

# IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

**What is the updated expiration date for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine I have stored in ultra-cold storage?**

The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized an extension of the shelf life for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine from six months to nine months (an additional three months). Cartons and vials of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine with an expiration date of August 2021 through February 2022 printed on the label may remain in use for 3 months beyond the printed date as long as authorized storage conditions between -90°C to -60°C (-130°F to -76°F) have been maintained.

*Please note: the ultra-cold temperature range has been broadened to include -90° C (-130°F). Frozen vials stored at -25°C to -15°C and refrigerated vials (2°C to 8°C) are NOT eligible for extension.*

Updated Expiration Dates for Vaccine Maintained in Ultra-Cold Storage	
PRINTED EXPIRATION DATE	UPDATED EXPIRATION DATE
August 2021	November 2021
September 2021	December 2021
October 2021	January 2022
November 2021	February 2022
December 2021	March 2022
January 2022	April 2022
February 2022	May 2022

This expiration date change applies to all non-expired Pfizer vaccines currently in Louisiana. Currently, available vaccine will not have an updated NDC code. The Immunization Program will automatically update the Pfizer 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.

For more information on the extension of Pfizer vaccine shelf-life, visit [cdivaccine-us.com](https://cdivaccine-us.com).

VACCINE DOSES  
ADMINISTERED IN  
LOUISIANA

4,203,752\*

\*2,018,168 people fully  
vaccinated

PRESIDENT BIDEN  
ANNOUNCES  
COVID-19 ACTION  
PLAN

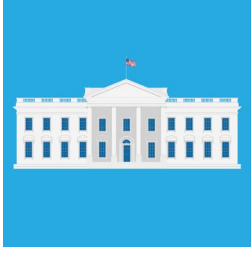
Pres. Biden is implementing a six-pronged, national strategy to combat COVID-19 in the U.S. (Page 2)

LDH REMINDS  
PROVIDERS OF  
EXISTING COVID-19  
GUIDANCE FOR K-  
12 STUDENTS

Due to an increase in COVID-19 infections among children under 18, LDH is reminding providers of existing guidance regarding isolation, quarantine, and post-exposure testing for K-12 students. (Pages 2-3)

# WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

## President Biden's COVID-19 Action Plan



President Joe Biden is implementing a six-pronged, comprehensive national strategy that employs the same science-based approach that was used to successfully combat previous variants of COVID-19 earlier this year. This plan will ensure that we are using every available

tool to combat COVID-19 and save even more lives in the months ahead, while also keeping schools open and safe, and protecting our economy from lockdowns and damage.

### Vaccinating the Unvaccinated

- Requiring all employers with 100+ employees to ensure their workers are vaccinated or tested weekly.
- Requiring vaccinations for all federal workers and for millions of contractors that do business with the federal government.
- Requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for over 17 million health care workers at Medicare and Medicaid participating hospitals and other healthcare settings
- Calling on large entertainment venues to require proof of vaccination or testing for entry.
- Requiring employers to provide paid time off to get vaccinated.

### Further Protecting the Vaccinated

- Providing easy access to booster shots for all eligible Americans.
- Ensuring Americans know where to get a booster.

### Keeping Schools Safely Open

- Requiring staff in Head Start Programs, Department of Defense Schools, and Bureau of Indian Education-Operated Schools to be vaccinated.
- Calling on all states to adopt vaccine requirements for all school employees.
- Providing additional funding to school districts for safe school reopening, including backfilling salaries and other funding withheld by states for implementing COVID safety measures.
- Using the Department of Education's full legal authority to protect students' access to in-person instruction.
- Getting students and school staff tested regularly.
- Providing every resource to the FDA to support timely review of vaccines for individuals under the age of 12.

### Increasing Testing and Requiring Masking

- Mobilizing industry to expand easy-to-use testing production

- Making at-home tests more affordable
- Sending free rapid, at-home tests to food banks and community health centers
- Expanding free pharmacy testing
- Continuing to require masking for interstate travel and double fines.
- Continue to require masking on federal property.

### Protecting Out Economic Recovery

- New support for small businesses impacted by COVID-19.
- Streamlining the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness process.
- Launching the Community Navigator Program to connect small businesses to the help they need.

