

- Use of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine should be resumed in the United States.
- The FDA and CDC have confidence that this vaccine is safe and effective in preventing COVID-19.
- The FDA has determined that the available data show that the vaccine's known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks in individuals 18 years of age and older.
- At this time, the available data suggest that the chance of (TTS) occurring is very low, but the FDA and CDC will remain vigilant in continuing to investigate this risk.
- Health care providers administering the vaccine and vaccine recipients or caregivers should review the [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine \(Vaccination Providers\)](#) and [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#), which have been revised to include information about the risk of this syndrome.

To view the FDA and CDC recommendations, go to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

Moderna Vaccine Vial Updates and General State Expectations After Piercing a Vial

The recently updated Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) contains important changes involving vaccine storage temperatures/timeframes and preparation practices that can help reduce the wasting of vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends providers become aware of these Moderna vaccine related updates.

UNPUNCTURED Moderna vaccine vials:

- Moderna COVID-19 vaccine multiple-dose vials are stored frozen **between -50° to -15°C (-58° to 5°F)**. This is a new, wider temperature range and is consistent with other recommended vaccines stored in the freezer.
- Vials may be stored refrigerated between 2° to 8°C (36° to 46°F) for up to 30 days prior to first use. This is unchanged.
- Vials may be stored between **8° to 25°C (46° to 77°F) for a total of 24 hours**. This is an increase from the previous 12 hours.

PUNCTURED Moderna vaccine vials:

- After the first dose has been withdrawn, the vial should be held **between 2° to 25°C (36° to 77°F) for up to 12 hours. Vials should be discarded 12 hours after the first puncture.** This is an increase from the previous 6 hours.

The state encourages the vaccination of individuals at the time they are presenting for COVID-19 vaccination. Generally, do not delay the vaccination of any individual due to the fact that you may not have enough appointments set to exhaust all vaccine remaining in a punctured vial. **Providers will not be penalized by the state if some unavoidable vaccine waste occurs due to the provider being unable to find enough individuals to administer all doses from the pierced vial.** Providers should still make every good-faith attempt to administer all doses from a pierced Moderna vaccine vial within the allowed timeframe (12 hours).

These Moderna related expectations are similar with Pfizer vaccines. You will not be penalized if reconstituting a Pfizer vial to vaccinate individuals that present for vaccination when you may not necessarily have enough appointments to exhaust all doses from the originally reconstituted vial.

For more information on the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine updates, visit [modernatx.com](https://www.modernatx.com).



COVID-19 Vaccines: Myth Vs. Fact

MYTH: The COVID-19 vaccine can affect women's fertility.

FACT: The COVID-19 vaccine will not affect fertility. The truth is that the COVID-19 vaccine encourages the body to create copies of the spike protein found in the coronavirus's surface. This "teaches" the body's immune system to fight the virus that has that specific spike protein on it.

Confusion arose when a false report surfaced on social media saying that the spike protein on this coronavirus was the same as another spike protein called syncytin-1 that is involved in the growth and attachment of the placenta during pregnancy. The false report said that getting the COVID-19 vaccine would cause a woman's body to fight this different spike protein and affect her fertility. The two spike proteins are completely different and distinct. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine will not affect the fertility of women who are seeking to become pregnant, including through in vitro fertilization methods. During the Pfizer vaccine tests, 23 female volunteers involved in the study became pregnant, and the only one who suffered a pregnancy loss had not received the actual vaccine but a placebo.

MYTH: Researchers rushed the development of the COVID-19 vaccine so its effectiveness and safety cannot be trusted.

FACT: Studies found that the two initial vaccines are both about 95% effective — and reported no serious or life-threatening side effects. There are many reasons why the COVID-19 vaccines could be developed so quickly. Here are just a few:

- The COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna were created with a method that has been in development for years so the companies could start the vaccine development process early in the pandemic.
- The vaccine developers didn't skip any testing steps but conducted some of the steps on an overlapping schedule to gather data faster.
- Vaccine projects had plenty of resources as governments invested in research and/or paid for vaccines in advance.
- Social media helped companies find and engage study volunteers, and many were willing to help with COVID-19 vaccine research.
- Because COVID-19 is so contagious and widespread, it did not take long to see if the vaccine worked for the study volunteers who were vaccinated.

For more information on COVID-19 Myths Vs. Facts, go to [hopkinsmedicine.org](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org).

