

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Are there currently any booster doses available in the U.S. for the current COVID-19 vaccines?

Americans who have been fully vaccinated do not need a booster shot at this time. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the National Institute of Health (NIH) are engaged in a science-based, rigorous process to consider whether or when a booster might be necessary.

Currently, all three COVID-19 vaccines are showing good protection against hospitalization and death, although there has been a small percentage of breakthrough cases. A recent statement from the CDC and FDA, noted that the U.S. is fortunate to have highly effective vaccines that are widely available for those aged 12 and up. People who are fully vaccinated are protected from severe disease and death, including from the variants currently circulating in the country such as Delta.

A review and possible recommendation for booster doses for some populations – immunocompromised, individuals 65 years and older, and healthcare workers – is expected in the coming months.

Providers are advised to not administer any booster doses to individuals who have already been fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

For more information on the state guidance, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

VACCINE DOSES
ADMINISTERED IN
LOUISIANA

3,707,020*

*1,755,941 people fully
vaccinated

VACCINATING
INDIVIDUALS WITH
KNOWN OR
PREVIOUS COVID
INFECTIONS

LDH offers
recommendations to
those with a previous or
current COVID infection
who wish to be
vaccinated. (Page 2)

BIDEN
ADMINISTRATION
ANNOUNCES BACK-
TO-SCHOOL
ACTIONS

The Biden
administration
announced additional
actions to help students
12 and older get
vaccinated and return
to school safely in the
fall. (Pages 2-3)

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

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

Recommendations for Vaccination of Persons with Known or Previous COVID-19 Infection



PEOPLE WITH PRIOR OR CURRENT SARS-COV-2 INFECTION

People should be offered vaccination regardless of their history of symptomatic or asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection; this includes people with prolonged post-COVID-19 symptoms. Data from clinical trials indicate that the currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines can be given safely to people with evidence of a prior SARS-CoV-2 infection. Viral testing to assess for acute SARS-CoV-2 infection or serologic testing to assess for prior infection is not recommended for the purposes of vaccine decision-making.

Vaccination of people with known current SARS-CoV-2 infection should be deferred until the person has recovered from the acute illness (if the person had symptoms) and they have met the criteria to discontinue isolation. This recommendation applies to people who experience SARS-CoV-2 infection before receiving any vaccine dose, as well as those who experience SARS-CoV-2 infection after the first dose of an mRNA vaccine but before receipt of the second dose.

While there is no recommended minimum interval between infection and vaccination, current evidence suggests that the risk of SARS-CoV-2 reinfection is low in the months after initial infection but may increase with time due to waning immunity.

PEOPLE WHO PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED PASSIVE ANTIBODY THERAPY

Currently, there are no data on the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines in people who received monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma as part of COVID-19 treatment. Based on the estimated half-life of such therapies and evidence suggesting that reinfection is uncommon within the 90 days after initial infection, **vaccination should be deferred for at least 90 days**. This is a precautionary measure until additional information becomes available, to avoid potential interference of the antibody therapy with vaccine-induced immune responses. This recommendation applies both to people who receive passive

antibody therapy before receiving any vaccine dose, and to those who receive passive antibody therapy after the first dose of an mRNA vaccine but before the second dose, in which case the second dose should be deferred for at least 90 days following receipt of the antibody therapy. Receipt of passive antibody therapy in the past 90 days is not a contraindication to receipt of COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 vaccine doses received within 90 days after receipt of passive antibody therapy do not need to be repeated.

For people receiving antibody therapies not specific to COVID-19 treatment (e.g., intravenous immunoglobulin, RhoGAM), administration of COVID-19 vaccines either simultaneously with or at any interval before or after receipt of an antibody-containing product is unlikely to substantially impair the development of a protective antibody response. Thus, there is no recommended minimum interval between antibody therapies not specific to COVID-19 treatment and COVID-19 vaccination.

