

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 9 | APRIL 7, 2021



QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

How do I find a location to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Today, there are COVID-19 vaccines readily available at locations throughout Louisiana. This includes at local hospitals, pharmacies, clinics, and other healthcare provider sites. There are also community vaccination events that are hosted at churches, universities, businesses, community centers, parks, and other locations. Most places require a person to be pre-registered, although some sites gladly take walk-ins.

There are numerous ways to find a location for a COVID-19 vaccine. Many healthcare providers do their own promotions to alert patients and local residents of the availability of the shot. Check your provider's website or call to see if they are offering the vaccine.

Local community vaccine events are publicized by the event organizer (usually to their members or local neighbors) and by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) at covidvaccine.la.gov.

From the LDH website, there are two methods for finding a vaccine location:

- Scroll down to the Provider Vaccinations Location bar to search for a vaccine provider by parish.
- Select the *Click Here for Community Vaccine Events* button in the upper-right corner of the webpage to see a chronological listing of vaccine sites. Scroll through the list to find a site near you. *Please note: The website is being updated to make this feature more easily searchable.*

Recognizing that many people have difficulty in navigating websites or are uncomfortable using the internet, there is now a phone number to call to schedule an appointment: 855-453-0774.

This telephone line will open for calls beginning at noon on Thursday, April 8, and will operate from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. Callers who contact Louisiana 211 seeking an appointment for a COVID-19 shot will be directed to the new 855 phone number.

VACCINE DOSES
ADMINISTERED IN
LOUISIANA

2,045,266

MODERNA
PROVIDES
UPDATES ON
STORAGE &
HANDLING

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

VACCINE
REQUEST
PROCESS WILL BE
CHANGING

Providers will no longer be using the Vaccine Request Form and will now be ordering through the Louisiana Immunization Information System (LINKS). (Page 2)

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

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

Moderna Provides Storage Update and Announces the USFDA Authorizes Up to 15 Doses Per Vial

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to be **kept at room temperature conditions once removed from the refrigerator for administration for 24 hours**, an increase from the previous 12 hours. Additionally, a **punctured vial is now useable for up to 12 hours**, an increase from the previous 6 hours. These new guidelines are reflected in an updated Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) label.

The FDA has also authorized inclusion of a **new vial presentation with a maximum of 15 doses** of its COVID-19 vaccine. In parallel, the FDA also authorized a maximum of 11 doses of its COVID-19 vaccine in the current format, from the previously authorized 10 doses per vial. The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine now can be supplied in two vial presentations.

- **Multiple-dose vial containing a maximum of 15 doses**
- **Multiple-dose vial containing a maximum of 11 doses**

The company expects that the 15-dose vials will begin shipping in the coming weeks.

For more information, visit [modernatx.com](https://www.modernatx.com).

COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering Process Changing

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) will **be changing the ordering/request process for COVID-19 vaccine**. Providers will no longer be using the Vaccine Request Form and will instead be ordering through the Louisiana Immunization Information System (LINKS). Vaccine allocations are becoming more consistent throughout the state, allowing providers to directly place orders for COVID-19 vaccine as needed. This will be the **ONLY** way to order and receive COVID-19 vaccine from the state.

In anticipation of the ordering process changing, the Immunization Program will also be **offering online training on ordering and reconciling COVID-19 vaccine in LINKS**. If you can't make one, don't worry. All trainings offer the same information.

There is a limit of 250 participants per session and continuing education (CE) will NOT be offered. All trainings will be recorded and posted on the [Louisiana Department of Health YouTube channel](#) shortly after each training. The trainings can be found by clicking on the LINKS TRAINING VIDEOS button on lalink.org.

The Lunch with LINKS: COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering and Reconciliation in LINKS trainings are on the following days:

- **Thursday, April 8, 2021 | 12 p.m. (Noon) – 1 p.m.**
<https://ldhophbcpreion2.zoom.us/j/86820833149>
- **Friday, April 9, 2021 | 12 p.m. (Noon) - 1 p.m.**
<https://ldhophbcpreion2.zoom.us/j/82304077187>

For more information or to view the call-in options for the trainings, visit the [LDH Provider Training Webpage](#). Additional training for the week of April 12 coming soon.

*Please note: **The COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling Online Training** that was originally scheduled for April 8, 2021, has been moved to Thursday, April 15, 2021, due to LINKS training taking priority. Go to the [LDH Provider Training webpage](#) for more information.*



CDC's Prevaccination Checklist is Now Available in English and Six Additional Languages

The Prevacation Checklist for COVID-19 Vaccine is a good tool for providers to use before vaccinating a patient with a COVID-19 vaccine. The checklist is used to help determine if there is any reason the patient should not get the COVID-19 vaccine at that time.

The checklist now comes in seven languages:

- [English](#)
- [Arabic](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [French](#)
- [Korean](#)
- [Simplified Chinese](#)
- [Vietnamese](#)

To access the checklist, click on any of the languages above or visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

Domestic Travel During COVID-19 for Fully Vaccinated Travelers

- Fully vaccinated travelers are less likely to get and spread COVID-19.
- People who are fully vaccinated with an FDA-authorized vaccine can travel safely within the United States.
 - Fully vaccinated travelers do not need to get tested before or after travel unless their destination requires it.
 - Fully vaccinated travelers do not need to self-quarantine.
- Fully vaccinated travelers should still follow CDC's recommendations for traveling safely including:
 - Wear a mask over your nose and mouth.
 - Stay 6 feet from others and avoid crowds.
 - Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer often.

Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19

Information about the characteristics of these variants is rapidly emerging. Scientists are working to learn more about how easily they spread, whether they could cause more severe illness, and whether currently authorized vaccines will protect against them.

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear. Other times, new variants emerge and persist. Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been documented in the United States and globally during this pandemic.

There are currently five Variants of Concern (VOC) in the US:

- **B.1.1.7:** This variant was first identified in the US in December 2020. It was initially detected in the UK.
- **B.1.351:** This variant was first identified in the US at the end of January 2021. It was initially detected in South Africa in December 2020.
- **P.1:** This variant was first detected in the US in January 2021. P.1 was initially identified in travelers from Brazil, who were tested during routine screening at an airport in Japan in early January 2021.
- **B.1.427 & B.1.429:** These two variants were first identified in California in February 2021 and were classified as VOCs in March 2021.

These variants seem to spread more easily and quickly than other variants, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19. An increase in the number of cases will put more strain on health care resources, lead to more hospitalizations, and potentially lead to more deaths.

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 63.49%
- **Black:** 26.07%
- **American Indian:** 0.23%
- **Asian:** 1.99%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.17%
- **Unknown:** 1.45%
- **Other:** 6.59%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 0.08%
- **18-29:** 5.06%
- **30-39:** 7.89%
- **40-49:** 9.13%
- **50-59:** 14.61%
- **60-69:** 26.33%
- **70+:** 36.91%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 59.11%
- **Male:** 40.62%
- **Unknown:** 0.27%

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

Nearly half of new US virus infections are in just 5 states – This article talks about how nearly half of new coronavirus infections nationwide are in just five states.

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

Homebound, mobility-impaired residents targeted by Jefferson Parish COVID vaccine efforts – This article talks about two new programs that aim to boost vaccination rates among the homebound and mobility-impaired.

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

More than 3 million people are now receiving a COVID vaccine in the US each day – This article talks about how more than three million people, on average, are receiving a COVID-19 vaccine each day in the US according to the CDC.

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