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IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 Update

June 9, 2022 | Issue 63



Question of the Week



When the product is released, can Comirnaty® and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine be used interchangeably?

The licensed Pfizer BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine, Comirnaty®, was made available for ordering on June 6, 2022. According to the CDC Immunization Services Division COVID Unit:

The vial contents for Comirnaty® and Pfizer adult EUA vaccine are identical and interchangeable (as determined by the FDA). While the vial contents are identical, the license for Pfizer Comirnaty® limits the use of this vaccine to people ages 16+. Also, this BLA (Biologics License Application) product is licensed for the two-dose primary series only—not for additional doses or boosters. The EUA allows the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to be used on people ages 12 through 15 and as a booster.

The formulation of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine authorized for use in children 5 through 11 years of age differs from the formulations authorized for older individuals. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine authorized for use in children 5 through 11 years of age should not be used interchangeably with Comirnaty®.

See the [COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Reference Guide](#) for details.

Register for the Vaccine Confidence-Building Action Lab

Community partners who are working in areas such as COVID-19 vaccine outreach and overcoming vaccine hesitancy, or who have a desire to work in either area, are invited to participate in a virtual [Vaccine Confidence-Building Action Lab](#) on June 30 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The virtual session will bring together Louisianians who have engaged in COVID-19 outreach, education, and vaccination efforts to share what has worked and not worked, and discuss best practices and ideas for the future. Participants will also learn from a panel of speakers about equity-centered COVID-19 vaccination efforts that have successfully reached disproportionately impacted Louisianians, discuss common challenges and strategies, and hear about new small grants available for COVID-19 vaccine equity initiatives from the Louisiana Department of Health.

[Register here.](#)

Ordering for COVID-19 vaccines for young children begins this week

Beginning today, COVID-19 vaccines for children as young as 6 months will be available for pre-order in LINKS. The pre-order window will last from June 9 through June 14.

Providers will have the ability to preorder as little as 30 doses of Pfizer (3-Dose Series for children ages 6 months to 4 years old), or 20 doses of Moderna (2-Dose Series for children ages 6 months to 5 years old) during this time period. All providers who serve children ages 6 months to 5 years are strongly encouraged to preorder this vaccine, particularly pediatricians who provide routine primary care for this age group.



Both products have the same storage conditions as the other products each manufacturers catalog:

- Pfizer: 12 months ULT Freezer and/or 10 weeks Refrigerator
- Moderna: 6 months Freezer and/or 30 Days Refrigerator

All initial vaccine deliveries will be conducted through our in-state redistribution partner, Morris and Dickson, and are expected to begin the week of June 20.

The Louisiana Immunization Program will host an Informational Office Hours Session on Friday June 10, at 1 p.m. CST. Information about vaccine ordering and storage and handling will also be presented, and Program staff will be available to answer any questions.

Providers can join at the following Zoom Link: <https://ldhophbidimmunization.zoom.us/j/82446671442?pwd=K3NJQ1NxdXU1cjB2RlR0TWVTUkYJYdz09>

If you have any questions, please email la.immunization@la.gov.

Rural Infection Prevention and Control training program

The Louisiana Department of Health's Well-Ahead Louisiana initiative, in partnership with Louisiana Rural Health Association, is hosting the [Rural Infection Prevention and Control Training Program](#) this summer. The purpose of the program is to provide rural hospitals and rural health clinics with the most up-to-date evidence-based practices in infection prevention and control to ensure regulatory success and patient safety.



Program Features

- Series of educational webinars on all infection prevention and control regulatory requirements for rural hospitals and health clinics.
- Onsite Infection Prevention and Control assessments training for 10 rural hospitals and 30 rural health clinics. **Applications for on-site assessment and training will close on July 1.**

More information on the program and the training schedule can be found [here](#).

