

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 31 | SEPTEMBER 22, 2021



COMPLETED
VACCINE SERIES
IN LOUISIANA

2,068,096*

*4,275,281 total doses
administered in Louisiana

INDIVIDUALS
ELIGIBLE FOR
COVID-19 BOOSTER
DOSES

LDH has provided
clarification on those
eligible to receive a
COVID-19 booster
(third) dose. (Page 2)

MANY JOHNSON &
JOHNSON COVID-
19 VACCINES SET TO
EXPIRE IN
SEPTEMBER

Some Johnson &
Johnson (J&J) COVID-
19 vaccines are set to
expire in September.
LDH reminds providers
to check vaccine
expiration dates.
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QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

I continue to get confused by the quarantine/isolation guidelines.
When does a person need to quarantine?

Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease.

- **Isolation** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.
- **Quarantine** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

If you are fully vaccinated and are exposed to someone with COVID-19, you do not need to quarantine if you do not have any symptoms of COVID-19.

However, if you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should be tested whether or not you are fully vaccinated.

If you test positive, you should immediately isolate for 10 days from when symptoms started. After 10 days, you can resume being around others if your symptoms are improving and it has been at least 24 hours with no fever without taking fever-reducing medication.

For more information on COVID-19 quarantine and isolation, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

Clarification of Individuals Eligible for a Booster (Third Dose) in Louisiana

At this time, only moderate to severely immunocompromised individuals who complete the state's self-attestation form are eligible for an additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after an initial two-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series.

Medical conditions include:

- 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 two years or are currently taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate to 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

Process for Approval of Booster Doses for Individuals 65 and older



FDA & VRBPAC: On September 17, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Vaccines and Related Biologic Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) voted in favor of emergency use authorization of Pfizer vaccine for booster doses for ages 65 and up and for those at high risk. The FDA is not bound to follow this vote from the advisory committee, although they typically do. The FDA will still need to approve and issue an authorization based on the VRBPAC's vote.

CDC & ACIP: If the Pfizer booster is authorized by the FDA, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices (ACIP) will then need to review and develop official vaccine booster recommendations for states and providers to follow. The CDC's ACIP is planned to meet on Thursday, September 23, and Friday, September 24, to discuss the possible booster recommendations, if FDA authorizes them.

The CDC will officially announce any recommendations/guidelines after they meet.

LDH: If approved by the CDC's ACIP, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) will issue recommendations to providers on possible booster doses to additional groups of individuals in Louisiana.

It is through these various steps with different advisory committees and governing bodies that our healthcare system can ensure that vaccines remain safe and effective for those needing them first/most.

At this point, LDH presumes that the guidance will be for the Pfizer vaccine only, and not the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccines. Booster guidance for Moderna and J&J are also expected to come at some point, but it could take several weeks. LDH is optimistic that the new Pfizer booster recommendations will be issued by the start of next week (week of September 27).

DO NOT ADMINISTER any booster (third) doses to individuals until full CDC and LDH recommendations are issued, with the exception being those eligible immunocompromised individuals that have completed the self-attestation form.

For any questions regarding COVID-19 vaccinations in Louisiana contact the Immunization Program at La.Immunization@La.gov.

To read more about individuals eligible for booster doses, visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

For the State of Louisiana COVID-19 Vaccination Third Dose Medical Risk Factor Self-Attestation Form, visit covidvaccine.la.gov.

Johnson & Johnson: What to Do as Lots of Lots Begin to Expire



A significant amount of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine that is in the field expired in September. This is a good time for providers to follow the best practices of regularly checking inventory for expired vaccines and removing expired inventory to prevent it from being administered.

To check the expiration date of J&J vaccine, visit vaxcheck.jnj.

Interchangeability of FDA-Authorized and FDA-Approved COVID-19 Products

The FDA-approved Pfizer-BioNTech product COMIRNATY (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) and the FDA-authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine under EUA have the same formulation and can be used interchangeably to provide the COVID-19 vaccination series. Therefore, providers can use doses distributed under the

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EUA to administer the vaccination series for those seeking the approved vaccine. The [Fact Sheet for Recipients](#) provides information about both the approved and authorized vaccine.

For more information on the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, visit cvdvaccine-us.com.

Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines

How do I know which COVID-19 vaccine information sources are accurate?

Accurate vaccine information is critical and can help stop common myths and rumors.

It can be difficult to know which sources of information you can trust. **Before considering vaccine information on the Internet, check that the information comes from a credible source and is updated on a regular basis.** Learn more about [finding credible vaccine information](#).

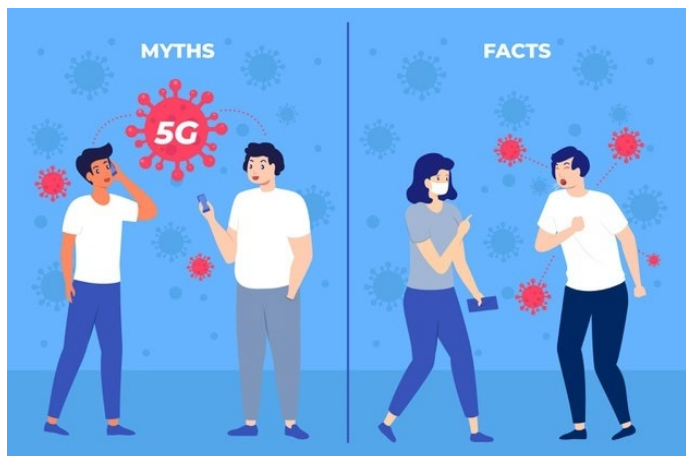
Are all events reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) caused by vaccination?

No. VAERS data alone cannot determine if the reported adverse event was caused by a COVID-19 vaccination. Anyone can report events to VAERS, even if it is not clear whether a vaccine caused the problem. Some VAERS reports may contain information that is incomplete, inaccurate, coincidental, or unverifiable. These adverse events are studied by vaccine safety experts who look for unusually high numbers of health problems, or a pattern of problems, after people receive a particular vaccine.

Recently, the number of deaths reported to VAERS following COVID-19 vaccination has been misinterpreted and misreported as if this number means deaths that were proven to be caused by vaccination. Reports of adverse events to VAERS following vaccination, including deaths, do not necessarily mean that a vaccine caused a health problem.

Learn more about [VAERS](#).

For more myths and facts about COVID-19 vaccines, visit cdc.gov.



LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.35%
- **Black:** 29.9%
- **American Indian:** 0.36%
- **Asian:** 2.82%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.20%
- **Unknown:** 1.54%
- **Other:** 6.81%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 4.97%
- **18-29:** 11.87%
- **30-39:** 12.82%
- **40-49:** 13.72%
- **50-59:** 17.22%
- **60-69:** 19.85%
- **70+:** 19.54%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 54.37%
- **Male:** 45.36%
- **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

Louisiana Department of Health confirms 7th pediatric death to COVID-19 – This article talks about how there have been seven pediatric deaths in Louisiana during this fourth surge of COVID.

Read more at wdsu.com.

Pfizer says its COVID vaccine works in kids ages 5 to 11, will seek FDA approval soon – This article talks about how the Pfizer vaccine works for children ages 5 to 11 and that it will seek U.S. authorization soon.

Read more at theadvocate.com.

Ad for funeral home spreads message to the unvaccinated – This article talks about how a black truck advertising for “Wilmore Funeral Home” delivered a blunt and unexpected message on Sunday to football fans in downtown Charlotte as they headed to watch the Panthers play the Saints.

Read more at wdsu.com.