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 61.53%
- **Black:** 27.5%
- **American Indian:** 0.27%
- **Asian:** 2.47%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.19%
- **Unknown:** 1.36%
- **Other:** 6.68%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 0.44%
- **18-29:** 7.62%
- **30-39:** 10.09%
- **40-49:** 11.68%
- **50-59:** 17.19%
- **60-69:** 24.65%
- **70+:** 28.32%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 57.43%
- **Male:** 42.29%
- **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

US prepares for vaccine tipping point – This article talks about the fast approaching tipping point of vaccinations, where supply will outstrip demand.

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

Edwards worries about decline in COVID-19 vaccine interest – This article talks about Louisiana residents' interest in the vaccine slowly starting to subside, with only one-quarter of the state fully immunized from the COVID-19 disease caused by coronavirus.

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

Pfizer: Single pill cure for COVID-19 could be available this year – This article talks about Pfizer currently testing a single pill cure for COVID-19.

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

COVID-19 VACCINES STORAGE & HANDLING

PFIZER-BIONTECH

OVERVIEW

For individuals **16 years of age and older**

Vaccine is administered as a series of 2 doses three weeks apart

Day 0 | **Day 21**

30 mcg
(0.3mL)

30 mcg
(0.3mL)

Intramuscular Injection

**mRNA
VACCINE
6 DOSES
PER VIAL**



**REQUIRES
RECONSTITUTION**
with 0.9% sodium chloride

STORAGE

Ultra-Low Temperature (ULT) Freezer

-80°C to -60°C | -112°F to -76°F
• Store up to the expiration date

Freezer

-25°C to -15°C | -13°F to 5°F
• Store up to 2 weeks
• Can be returned to ULT freezer once

Refrigerator

2°C to 8°C | 36°F to 46°F
• Store up to 5 days (4.5 days if delivered thawed)
• **DO NOT REFREEZE** once thawed.

ADMINISTRATION

Refrigerator

2°C to 8°C | 36°F to 46°F
• 195 vials may take 2 to 3 hours to thaw
Punctured vials: 6 hours after dilution

Room Temperature

Up to 25°C | Up to 77°F
• a vial takes about 30 minutes to thaw
Unpunctured vial: Viable up to 2 hours, undiluted — must be reconstituted within the first 2 hours.
Punctured vial: Viable up to 6 hours after dilution. Use within 6 hours from the time of dilution.

MODERNA

OVERVIEW

For individuals **18 years of age and older**

Vaccine is administered as a series of 2 doses one month apart

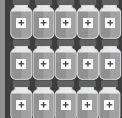
Day 0 | **Day 28**

100 mcg
(0.5mL)

100 mcg
(0.5mL)

Intramuscular Injection

**mRNA
VACCINE
10 to 15
DOSES
PER VIAL**



**DO NOT MIX
with diluent**

STORAGE

Freezer

-50°C to -15°C | -58°F to 5°F
• Store up to the expiration date.

Refrigerator

2°C to 8°C | 36°F to 46°F
• Store up to 30 days. You can find the expiration date online at

modernatx.com

• **DO NOT REFREEZE** once thawed.

ADMINISTRATION

Refrigerator

2°C to 8°C | 36°F to 46°F
• 2.5 hours to thaw.
• Let vial stand at room temperature for 15 minutes before administering.
Punctured vials: Viable up to 12 hours

Room Temperature

Up to 25°C | Up to 77°F
• 1 hour to thaw
Unpunctured vial: Viable up to 24 hours
Punctured vial: Viable up to 12 hours

JOHNSON & JOHNSON

OVERVIEW

For individuals **18 years of age and older**

Vaccine is administered as a single dose

100 mcg
(0.5mL)

Intramuscular Injection

**VIRAL VECTOR
VACCINE
5 DOSES
PER VIAL**



**DO NOT MIX
with diluent**

STORAGE

Refrigerator

2°C to 8°C | 36°F to 46°F
• Store up to the expiration date (about 3 months). You can find the expiration date online at

vaxcheck.jnj

• **DO NOT** store frozen.

ADMINISTRATION

Refrigerator

2°C to 8°C | 36°F to 46°F
• Keep refrigerated until thawed (if arrived frozen.)
Punctured vials: Viable up to 6 hours

Room Temperature

Up to 25°C | Up to 77°F
• 1 to 2 hours to thaw
Unpunctured vial: Viable up to 12 hours
Punctured vial: Viable up to 2 hours