

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

ISSUE NO 48 | FEBRUARY 24, 2022



COMPLETED
VACCINE SERIES
IN LOUISIANA

2,416,494*

*4,966,526 total doses
administered in Louisiana

FDA AUTHORIZES
NEW MONOCLONAL
ANTIBODY

The FDA has issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Eli Lilly's bebtelovimab, which retains activity against the Omicron variant. (Page 2)

CDC UPDATES
COVID TRACKER

The interactive COVID Data Tracker has been updated with new vaccination and booster data as well as additional navigation features. (Page 3)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

With the Omicron variant spreading quickly, are we getting closer to herd immunity?

According to experts, the answer is no. It is not likely that the highly transmissible variant — or any other variant — will lead to herd immunity.

Per the CDC, herd immunity is when a sufficient proportion of a population is immune to an infectious disease (through vaccination and/or prior illness) to make its spread from person to person unlikely. Early hopes for herd immunity have not played out for several reasons:

- Antibodies developed from vaccines or previous infection diminish over time. While vaccines offer strong protection against severe illness, waning antibodies mean it's still possible to get infected — even for those who are boosted.
- There's the huge variation in vaccinations.
 - In some low-income countries, less than 5% of the population is vaccinated.
 - Rich countries are struggling with vaccine hesitancy.
 - Young children still aren't eligible in many places.
- The virus mutates as it spreads, giving rise to new variants.

Instead of herd immunity, many scientists think COVID-19 will eventually become like the flu and cause seasonal outbreaks but not huge surges.

WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

FDA authorizes new monoclonal antibody for treatment of COVID-19 that retains activity against Omicron variant

The FDA has issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Eli Lilly's bebtelovimab for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients who:

- Are 12 years of age and older, weighing at least 88 pounds,
- Have a positive COVID-19 test,
- Are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death, and
- Have no accessible or clinically appropriate alternative COVID-19 treatment options approved or authorized by the FDA.



Emergency Use Authorization is different than FDA approval. Based on the FDA's review of the scientific evidence available, the agency has determined it is reasonable to believe that bebtelovimab may be effective in treating certain patients with mild or moderate COVID-19.

Bebtelovimab is not authorized for patients who are hospitalized due to COVID-19 or require oxygen therapy due to COVID-19.

Treatment with bebtelovimab has not been studied in patients hospitalized due to COVID-19. Monoclonal antibodies, such as bebtelovimab, may be associated with worse clinical outcomes when administered to hospitalized patients with COVID-19 requiring high flow oxygen or mechanical ventilation.

Bebtelovimab works by binding to the spike protein of the virus that causes COVID-19. This is similar to other monoclonal antibodies that have been authorized for the treatment of high-risk patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 and has shown a benefit in reducing the risk of hospitalization or death.

The FDA is carefully monitoring circulating viral variants and their sensitivity to authorized monoclonal antibodies, including bebtelovimab. Laboratory testing showed that bebtelovimab retains activity against both the Omicron variant and the BA.2 Omicron subvariant.

At this time the supply of bebtelovimab remains limited. A list of facilities in Louisiana receiving allocations of monoclonal antibodies, including bebtelovimab, can be found here: <https://ldh.la.gov/page/monoclonal-antibodies>.

Dosage: The dosage in adults (18 years and older) and pediatric patients (≥12 years of age and weighing at least 88 pounds) is 175 mg administered as a single intravenous injection over at least 30 seconds.

Fact Sheets

Under the EUA, fact sheets that provide important information about using bebtelovimab for the treatment COVID-19 as authorized must be made available to patients and caregivers. These fact sheets include dosing instructions, potential side effects and drug interactions. Clinicians should closely review the FDA fact sheet for healthcare providers.

- **Fact sheet for healthcare providers:** <https://www.fda.gov/media/156152/download>
- **Fact sheet for patients, parents, and caregivers:** <https://www.fda.gov/media/156153/download>
- **Emergency Use Authorization documentation link:** <https://www.fda.gov/media/156151/download>

More states drop mask mandates

As COVID-19 cases drop nationwide, more states are ending or amending mask mandates.

The Data Point, a series from NBC News Data Graphics teams, reports several states have ended or amended mask mandates since the start of the year.

While mask mandates are changing nationwide, the CDC continues to recommend masks indoors, and some states still have restrictions in place for certain entities. In Louisiana, masks are no longer mandated. However, mask requirements remain in place for entities that fall under federal regulation, including mass transit and health care facilities.

Read more [here](#).

SEVEN TOOLS TO FIGHT OMICRON

If you are not vaccinated, you are not protected. Vaccines protect you against severe outcomes from COVID-19, like hospitalization and death.

