

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 28 | AUGUST 18, 2021



VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED IN LOUISIANA

3,839,615*

*1,806,044 people fully
vaccinated

ADDITIONAL DOSES FOR PEOPLE WITH MODERATE TO SEVERELY COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEMS

CDC recommends that people whose immune systems are compromised receive an additional mRNA COVID vaccine. (Page 2)

COVID-19 AND THE UNSAFE USE OF IVERMECTIN

The FDA does not approve the use of ivermectin as a treatment for COVID-19, as it has a potential to cause serious harm if not used as prescribed. (Page 3)

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:

How can I prove my vaccination status?

There are several legally acceptable methods:

1. **Carry your physical vaccination card**, which you received at the time you got your shots.
2. **Use Louisiana's digital driver's license app, LA Wallet**, to digitally display your COVID vaccination status. To access LA Wallet, visit lawallet.com.
3. **Register with Louisiana's online vaccine registry, MyIR**, and have the option to either print or digitally display a COVID-19 vaccine status. To access MyIR, visit la.myir.net.
4. **Visit your healthcare provider and ask them to print a copy of your vaccination records** on their official letterhead, with a date and signature, just as you would for a child's vaccination status for their school.

How do I replace a lost or damaged CDC vaccination card?

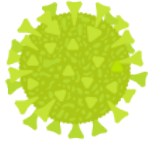
To receive a new vaccination card, contact the vaccine provider who initially administered your COVID-19 vaccinations. They will have your records on file and will be able to issue you a new CDC vaccination card.

If you received your vaccine at a mass vaccination site that is no longer in operation, your local parish health unit or primary care physician will be able to access your records on Louisiana's immunization information system, LINKS.

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

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

Additional Doses of COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People



The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) now recommends that people whose immune systems are compromised moderately to severely and are fully vaccinated with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should receive an additional dose of that same mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

Patients may self-attest to their condition by completing and signing the State of Louisiana COVID-19 Vaccination Third Dose Medical Risk Factor Self-Attestation form. You can find the form at the end of the newsletter and online at ldh.la.gov under Health Alert Network Message 21-58. The form is available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) asks COVID-19 vaccine providers to print copies of the form to have available for patients to complete.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- People who are moderate to severely immunocompromised are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 because they are more at risk of serious, prolonged illness.
- People who have compromised immune systems may benefit from an additional dose to make sure they have enough protection against COVID-19.
- CDC recommends that people with moderate to severely compromised immune systems receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after their second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.
- CDC does NOT recommend additional doses or booster shots for any other population at this time.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN ADDITIONAL DOSE?

Moderate to severely immunocompromised people include individuals who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system

- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response
- Other conditions which cause moderate or severe immunosuppression similar to the above conditions

Vaccine providers should retain a paper or electronic copy of completed and signed forms for a period of six months, after which they may be destroyed. The forms should be stored and destroyed in a HIPPA-compliant fashion.

COMMON QUESTIONS

- **Can you mix and match the mRNA vaccines?**

For people who received either the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine series, **a third dose of the SAME mRNA vaccine should be used.** A person should not receive more than three mRNA vaccine doses total. If the mRNA vaccine product given for the first two doses is not available or is unknown, either mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered.

- **What should immunocompromised people who received the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine do?**

The FDA's recent EUA amendment **only applies to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines**, as does the CDC's recommendation. Emerging data have demonstrated that immunocompromised people who have low or no protection following the two-dose series of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines may have an improved response after an additional dose of the same vaccine. **There is not enough data at this time to determine whether immunocompromised people who received the J&J COVID-19 vaccine** also have an improved antibody response following an additional dose of the same vaccine.

- **What are the benefits of immunocompromised people receiving an additional vaccine dose?**

During this Delta variant surge, an additional vaccine dose for some people with weakened immune systems **could help prevent serious and possibly life-threatening COVID-19 cases** within this population.

- **What are the risks of the additional dose?**

There is limited information about the risks of receiving an additional dose of vaccine, and the safety, efficacy, and benefits of additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine in immunocompromised people continue to be evaluated. So far, **reactions reported after the third mRNA dose were similar to those of the two-dose series:** pain at the injection site and fatigue being the most commonly reported side effects.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines for moderate to severely immunocompromised people, visit cdc.gov.

COVID-19 and the Unsafe Use of Ivermectin

We have been living with COVID-19 for what seems like forever. Given the number of deaths that have occurred from the disease, it's perhaps not surprising that some consumers are looking at unconventional treatments, not approved or authorized by the FDA.

Using any treatment for COVID-19 that's not approved or authorized by the FDA, unless part of a clinical trial, has the potential to cause serious harm.

Recently, there seems to be a growing interest in a drug called ivermectin to treat humans with COVID-19. Ivermectin is often used in the U.S. to treat or prevent parasites in animals. The FDA has received multiple reports of patients who require medical support and have been hospitalized after self-medicating with ivermectin intended for horses.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IVERMECTIN

- The FDA has not approved ivermectin for use in treating or preventing COVID-19 in humans.
- Taking large doses of this drug is dangerous and can cause serious harm.
- If you have a prescription for ivermectin for an FDA-approved use, get it from a legitimate source and take it exactly as prescribed.
- Never use medications intended for animals on yourself.

Even the levels of ivermectin for approved uses can interact with other medications, such as blood-thinners. You can overdose on ivermectin, which can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hypotension, allergic reactions, dizziness, ataxia (problems with balance), seizures, coma, and even death. Always discuss your treatment options with your physician.

For more information on the use of ivermectin to prevent COVID-19, visit [fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov).

For more information on effective ways to limit the spread of COVID-19, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).



LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.09%
- **Black:** 29.45%
- **American Indian:** 0.35%
- **Asian:** 3.0%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.21%
- **Unknown:** 1.77%
- **Other:** 7.13%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 3.43%
- **18-29:** 10.85%
- **30-39:** 11.99%
- **40-49:** 13.25%
- **50-59:** 17.51%
- **60-69:** 21.27%
- **70+:** 21.68%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 54.7%
- **Male:** 45.03%
- **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

‘No beds anywhere’: As COVID wards expand, Louisiana’s small hospitals have nowhere to turn –

This article talks about how big hospitals are struggling to treat record numbers of COVID-19 patients and can’t accept transfers.

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

Extra COVID vaccine OK’d for those with weak immune systems –

This article talks about how the FDA approved an extra dose of the mRNA COVID vaccine for those with moderate to severely weakened immune systems.

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

How will LSU enforce its COVID rules? Some students, faculty are skeptical – This article talks about how LSU plans on implementing their COVID-19 verification protocols.

Read more at theadvocate.com.



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

State of Louisiana COVID-19 Vaccination Third Dose Medical Risk Factor Self-Attestation Form

The State of Louisiana along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommends that people whose immune systems are compromised moderately to severely and are fully vaccinated with an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine should receive an additional dose of that same mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. Patients may self-attest to their condition by completing and signing this form.

Please check next to the high-risk medical condition that you have and sign at the bottom of the form. The vaccination site will keep a copy of this form, and it may be audited by the State. Please bring this form (or a copy) to your vaccination appointment. No other documentation from your doctor is needed.

- ☐ Receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- ☐ Received an organ transplant and are currently taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- ☐ Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are currently taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- ☐ Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- ☐ Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- ☐ Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (**≥ 20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day**) or other drugs that may suppress your immune response
- ☐ Other conditions which cause moderate or severe immunosuppression similar to the above conditions

People should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition, and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

- ***Please sign and bring this form to your vaccination appointment***