

# IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

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COMPLETED  
VACCINE SERIES  
IN LOUISIANA

2,102,264\*

\*4,328,787 total doses  
administered in Louisiana

LOUISIANA PFIZER-  
BIONTECH COVID-  
19 BOOSTER SHOT  
APPROVAL

The ACIP recommended a booster shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in certain populations. (Page 2)

MONOCLONAL  
ANTIBODIES FOR  
LOUISIANA  
RESIDENTS WHO ARE  
COVID-19 POSITIVE

Monoclonal antibodies have been authorized by the FDA to treat patients with mild to moderate COVID-19. Find a location that received a shipment near you. (Page 3)

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What is the difference between a booster dose and a third/supplemental dose?

**BOOSTER DOSE** – For those who completed a primary series of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

Currently, a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster dose is available to the following individuals:

- Adults aged 65 and older.
- Adults aged 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions.
- Adults ages 18 years and older living in long-term care settings such as a nursing facility.
- Adults aged 18–49 years with underlying medical conditions based on their individual benefits and risks.
- Adults aged 18–64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional settings based on their individual benefits and risks.

**THIRD DOSE/SUPPLEMENTAL DOSE** – For those immunocompromised

Individuals with a weak immune system can receive an additional dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after getting their second shot. The third dose should match the first two doses administered to the individual.

For more information on booster and third doses for COVID-19 vaccines, visit [hopkinsmedicine.org](https://hopkinsmedicine.org).

# WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

## Louisiana Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Booster Recommendations



On Friday, September 9, 2021, CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation for a booster shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in certain populations and also recommended a booster dose for those in high-risk occupational and institutional settings.

This updated interim guidance from CDC allows for millions of Americans who are at the highest risk for COVID-19 to receive a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster shot to help increase their protection.

CDC and the State of Louisiana recommends:

- People 65 and older and residents in long-term care settings **SHOULD** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.
- People aged 50-64 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) **SHOULD** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.
- People aged 18-49 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) **MAY** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.
- People aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting **MAY** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

*Please Note: Those who received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine series will need to continue to wait on a Moderna-specific booster recommendation before Moderna boosters can occur.*

Many of the people who are now eligible to receive a booster shot received their initial vaccine early in the vaccination program and will benefit from additional protection. With the Delta variant's dominance as the circulating strain and risk of community transmission remaining elevated, a booster shot

will help strengthen protection against severe disease in those populations who are at high risk for exposure to COVID-19 or the complications from severe disease.

Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine providers should simply accept the verbal self-representation of patients for the applicable categories - **no verification or written self-attestation form is required**. Providers do not need to hold for audit any additional proof of verification or self-attestation. They simply will be expected to inform the patient of the eligibility categories and trust the patient's verbal affirmation. Any patient unsure if they qualify under a particular category, or with any other relevant questions, should discuss risk/benefits with their physician or practitioner.

**All vaccine dose administrations must be documented in the Louisiana Immunization Network (LINKS) within 24 hours of vaccination (as per the COVID-19 vaccine provider agreement) and on the patient's CDC COVID-19 Vaccination card.** If they don't have their old card, a new card containing just the administered booster dose, clearly marked as such, should be given.

These recommendations and guidance for Pfizer booster shots are effective immediately. Providers may begin administering booster shots as soon as they are able to operationalize the guidance.

CDC and LDH will continue to monitor the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines to ensure appropriate recommendations to keep the public safe. The booster recommendations outlined above apply only to people who received the Pfizer-BioNTech primary series. The CDC and LDH will also evaluate with similar urgency available data in the coming weeks to swiftly make additional recommendations for other populations or people who received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

For questions, please email [la.immunization@la.gov](mailto:la.immunization@la.gov)

**For more information on COVID-19 booster recommendations, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).**

### Side Effects of COVID-19 Booster Shots

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose is the same formulation and the same strength as shots one and two, and **data collected to this point suggests the side effects brought on by the booster are very similar to the symptoms some people experienced after the initial set – possibly even milder.**

According to the clinical trial data collected by Pfizer-BioNTech, the five most commonly reported side effects after the booster shot were:

- ◆ Injection site pain
- ◆ Fatigue
- ◆ Headache
- ◆ Muscle pain
- ◆ Chills

**For more information on side effects from the COVID-19 booster dose, visit [aarp.org](https://www.aarp.org).**

## Reporting Adverse Events from a COVID-19

### Vaccination



Adverse events that occur in a recipient after COVID-19 vaccination are required to be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

FDA requires vaccination providers to report vaccine administration errors, serious adverse events, cases of

multisystem inflammatory syndrome, and cases of COVID-19 that result in hospitalization or death after administration of COVID-19 vaccine under an EUA.

Reporting is encouraged for other clinically significant adverse events, even if it is not clear that a vaccine caused the adverse event. Complete and submit reports to [VAERS online](https://vaers.hhs.gov).

For further assistance with reporting to VAERS, call 1-800-822-7967.

For more information on VAERS, visit [vaers.hhs.gov](https://vaers.hhs.gov).

### Monoclonal Antibodies for Louisiana Residents Who are COVID-19 Positive

Monoclonal antibodies (mAb) have been authorized by the FDA to treat patients with mild to moderate COVID-19. The treatments are completed by intravenous (IV) infusion in an outpatient setting and require a referral from the patients' physician or clinic.

These antibodies are produced in a laboratory to mimic the human immune system's response to infection. These man-made drugs block the COVID-19 virus from attaching to and entering human cells, thus neutralizing the virus that causes COVID-19.

To view locations that have received shipments of monoclonal antibody therapeutics near you, visit [protect-public.hhs.gov](https://protect-public.hhs.gov).



## LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

### SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.33%
- **Black:** 29.99%
- **American Indian:** 0.37%
- **Asian:** 2.81%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.20%
- **Unknown:** 1.52%
- **Other:** 6.77%

### SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 5.07%
- **18-29:** 12.05%
- **30-39:** 12.92%
- **40-49:** 13.77%
- **50-59:** 17.19%
- **60-69:** 19.68%
- **70+:** 19.3%

### SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 54.33%
- **Male:** 45.4%
- **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

### YouTube announces crackdown on vaccine

**misinformation** – This article talks about how YouTube will begin removing videos spreading misinformation about any approved vaccine.

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

### The delta wave has crested, but Louisiana remains in

**dangerous territory** – This article talks about how the delta wave in Louisiana is finally starting to subside, but Louisiana needs to keep its guard up.

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

### Louisiana seeing 'alarming increase' in severe

**pregnancy outcomes amid COVID-19 delta surge** – The Louisiana Department of Health is reporting an alarming statistic involving pregnancy during the coronavirus delta variant surge.

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