

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 23 | JULY 14, 2021



VACCINE DOSES
ADMINISTERED IN
LOUISIANA

3,359,788

LOUISIANA
OFFERS FREE
COVID VACCINE
TRANSPORTATION

Louisiana residents have access to free transportation to receive a COVID vaccination. (Page 2)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Do the vaccines protect against COVID variants?

So far, studies suggest that **all vaccines authorized for use in the United States are effective against known variants**. There are currently four notable variants in the United States:

- **B.1.1.7 (Alpha)**
- **B.1.351 (Beta)**
- **P.1 (Gamma)**
- **B.1.617.2 (Delta)**

Scientists will continue to study these and other variants.

The Delta variant, which was first identified in India, has been categorized as a variant of concern in the United States and linked with a growing number of cases in some parts of the country, particularly in areas with low vaccination rates.

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 healthcare resources, lead to more hospitalizations, and potentially lead to more deaths.

To get more information on COVID variants, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

MODERNA
REQUESTS
EXPANDED USE
OF VACCINE IN
ADOLESCENTS

Moderna has asked the FDA to expand the EUA of its COVID vaccine in adolescents ages 12 to 17. (Page 2)

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

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

COVID-19 Vaccination Transportation Resources



Louisiana residents have access to free transportation to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. There are multiple transportation

options for anyone who is seeking a COVID-19 vaccination, but does not have the means to get to their appointment.

Here is a list of all vaccination transportation options currently offered:

- Orleans Parish
 - Uber
- Statewide
 - Lyft
 - Medicaid – non-emergency medical transportation
 - Medicaid – bus pass
 - Medicaid – gas reimbursement for friends and family

For more information on how Louisiana residents can utilize these transportation options, visit covidvaccine.la.gov. The COVID-19 Vaccination Transportation Resources webpage can be found under Vaccine Locations.

For a printable list of all COVID-19 transportation resources, click [HERE](#).

Moderna Asks FDA to Clear COVID Vaccine for Adolescents 12 to 17

Moderna has asked the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to expand the emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents ages 12 to 17.

If approved by the FDA, it would likely dramatically expand the number of shots available to middle and high school students ahead of the next school year. Pfizer and German partner BioNTech were cleared in May to use their vaccine for 12-to-15-year-olds.

Moderna said on May 25 that its COVID vaccine was 100% effective in a study of 12-to-17-year-olds, making it the second shot to demonstrate high efficacy in younger age groups. Moderna's two-dose vaccine, which is given four weeks apart, is already authorized for adults.

The cited study included more than 3,700 adolescents. No cases of COVID were observed in participants who received two doses

of the vaccine, while four cases were observed in the placebo group, according to the company.

No significant safety concerns have been identified, and side effects generally are consistent with those seen in an earlier trial of adults, the company said. The more common side effects after the second dose were headache, fatigue, muscle pains, and chills.

U.S. regulators are expected to grant Moderna's request for use in teens. Moderna requested expanded use of their shot in adolescents on June 10. The approval process could take about a month, just in time for fall classes. Pfizer and BioNTech requested expanded use of their shot in adolescents on April 9, for example, and were authorized by the FDA on May 10.

For more information on Moderna's request for expanded use of their COVID shot to adolescents, visit investors.modernatx.com.

4 Things You Need to Know About the Delta COVID Variant

The Delta variant's "rapid rise is troubling," CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said of the dangerous COVID strain in a White House press briefing Thursday, July 8.

The more transmissible Delta variant is now the most dominant strain of the coronavirus in the United States, representing over 50% of cases across the country, according to data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Wednesday, July 7.

Pfizer and BioNTech announced Thursday that they are developing a booster shot to target the Delta variant. The authorized COVID vaccines appear to work well at preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and death from the Delta variant, but pockets of the country remain unvaccinated and therefore at risk.

Delta's speed and high transmissibility makes it able to "pick off the more vulnerable more efficiently than previous variants," Dr. Mike Ryan, executive director of the World Health Organization's (WHO) health emergencies program, said during a news conference on June 21.

Getting fully vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself from the Delta variant.

Here's what else you need to know about the strain:

1. Vaccinated people can get breakthrough infections.

In theory, vaccinated people can still get a breakthrough infection. However, White House chief medical advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci said it's unlikely that a vaccinated person could transmit the virus because the amount of virus in their system would be so low.

2. Delta is already causing COVID spikes in parts of the U.S. and could cause major outbreaks in the fall.

To date, 47.6% of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated. But Delta is surging in pockets of the country where vaccine rates are concerningly low, such as the South and Midwest. In some parts of the Midwest and upper mountain states, Delta accounts for 80% of COVID cases.

Virtually all new COVID death and hospitalizations are among unvaccinated people.

3. Delta could bring back masks and social distancing.

Mitigation measures, such as wearing masks and occupancy limits, will likely return by fall in certain places where there is a high level of transmission and low vaccination rates, according to experts.

Ultimately, returning to in-person work comes with risks that individuals and businesses will have to navigate.

4. Delta could affect kids' return to school.

The Delta variant "poses a particular threat to our young people," Zients said in the press briefing.

COVID vaccines are not yet authorized for children under 12 years old, which puts many school-aged children at higher risk of infection. In the United Kingdom, 90% of COVID cases in June were attributed to the Delta variant, with the highest prevalence among children ages 5 to 12.

To read more on the Delta variant, visit [cnbc.com](https://www.cnbc.com).



LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.75%
- **Black:** 28.91%
- **American Indian:** 0.33%
- **Asian:** 2.98%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.21%
- **Unknown:** 1.66%
- **Other:** 7.16%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 2.36%
- **18-29:** 10.33%
- **30-39:** 11.65%
- **40-49:** 13.04%
- **50-59:** 17.65%
- **60-69:** 22.06%
- **70+:** 22.88%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 55.22%
- **Male:** 44.51%
- **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

As COVID cases tick up, New Orleans officials weigh mask rules for fall events for unvaccinated – This article talks about how New Orleans officials are warning residents to take precautions as Delta variant COVID cases are rising.

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

US COVID-19 cases rising again, doubling over three weeks – This article talks about how the COVID-19 curve is rising again after months of decline, driven by the fast-spreading Delta variant.

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

Summer camps hit with COVID outbreaks – are schools next? – This article talks about how the U.S. is seeing a string of COVID-19 outbreaks tied to summer camps in recent weeks, in what some fear could be a preview of the upcoming school year.

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