IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 14 | MAY 12, 2021

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

How can I get my COVID-19 vaccination to show up in LA Wallet?

LA Wallet is a **FREE** and safe smartphone application that allows you to access your Louisiana digital driver's license. **LA Wallet now has the ability to display your Covid-19 vaccination status.**

To access your COVID-19 vaccination status:

1. Access your smartphone's app store and search for LA Wallet.
2. Download the app and follow the simple set-up instructions. If you already had the app downloaded, you may need to update the app.
3. Once you are set up, locate the COVID-19 button at the bottom of the screen.
4. The app will ask you if you want to add your vaccination information. Click the button to allow the app to connect to your immunization records.
5. That's it! It will automatically connect to your immunization records. *Please note: it may take a week or so for your vaccination status to be available on the immunization database. Also, if you received one of your doses in a different state, there could also be a delay before it's available in the Louisiana database.*

Email covidquestions@la.gov, for any questions or if you need assistance getting vaccine information from another state. We will help walk you through the process.

For technical questions, contact the LA Wallet helpdesk at 225-263-4488 or visit their support page for answers to frequently asked questions and further support options at https://lawallet.com/support/.

Thanks for doing your part in helping to Bring Back Louisiana!

VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED IN LOUISIANA

2,796,183

FDA AUTHORIZES PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE FOR USE IN ADOLESCENTS

The FDA expanded the EUA for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to include adolescents 12 through 15 years of age. (Page 2)

COVID-19 WASTAGE PROGRAM CREATED FOR IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

A program has been created for regions to use to prevent and minimize wasting COVID-19 vaccine. (Page 2)

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

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

FDA Authorizes Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use in Adolescents in Another Important Action in Fight Against Pandemic

On Monday, May 10, 2021, the US Food and Drug Administration expanded the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the **Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease (SARS-CoV-2) to include adolescents 12 through 15 years of age.** The FDA amended the EUA originally issued on December 11, 2020, for administration in individuals 16 years of age and older.

From March 1, 2020, through April 30, 2021, approximately 1.5 million COVID-19 cases in individuals 11 to 17 years of age have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Children and adolescents generally have a milder COVID-19 disease course as compared to adults. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is administered as a series of two doses, three weeks apart, the same dosage and dosing regimen for 16 years of age and older.

The FDA has determined that Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has met the statutory criteria to amend the EUA, and that the known and potential benefits of the vaccine in individuals 12 years of age and older outweigh the known and potential risks, supporting the vaccine's use in this population.

The FDA updated the Pfizer-BioNTech:

- Fact Sheets for Healthcare Providers Administering the Vaccine (Vaccination Providers)
- Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers

For more information on the updated EUA for Pfizer-BioNTech, visit fda.gov.

Immunization Program Protocol for Anticipatory Management and Relocation of Short-Dated COVID-19 Vaccine Before Expiration or Wasting

On Monday, May 10, 2021, the Management and Relocation of Short-Dated COVID-19 Vaccine protocol was implemented. The purpose of this protocol is to prevent and minimize wasting COVID-19 vaccine by :

1. Outlining the expected procedure for state and regional immunization program staff to **proactively identify, manage, and relocate short-dated COVID-19 vaccine** from vaccine providers unable to administer the vaccine before expiration.
2. Outlining how to **identify a provider that would be willing and able to receive and administer the short-dated vaccine** before the expiration date.

This protocol applies to those who are responding to the continued vaccine inventory needs of COVID-19 vaccine providers throughout the state of Louisiana. Specifically, regional consultant immunization supervisors, COVID-19 vaccine specialists, and COVID-19 vaccine ambassadors as needed.

Overview of the protocol:

- A COVID-19 Vaccine Dose Dashboard will be created and updated daily. The dashboard will include data on: region, provider facility name, provider facility address, phone number, point of contact, vaccine manufacturer, number of doses, lot number, expiration dates for 7, 14 and 21 days.
- The designated team member will update key information in the Dose Expiration Master Excel File daily.
- The expiring doses will be addressed at 21, 14, and 7 days.
- The designated team member will attempt to relocate/transfer the short-dated vaccine to a provider within their own region first if a provider states they will be unable to administer all short-dated vaccines.

