

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 26 | AUGUST 4, 2021



QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What is the current state guidance to limit the spread of COVID-19?

The state guidance is for all residents regardless of vaccination status. This updated guidance includes:

- Beginning today, August 4, all people ages 5 and above - vaccinated and unvaccinated – are mandated to wear face masks while indoors.
- This temporary indoor statewide mask mandate will stay in place until at least September 1, but may be extended if necessary.
- This also applies to K-12 schools, universities, and other higher education institutions, which return to on-campus learning in August. In accordance with new guidance from the CDC, all people on campuses should be masked indoors, regardless of their vaccination status.
- All businesses should review their operations to accommodate employees in a way that reduces unnecessary contact to avoid the spread of COVID in the workplace. This includes going back to remote work if necessary.
- All people should take a COVID test immediately after exposure to someone with COVID-19.
 - If the test is positive, they should isolate immediately.
 - If negative, they should retest again between five and seven days post-exposure.
 - If COVID-19 symptoms develop, they should test and isolate pending the results.

For more information on the state guidance, visit gov.louisiana.gov.

VACCINE DOSES
ADMINISTERED IN
LOUISIANA

3,587,231*

*1,727,605 people fully
vaccinated

JOHNSON &
JOHNSON
EXTENDS COVID-
19 VACCINE
SHELF LIFE

The FDA authorized an extension of the shelf life for the J&J COVID-19 vaccine to 6 months. (Page 2)

LOUISIANA
GRANTED \$140
MILLION FOR
COVID-19
TESTING

LDH is offering schools support by providing COVID-19 testing options at no cost to any school within the state. (Page 2)

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

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

Shelf Life of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Extended

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized an extension of the shelf life for the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) Janssen COVID-19 vaccine from 4.5 months to 6 months (an additional 45 days).

This decision is based on data from ongoing stability assessment studies, which have demonstrated that the vaccine is stable at six months when refrigerated at temperatures of 36 to 46°F (2 to 8°C).

This expiration date change applies to all non-expired J&J vaccines currently in Louisiana. The Immunization Program will automatically update the J&J expiration dates in LINKS to reflect this new extended expiration date. No additional provider action is required related to the updating of expiration dates within LINKS. Providers should adjust their own internal system records or any other physical documentation of expiration dates as needed.

Providers can view updated expiration dates online at vaxcheck.lnj.

As a side note, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) would like to remind providers participating in the Louisiana COVID-19 Vaccination Program that the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, after placing an order in LINKS, can take **three to five business days**.

The Immunization Program is currently experiencing an influx of COVID-19 vaccine orders, so it is critical for providers to plan ahead accordingly to ensure vaccines are available to administer to patients.

Also, the minimum order available for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for direct shipping from the manufacturer is now 450 doses, compared to the previous amount of 1,170 doses. The 450-dose shipment includes three trays, with 25 vials of vaccine within each tray.

Just a reminder that Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine vials shipped directly from the manufacturer are delivered ultra-cold at -94°F (-70°C).

Please see the attached storage and handling document for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine storage.

For more information on the J&J shelf life extension, visit lnj.com.

Louisiana Granted \$140 Million to Provide COVID-19 Testing in Schools – Not All Schools Want the Help



Louisiana is offering widespread, routine COVID-19 testing on a voluntary basis to both public and private school communities during the 2021-2022 school year, but not all districts want the assistance.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has given Louisiana \$140 million to undertake regular – sometimes weekly – testing for students, teachers, and staff across the state throughout the school year. Studies show that routine testing can help control COVID-19 outbreaks more quickly in schools.

The COVID-19 testing would come at no cost to the school districts or participants. In fact, individuals who take part in the weekly testing would get paid at least \$5 per test. Schools will also receive money for participating in the program.

Still, most schools have not made a decision about whether they will join the program, even though the first deadline to sign up to participate has already passed. Schools and school districts had until July 23 to let LDH know if they wanted the free testing to start in August. For those who opted in, the rounds of testing start on August 23.

Schools that choose not to participate in mass testing can decide to participate at a later date – as long as the funding is still available. LDH also said it will assist with any testing that has to be done in the aftermath of a COVID-19 outbreak, regardless of whether the school is participating in the overall testing initiative.

- If your school is interested in learning more or participating, visit ldh.la.gov/schooltesting.
- For questions about the COVID-19 testing grant, email K-12covidtesting@la.gov.

To read more about Louisiana schools participating in the COVID-19 testing grant, visit lailuminator.com.

President Biden Announces New Actions to Get More Americans Vaccinated and Slow the Spread of the Delta Variant

Six months into the Biden administration's vaccination effort, 134 million Americans are fully vaccinated, including 80% of seniors and more than 60% of adults. This is significant progress, and as a result, the country and economy are in a stronger position than in January 2021.

(continued from page 2)

We are now faced with a much more transmissible strain of the virus – the Delta variant. The good news is that we are prepared for this. We know how to stop it: get more people vaccinated.