For more information on when to get vaccinated, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

Biden Administration Announces Additional Actions to Help Kids Go Back to School Safely

Over the next six weeks, more than 50 million students will head back to school, and more than 20 million students will return to undergraduate and graduate studies. For young people, getting vaccinated right away is the best way back to the things they love. On August 5, the Biden administration announced additional actions to get students ages 12 and above vaccinated and to ensure all students can get back to school safely this fall:

- **Incorporating COVID-19 vaccination into sports physicals for student-athletes this summer and fall** – The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM), and ten other sports and medicine organizations are issuing a consensus statement to all their members urging all medical providers to ask about COVID-19 vaccine status during sports physicals, and where available, also administer the COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Sending pediatricians to “Back to School Nights” to get communities vaccinated against COVID-19** – The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is calling on its 22,000 local member PTAs and parent leaders nationwide to host community conversations about getting vaccinated at Back to School parent meetings this summer and fall.
- **Providing schools and colleges with additional resources to host pop-up vaccine clinics as students come back to school and back to campus** – In an effort to get more kids 12 and older vaccinated, President Biden called on school districts nationwide to host at least one pop-up vaccination clinic over the coming weeks, and the administration directed pharmacies in the federal pharmacy program to work with

(continued on page 3)

school districts and colleges across the country to host vaccination clinics on-site. The administration will release additional resources to help schools host pop-up vaccination clinics, including a detailed guide for hosting school-based clinics, template letters, and text messages for district and school leaders to use in sending messages home to students and families.

- **Launching the Back to School “Week of Action” with partners nationwide to get young people vaccinated** – Ending on August 15, the Health and Human Services’ We Can Do This campaign and Made to Save launched a Week of Action to encourage vaccination for young people and support parents and schools as they get kids back to safe, in-person learning.

For more information on President Biden’s actions to help go back to school safely, visit [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov).

Some in the U.S. Getting COVID-19 ‘Boosters’ without FDA Approval



The U.S. government has not approved booster shots against the virus, saying it has yet to see evidence they are necessary.

But an untold number of Americans have managed to get them by taking advantage of the nation’s vaccine surplus and loose

tracking of those who have been fully vaccinated.

While Pfizer-BioNTech has said it plans to seek FDA approval for booster shots, health authorities say that for now, the fully vaccinated seem well protected.

Health care providers in the U.S. have reported **more than 900 instances of people getting a second or third (depending on if they have received J&J or an mRNA vaccine) dose of COVID-19 vaccines** in a database run by the CDC. Because reporting mandates vary by state, the full extent of people who have received a third dose is unknown. It’s also unknown if all those people were actively trying to get a third dose as a booster.

Despite the lack of FDA approval, public health officials in San Francisco said they will provide an extra dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine for people who got the single-shot Johnson & Johnson variety – referring to it as a supplement, rather than a booster.

Several studies are looking at booster shots for certain at-risk groups – people with weakened immune systems, adults over 60 years old, and health care workers. But the verdict is still out on whether the general population might need them.

For more information on individuals getting COVID-19 boosters without FDA approval, visit [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com).

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.31%
- **Black:** 29.4%
- **American Indian:** 0.34%
- **Asian:** 3.02%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.21%
- **Unknown:** 1.57%
- **Other:** 7.16%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 3.07%
- **18-29:** 10.73%
- **30-39:** 11.89%
- **40-49:** 13.2%
- **50-59:** 17.57%
- **60-69:** 21.52%
- **70+:** 22.02%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 54.97%
- **Male:** 44.76%
- **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

Our Lady of the Lake mandates COVID-19 vaccines – This article talks about how Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady health system will require all employees to get vaccinated within the next few months.

Read more at theadvocate.com.

Louisiana COVID hospitalizations reach 2,112, breaking COVID record set in January – This article talks about how Louisiana has entered record-breaking territory with 2,112 total patients in hospitals across the state.

Read more at nola.com.

As new COVID strain rages, a look inside a packed Louisiana hospital: ‘We haven’t had many wins’ – This article talks about how Hammond’s North Oaks Health Center is treating 109 people with COVID-19 and how hospitals are overwhelmed with the number of patients hospitalized.

Read more at theadvocate.com.