Fact Sheet updated for PBS/Sucrose formulation of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 12+

Last week, the FDA authorized changes to the [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine \(Vaccination Providers\)](#) for the PBS/Sucrose formulation of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for individuals ages 12 and older. This particular vaccine is supplied in multiple dose vials with purple caps, and the authorized changes are relative to expiration dates in the fact sheet.

- The 6/2022 printed expiry date was updated to 30-Sep-2022
- The 12/2022 printed expiry date was updated to 31-Mar-2023

For more information, view the [granting letter](#) and the [updated Fact Sheet](#).

Additionally, the CDC maintains a website with expiration dates for the COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines. Registration is required to access the information. Register for access at [COVID-19 VACCINE LOT NUMBER AND EXPIRATION DATES \(cdc.gov\)](#).

V-safe offers post-vaccination surveys

[V-safe](#) is a smartphone-based tool that helps the CDC monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines. V-safe provides personalized and confidential health check-ins via text messages and web surveys that allow individuals or caregivers to report how they and/or their dependents are feeling after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. The information is reported directly to the CDC for monitoring.



V-safe features include:

- [Enrolling](#) during the waiting period after any dose of the vaccine or at any time after vaccination.
- [Adding dependents](#) and completing check-ins on their behalf.
- [Entering/reporting](#) how the guardian, caregiver or dependent feels following first, second, additional and booster doses
- [Accessing information](#) in multiple languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese)

To help inform patients about V-safe, posters that provide information to families about V-safe are available to providers. To order, go to [V-safe Print Resources](#) or share the 30-second video entitled [Share Your COVID-19 vaccination Experience with V-safe](#).

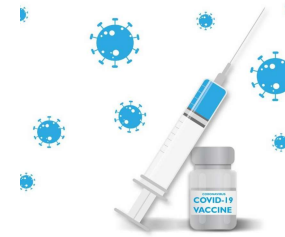
Community Action Partnership webinar to highlight pediatric vaccine success stories

The [Community Action Partnership](#) in collaboration with the Administration for Children and Families, CDC, and other collaborators will present a webinar that highlights, "Pediatric Vaccine Success Stories from the Field." The event will take place on Monday, June 13 at 12 p.m. EST. Register [here](#).

Pfizer webinar updates for providers

Pfizer has expanded its training sessions to address questions about currently recommended COVID-19 vaccine products as well as vaccines for children that are

anticipated to be approved through an EUA. The COVID-19 vaccine medical updates and site training webinars aim to educate providers and immunization staff on the proper use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines.



For details, see [dates and links for upcoming training sessions](#).

While current trainings follow a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday schedule, future trainings will be offered 5 days during the week as the pediatric vaccines roll out. (Please note, the COVID-19 vaccine has NOT yet been authorized or approved for use in individuals younger than 5 years of age in the United States.)

Daily trainings (Monday through Friday) will begin Monday, June 20, 2022, and continue through July 8, 2022 (excluding July 4).

COVID-19 Resources

- [COVID-19 Vaccine: Quick Reference Guide for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Administration Overview for Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Administration Overview for Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [CDC COVID Data Tracker: Vaccinations in the US](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Handling Toolkit](#)

Good Reads

- [Covid: Novavax vaccine clears key step on path to FDA authorization](#)
- [Police Department in Louisiana decimated by COVID, calls in help](#)
- [OJJ: In-person visitation suspension extended as COVID precaution](#)
- [What our COVID-19 response can teach us about containing Monkeypox](#)
- [Study: Ineffective blood oxygen readers have endangered Black and Latino Covid-19 patients](#)
- [The U.S. has wasted over 82 million Covid vaccine doses](#)
- [Americans keep getting reinfected with COVID-19 as new variants emerge, data shows](#)
- [Moderna says updated COVID shot boosts Omicron protection](#)

GET THE FACTS

COVID-19 SUPPORT HOTLINE

855-453-0774

MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

SUNDAY
12:00 PM - 8:00 PM

BRING BACK
LOUISIANA

Submit a Question of the Week

Do you have a frequently asked question that you would like to submit or have answered in the QOW?

SUBMIT HERE