



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Louisiana Department of Health to Offer Free COVID-19 Vaccines at Bayou Classic Events  
*Participating Adults and Children Will Receive \$100 Shot for 100 Debit Card***

**New Orleans (November 24, 2021)** — The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is partnering with the Bayou Classic and the National Medical Association to offer free COVID-19 vaccines at Bayou Classic events this Friday, Nov. 26 and Saturday, Nov. 27. Adults and children getting their first shots will receive a \$100 Shot for 100 debit card.

On Friday, Nov. 26 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., LDH will host a COVID-19 vaccination site on the second floor of the Hyatt Regency, outside of the Empire Ballroom. Vaccinations will be available to everyone ages 12 and up. And on Saturday, Nov. 27 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., vaccines will be available for those 5 and up at the Superdome gate A ramp and Champions Square.

Similar to what was seen in adult vaccine trials, the vaccine is nearly 91% effective in preventing COVID-19 among children ages 5-11 years. Community-based vaccination events make vaccines more widely accessible and remain an important component of fighting COVID-19 in Louisiana.

Currently, more than 48% of Louisianans are fully vaccinated against COVID and nearly 55%, more than 2.5 million people, have taken at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, more than 119,000 children in Louisiana have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

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***Frequently asked questions:***

**Where and how do I get my child vaccinated?**

For a person younger than age 18, parental/caregiver consent is needed to get the shot. LDH has developed a consent form that can be found on its website at [ldh.la.gov/kidsvax](https://ldh.la.gov/kidsvax).

Families can call 211 or the COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at 1-855-453-0774 with general questions or to find a vaccination location near them. Families can also visit the federal vaccine finder at [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find a local pediatric vaccine provider.

**What is the risk of COVID-19 to children?**

COVID-19 cases in [children](#) can result in hospitalization, death, MIS-C (multi-inflammatory syndrome in children) and long-term complications, such as “long COVID,” in which symptoms can linger for months. The spread of the Delta variant resulted in a surge of COVID-19 cases in children throughout the summer. During a 6-week period in late June to mid-August, COVID-19 hospitalizations among children and adolescents [increased fivefold](#).

### **Why should you consider getting your child vaccinated?**

Vaccination, along with other preventative measures, can protect children from COVID-19 using the safe and effective vaccines already recommended for use in adolescents and adults in the United States. The most common side effect was a sore arm.

COVID-19 vaccines have undergone — and will continue to undergo — the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. Vaccinating children will help protect them from getting COVID-19 and therefore reducing their risk of severe disease, hospitalizations, or developing long-term COVID-19 complications.

Getting your children vaccinated can help protect them against COVID-19, as well as reduce disruptions to in-person learning and activities by helping curb community transmission.

### **What if you have more questions?**

Families can call the COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at 1-855-453-0774 to find a provider in their area and to speak to medical professionals with clinical experience who can help answer their questions.