### Improving Care for those with COVID-19

- Increasing support for COVID-burdened hospitals.
- Getting life-saving monoclonal antibody treatment to those who need it.
- Expanding the pool of health care professionals providing treatment by deploying federal monoclonal antibody strike teams.

For more information on President Biden's COVID-19 Action Plan, visit [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov).

## Existing Guidance for Isolation, Quarantine, and Post-Exposure Testing for K-12 Students

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has noted a sharp increase in COVID-19 infections among children younger than 18 years of age. Severe health outcomes among pediatric patients, including multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) and COVID-associated deaths among children younger than 18 are also increasing. Seventeen MIS-C cases and two pediatric deaths were reported during a recent weekly reporting period; these counts are higher than any other week during the pandemic to date.

Vaccination of all eligible Louisiana residents is the best way to protect children, including those who are not yet eligible for a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine. Isolation and quarantine also remain important tools for disease control in this population. With the start of the school year and the return of most K-12 students to in-person learning, LDH is reminding health care providers of existing guidance regarding isolation, quarantine, and post-exposure testing recommendations for K-12 students.

**Isolation** – Applies to people who are infected with SARS-CoV-2 (with or without symptoms), whether you are fully vaccinated or not.

People may end isolation 10 days after symptom onset (or 10 days after the date of the first positive SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test result for people who don't have symptoms) and after resolution

of fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and with improvement of other symptoms.

A negative test or doctor's note should not be required for return to school upon completion of the 10 days of isolation with improvement of symptoms

**Quarantine** – For asymptomatic individuals who may have been in close contact to someone infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The exceptions are:

- If both the case and the contact were engaged in consistent and correct use of a well-fitting face mask AND were  $\geq 3$  feet of each other and remain asymptomatic (only applies to K-12 students who are close contacts of other students in a classroom setting).
- Individuals who are fully vaccinated (i.e.,  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  following receipt of one dose in a single dose vaccine) at the time of exposure and remain asymptomatic.
- Individuals who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 90 days and remain asymptomatic.

The recommended quarantine length is 14 days, however, schools can choose to use shortened quarantine options. School policies regarding quarantine length will differ and parents should be advised to consult with their school to determine the appropriate quarantine length for their student.

**Testing of Close Contacts** – With the exception of asymptomatic individuals who have tested positive in the last 90 days, when a person is identified as a close contact to a case, testing is recommended as soon as possible after notification. If negative, they should be tested again 5-7 days post-exposure.

- **Close contacts exempt from quarantine:** Inability to obtain a test at the recommended intervals should not prevent an asymptomatic individual exempt from quarantine from returning to school.
- **Close contacts required to quarantine:** Testing between days 5-7 post-exposure allows quarantined individuals with a negative test to return to school after 7 days. A negative test collected earlier than day 5 post-exposure cannot be used to allow an individual to return to school.

**For more information on COVID-19 guidance for K-12 students, visit [covidvaccine.la.gov](https://covidvaccine.la.gov).**



## LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

### SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.31%
- **Black:** 29.85%
- **American Indian:** 0.36%
- **Asian:** 2.85%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.20%
- **Unknown:** 1.57%
- **Other:** 6.85%

### SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 4.75%
- **18-29:** 11.65%
- **30-39:** 12.66%
- **40-49:** 13.63%
- **50-59:** 17.28%
- **60-69:** 20.11%
- **70+:** 19.91%

### SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 54.43%
- **Male:** 45.3%
- **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

**COVID-19 cases climbing, wiping out months of progress** – This article talks about how COVID-19 deaths and cases in the U.S. are surpassing those from last winter.

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

**Want to prevent COVID? Take the vaccine, not ivermectin, Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy says** – This article talks about how the U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy said Louisiana residents who want to avoid dying from COVID-19 should take the vaccine – not the dewormer ivermectin.

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

**Schools will need vaccine mandates for in-person classes to last, expert says** – This article talks about how as kids start to return to school and COVID-19 cases rise among younger age groups, vaccine mandates in schools may become the only way forward.

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