To view the entire protocol, view the Immunization Program Steps for Anticipatory Management and Relocation of Short-Dated COVID-19 Vaccine Before Expiration or Wastage document.

Louisiana Health Department Confirms Two Cases of the Brazil COVID-19 Variant in Louisiana

On Thursday, April 29, 2021, The Louisiana Department on Health (LDH) confirmed the state's two identified cases of the SARS-CoV-2 virus known as the Brazil P.1 variant.

The P.1 cases were detected in individuals in Regions 1 (Greater New Orleans area) and 5 (Southwest Louisiana area). Neither individuals reported a history of travel, and neither individual had received the COVID-19 vaccines. Although these are the first reported cases of the P.1 variant in Louisiana, it is likely that there are additional undetected cases circulating.

The CDC classified the P.1 variant as a variant of concern. It is potentially associated with increased transmissibility and reduced susceptibility to certain therapeutics. Recent data suggest that the P.1 variant may also be associated with higher risk of severe disease. Current COVID-19 vaccines are effective against this variant strain.

There are now multiple variants of concern circulating in Louisiana: B.1.1.7 (UK), B.1.427/429 (California), and P.1 (Brazil).

The COVID-19 vaccines are the best protection against these and other strains of SARS-CoV-2, including variants that may spread more easily or cause more severe disease. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine can also help prevent new variants from emerging. Every infection that is prevented means the virus has one less chance to mutate.

What is the Difference Between FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and FDA Approval?

In a public health emergency, manufacturing and approval of vaccines can be streamlined through an Emergency Use Authorization or EUA. An EUA does not affect vaccine safety, because it does not impact development, such as research, clinical studies and the studying of side effects and adverse reactions. Instead, it speeds up manufacturing and administrative processes.

All vaccines follow the same testing processes, whether they are approved for emergency use or through a typical license.

Clinical trials are conducted in three phases. In **Phase 1**, the vaccine is given to a small number of generally healthy people to assess its safety and effectiveness. In **Phase 2**, the vaccine is given to hundreds of people with different health conditions and from diverse demographic groups. In **Phase 3**, the vaccine is administered to thousands of people across demographic groups and immune responses are compared against placebos, which are doses that don't contain any of the vaccine and are used for testing purposes only.

Once Phase 3 trials are complete, the FDA reviews the data to determine whether the vaccine works and is safe. If so, the manufacturer files for approval. This is where the process may change due to a public health emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Usually, the manufacturer would apply for a Biologics License Application (BLA). If the FDA determines that the vaccine is safe, works and that manufacturing can be done safely and consistently, it will grant a license for the vaccine.

In a public health emergency, manufacturing may occur while vaccines are still in development, rather than after approval. These efforts happen simultaneously, and instead of filing for a BLA, the manufacturer files for Emergency Use Authorization. If the benefits outweigh any possible risks of the vaccine and manufacturing quality can be ensured, the FDA will approve the vaccine for emergency use. Emergency use authorizations are an important part in addressing public health emergencies and ending the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, visit vaccine.unchealthcare.org.

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 56.81%
- **Black:** 26.87%
- **American Indian:** 0.27%
- **Asian:** 2.57%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.17%
- **Unknown:** 1.21%
- **Other:** 12.1%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 0.66%
- **18-29:** 8.76%
- **30-39:** 10.73%
- **40-49:** 12.29%
- **50-59:** 17.57%
- **60-69:** 23.81%
- **70+:** 26.18%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 56.9%
- **Male:** 42.82%
- **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

Louisiana COVID numbers: 1 out of 3 people has received at least one vaccine dose – This article talks about the number of people who have initiated being vaccinated and the number of people who have completed the series.

Read more at nola.com.

Americans' reemergence picks up speed – This article talks about how the new Axios-Ipsos survey shows that out of home activity is reaching pre-pandemic levels but many remain concerned.

Read more at ipsos.com.

Dracula's castle proves an ideal setting for COVID-19 jabs – This article talks about how Romanian doctors are using Dracula's castle as a vaccination site to draw in more people to get vaccinated.

Read more at apnews.com.

Differences Between FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and FDA Approval