

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 18 | JUNE 9, 2021



VACCINE DOSES
ADMINISTERED IN
LOUISIANA

3,062,092

PFIZER &
MODERNA ARE
SEEKING FULL FDA
APPROVAL FOR
COVID VACCINE

Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are seeking the FDA's full approval for their COVID-19 vaccines. (Page 2)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Are there any incentives to encourage people to get vaccinated?

The State of Louisiana is offering some perks if you get the COVID-19 vaccination.

- June 1 – 30 | A **Shot for a Shot** is a joint campaign between the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control (ATC) and the Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA) to encourage Louisiana residents to get vaccinated to protect themselves, as well as their families, co-workers, and friends from COVID-19. To participate, present proof of vaccination through LA Wallet or with your state-issued vaccination card within 7 days of getting vaccinated to receive ONE FREE non-alcoholic or alcoholic beverage at any participating business. *For more information, visit atc.louisiana.gov.*
- Now – July 31 | **Free entry into all of Louisiana's 21 State Parks** for anyone who is eligible and has received a COVID-19 vaccination. To participate, show proof of vaccination through LA Wallet or with your state-issued vaccination card to enter any Louisiana State Park for free.

These perks are part of our Bring Back Louisiana summer initiative. In the coming weeks, more rewards will be announced. Visit covidvaccine.la.gov for more information.

COVID-19
VACCINE
PEDIATRIC
TOOLKIT FOR
PROVIDERS NOW
AVAILABLE ON
LDH WEBSITE

The COVID-19 vaccine Pediatric toolkit is now available on the Louisiana Health Department website. (Page 2)

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

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

Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are Seeking Full FDA Approval for Their COVID-19 Vaccines



On Friday, May 7, 2021, Pfizer and BioNTech became the first companies to apply to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for full approval of their coronavirus vaccine.

The companies announced that they had initiated a rolling submission of a biologics license application (BLA) with the FDA for

the approval of their vaccine in people aged 16 and older. The companies will submit supporting data on a rolling basis for consideration in the coming weeks, with a request for priority review.

Pfizer and BioNTech have submitted their clinical data to the FDA, which includes six months of information on the vaccine's safety and efficacy. They will continue to submit more data, including information about the manufacturing of the vaccine, in the coming future.

On Tuesday, June 1, 2021, Moderna became the most recent pharmaceutical company to apply to the FDA for full approval for its COVID-19 vaccine for use in people 18 and older.

How would full approval affect the public?

FDA approval would allow the companies to market the shot directly to consumers and **could also help raise public confidence in the vaccine.**

Full approval could also make it easier for schools, employers, government agencies, and the US military (which has encountered resistance to coronavirus vaccines) to mandate vaccinations. Many organizations have been urging vaccinations but holding off on making them a requirement until the FDA formally approves a vaccine.

For more information on the full FDA approval for Pfizer and BioNTech, visit [pfizer.com](https://www.pfizer.com).

For more information on the full FDA approval for Moderna, visit investors.modernatx.com.

LDH COVID-19 Vaccine Pediatric Toolkit for Providers Now Available Online

The COVID-19 Vaccine Pediatric Toolkit for Providers is now available on the [Louisiana Department of Health website](https://www.louisiana.gov/).

Currently, children 12 years and older are eligible for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, but the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) anticipates approval for other COVID-19 vaccines and younger children in the coming months.

As parents' most trusted source of information on vaccines, pediatric healthcare professionals play a critical role in helping parents/guardians understand the importance of COVID-19 vaccination and assuring them that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.

A provider's strong recommendation is critical for vaccine acceptance. It is encouraged for providers to tell parents/guardians how important COVID-19 vaccines are to protecting their children's health and remind them that after their family is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, they may start to do some things they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

Even if providers are not administering COVID-19 vaccines, they can help parents/guardians feel confident in choosing to get their children vaccinated against COVID-19 by addressing their questions and assuring them of the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines.



The materials in this toolkit will help pediatric providers share clear and accurate information about COVID-19 vaccines when starting or continuing conversations with parents/guardians, as well as information for those who choose not to vaccinate their child.

To view the COVID-19 Vaccine Pediatric Toolkit for Providers, go to covidvaccine.la.gov.

What We Know About the Delta Variant

The coronavirus variant labeled "Delta" was first recorded in India, where a slow vaccination drive and complacency about pandemic rules helped spark a record-breaking surge in cases this spring.

The Delta variant now accounts for more than 6% of all infections in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention (CDC). This highly transmissible variant may be responsible for more than 18% of cases in some Western US states.

The variant is spreading rapidly in the United Kingdom and has quickly become the dominant strain there, despite the UK being one of the more successful vaccination programs anywhere. Responsible for more than 60% of infections, its newfound prevalence could upend plans for a return to normalcy.

The situation could have a significant impact on vaccination and reopening plans about the world – including in the US, where rates of vaccination have slowed despite the Biden administration’s target of having 70 percent of the country vaccinated by July 4, 2021.

What is the Delta variant?

Also known by the scientific name B.1.617, the variant was first identified in Maharashtra, India, in October. It became the “Delta” variant after the World Health Organization (WHO) implemented a naming system on Greek letters earlier this month.

Though it is just one of the many variants to have arisen during the pandemic, it is considered one of the most alarming. WHO has labeled it a “variant of concern.” It has splintered into several sub-variants – including one, B.1.617.2, that is widespread in Britain.

While scientists are still studying that variant to better understand it, its impact can be seen in India, where it contributed to a surge in cases in recent months that have led to daily death tolls topping a record of 4,500.

On Tuesday, June 8, 2021, Dr. Anthony Fauci warned during the White House COVID-19 Briefing that the Delta variant may be associated with more severe disease and a higher risk of hospitalization.

The good news is that the vaccines look like they can protect people against the Delta variant. A new study from Public Health England showed two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine were 88% effective against symptomatic disease from the Delta variant compared with 93% effectiveness against the Alpha variant, the variant first detected in the UK. Effectiveness declined to 33% after just one dose.

Fauci urged everyone who has received the first dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines to make sure to sign up for a second. “And for those who have still not been vaccinated yet, please get vaccinated,” he said.

Fauci said vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and to stop this variant from spreading and becoming dominant in the US.

For more information on the Delta variant, go to [npr.org](https://www.npr.org).

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 60.05%
- **Black:** 28.28%
- **American Indian:** 0.30%
- **Asian:** 2.8%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.21%
- **Unknown:** 1.19%
- **Other:** 7.15%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 1.07%
- **18-29:** 9.65%
- **30-39:** 11.31%
- **40-49:** 12.79%
- **50-59:** 17.79%
- **60-69:** 23%
- **70+:** 24.38%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 56.24%
- **Male:** 43.47%
- **Unknown:** 0.29%

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

CDC: Severe COVID cases, deaths plummeted in spring following vaccine – This article talks about how COVID-19 cases, deaths, related hospitalizations, and ER visits have all declined considerably this year because people have been vaccinated.

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

Explainer: The US investigation into COVID-19 origins – This article talks about how American intelligence agencies are reviewing the origin of the COVID-19 virus.

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

Polio: When vaccines and re-emergence were just as daunting – This article talks about how people who experienced the polio epidemic in the 1940s and 1950s are sharing their stories with today’s younger generation as a lesson of hope for the defeat of COVID-19.

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