On Thursday, July 29, President Biden announced additional efforts to do just that – imposing requirements to protect our federal workforce and those they serve, offering additional incentives for vaccination, and making it even easier for people, especially young people, to get themselves and their loved ones vaccinated. Those actions include:

- **Strengthening safety protocols for federal employees and federal contractors** – To help protect workers and their communities, every federal government employee and on-site contractor will be asked to attest to their vaccination status. Anyone who does not attest to being fully vaccinated will be required to wear a mask on the job not matter their geographic location, physically distance from all other employees and visitors, comply with a weekly or twice-weekly screening testing requirement, and be subject to restrictions on official travel.
- **Protecting those who serve our country** – President Biden is directing the Department of Defense to look into how and when they will add COVID-19 vaccination to the list of required vaccination for members of the military. This is particularly important because our troops serve in places throughout the world – many where vaccination rates are low and disease is preventable.
- **Expanding paid leave to get families and kids vaccinated** – Small and medium-sized businesses will now be reimbursed for offering their employees paid leave to get their family members, including eligible children, vaccinated.
- **Calling on state and local governments to offer \$100 to get vaccinated** – The President will call on states, territories, and local governments to do more to incentivize vaccination, including offering \$100 to those who get vaccinated.
- **Increasing vaccinations among adolescents as kids go back to school** – In an effort to get more kids 12 and older vaccinated, the President will call on school districts nationwide to host at least one pop-up vaccination clinic over the coming weeks. And, the Administration is directing pharmacies in the federal pharmacy program to prioritize this and to work with school districts across the country to host vaccination clinics at schools and colleges.

To read more on President Biden’s new actions, visit [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov).

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.4%
- **Black:** 29.28%
- **American Indian:** 0.34%
- **Asian:** 3.02%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.21%
- **Unknown:** 1.59%
- **Other:** 7.15%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 2.81%
- **18-29:** 10.61%
- **30-39:** 11.81%
- **40-49:** 13.14%
- **50-59:** 17.6%
- **60-69:** 21.71%
- **70+:** 22.31%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 55.07%
- **Male:** 44.65%
- **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

A Louisiana hospital paid people cash to get COVID vaccine. Appointments filled up fast. – This article talks about how Hammond’s North Oaks Hospital offered cash to anyone getting vaccinated.

Read more at theadvocate.com.

Ochsner tightens policies for unvaccinated employees as COVID patients increase by 700% – This article talks about how Ochsner Health is tightening policies for unvaccinated employees but is not yet requiring vaccination.

Read more at theadvocate.com.

Some vaccinated Louisianans are getting COVID. Here’s why doctors say you shouldn’t be alarmed – This article talks about how the COVID-19 vaccines work during the current outbreak with so many people not vaccinated.

Read more at nola.com.

COVID-19 VACCINES STORAGE & HANDLING



PFIZER-BIONTECH

OVERVIEW

For individuals **12 years of age and older**

Vaccine is administered as a series of 2 doses three weeks apart

Day 0 | **Day 21**

30 mcg
(0.3mL)

30 mcg
(0.3mL)

Intramuscular Injection

**mRNA
VACCINE
6 DOSES
PER VIAL**



**REQUIRES
RECONSTITUTION**
with 0.9% sodium chloride

STORAGE

Ultra-Low Temperature (ULT) Freezer

-80°C to -60°C | -112°F to -76°F
• Store up to the expiration date

Freezer

-25°C to -15°C | -13°F to 5°F
• Store up to 2 weeks
• Can be returned to ULT freezer once

Refrigerator

2°C to 8°C | 36°F to 46°F
• Store up to 30 days
• **DO NOT REFREEZE** once thawed.

ADMINISTRATION

Refrigerator

2°C to 8°C | 36°F to 46°F
• 195 vials may take 2 to 3 hours to thaw
Punctured vials: 6 hours after dilution

Room Temperature

Up to 25°C | Up to 77°F
• a vial takes about 30 minutes to thaw
Unpunctured vial: Viable up to 2 hours, undiluted — must be reconstituted within the first 2 hours.
Punctured vial: Viable up to 6 hours after dilution. Use within 6 hours from the time of dilution.

MODERNA

OVERVIEW

For individuals **18 years of age and older**

Vaccine is administered as a series of 2 doses one month apart

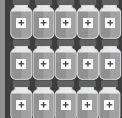
Day 0 | **Day 28**

100 mcg
(0.5mL)

100 mcg
(0.5mL)

Intramuscular Injection

**mRNA
VACCINE
10 to 15
DOSES
PER VIAL**



**DO NOT MIX
with diluent**

STORAGE

Freezer

-50°C to -15°C | -58°F to 5°F
• Store up to the expiration date.

Refrigerator

2°C to 8°C | 36°F to 46°F
• Store up to 30 days. You can find the expiration date online at

modernatx.com

• **DO NOT REFREEZE** once thawed.

ADMINISTRATION

Refrigerator

2°C to 8°C | 36°F to 46°F
• 2.5 hours to thaw.
• Let vial stand at room temperature for 15 minutes before administering.
Punctured vials: Viable up to 12 hours

Room Temperature

Up to 25°C | Up to 77°F
• 1 hour to thaw
Unpunctured vial: Viable up to 24 hours
Punctured vial: Viable up to 12 hours

JOHNSON & JOHNSON

OVERVIEW

For individuals **18 years of age and older**

Vaccine is administered as a single dose

100 mcg
(0.5mL)

Intramuscular Injection

**VIRAL VECTOR
VACCINE
5 DOSES
PER VIAL**



**DO NOT MIX
with diluent**

STORAGE

Refrigerator

2°C to 8°C | 36°F to 46°F
• Store up to the expiration date (about 6 months). You can find the expiration date online at

vaxcheck.jnj

• **DO NOT** store frozen.

ADMINISTRATION

Refrigerator

2°C to 8°C | 36°F to 46°F
• Keep refrigerated until thawed (if arrived frozen.)
Punctured vials: Viable up to 6 hours

Room Temperature

Up to 25°C | Up to 77°F
• 1 to 2 hours to thaw
Unpunctured vial: Viable up to 12 hours
Punctured vial: Viable up to 2 hours