- ✓ Get vaccinated and, if eligible, get boosted.
- ✓ Wear a mask in all public indoor settings, all indoor private spaces with people who are not in your immediate household, and outdoors when not able to social distance.
- ✓ Limit exposure to those outside your household.
- ✓ Practice social distancing.
- ✓ Stay home if you are not feeling well.
- ✓ Wash your hands with soap and water.
- ✓ Get tested if you're experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or if you have been recently exposed to someone with COVID-19.

BRING BACK LOUISIANA
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COVID-19 Data Tracker updates include trends in boosters and vaccinations

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7 Saving Lives. Protecting People™

COVID Data Tracker



The CDC has made several updates to the COVID-19 Data Tracker. The intuitive tool hosts interactive dashboards that provide county, state, national and global COVID-19 data.

Some of the more recent updates include booster data for individuals 12 years and older as well as trends on vaccination in dialysis centers and vaccination demographic trends.

- A new [COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance](#) tab displays data on SARS-CoV-2 RNA levels by county and across the United States.
- The [Health Equity Data](#) landing page was reorganized for user-friendly navigation. The page now includes a legend of clickable health equity topics that redirects users to their topic of interest.
- The [Vaccination Demographics](#) and [Vaccination Demographics Trends](#) tabs were updated to include booster dose data among people ages 12 years and older.
- The [County View](#) tab was updated to include county-level booster dose data for people ages 12 years and older.
- The [Vaccinations in the U.S.](#) tab was updated to include the count and percent of the population 12 years and older that has received a booster dose and the eligible population that has not yet received a booster dose.
- The [Vaccinations in Dialysis Facilities](#) tab was updated to include data on trends among staff and patients at dialysis facilities who received additional primary or booster doses, over time and by state.
- The [COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Vaccination Status](#) tab was updated to display rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths by vaccination status, with and without a booster dose, for people ages 18 to 49 years old and by primary series vaccine product.
- The [COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness](#) tab now includes a new data source (ICATT), which includes individuals who were tested at pharmacies. New visualizations also include vaccine effectiveness against infection and vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization.

[Visit the COVID Data Tracker.](#)

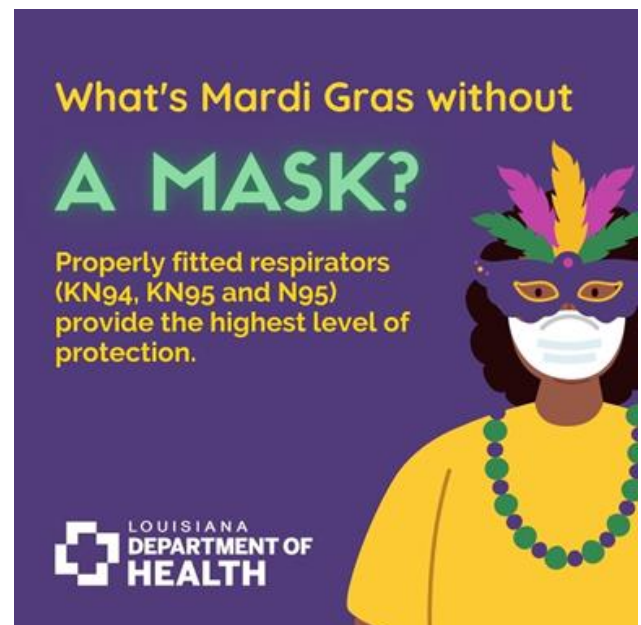
LDH provides guidance on Mardi Gras safety

LDH advises the public to wear the most protective masks that fit well and can be worn consistently. Properly fitted respirators (N95, KN95 or KF94) provide the highest levels of protection. Individuals are also encouraged to mask regardless of vaccination status or previous infection. This includes masking in all indoor public spaces, at indoor private gatherings if members outside of your everyday household are present, and outdoors if social distancing cannot be maintained. In addition to masking:

- Vaccination and boosters strengthen protection within days of receiving the shot.
- Stay home and get tested if you are sick.
- People with underlying medical conditions that place them at higher risk should consider not attending large events.
- Free N95 masks provided by the White House are being distributed to all Winn-Dixie stores in the state, as well as participating Walmart and Sam's Club locations. Masks are also available at various [Walgreens locations](#).

Individuals seeking information about vaccination sites can call Louisiana's vaccine hotline at 1-855-453-0774, visit ldh.la.gov/covidvaccine or text their ZIP code to GETVAX (438829) in English or VACUNA (822862) in Spanish.

Information about testing site locations and hours are available at ldh.la.gov/covidtesting. Individuals can also call 211 to find a nearby testing site.



Study looks at multistate outbreak of the COVID Omicron variant infection among convention attendees

A recent study found that Omicron variant-related infections were high among individuals attending a convention, but was low among the infected attendees' household members. There were also fewer infections among vaccinated attendees who received a COVID-19 booster dose.

The findings include data from 30 individuals from 13 states who attended the convention. The researchers relied on a case investigation interview, contact tracing and collaboration with state and local health departments to identify and survey those affected.

According to the researchers, "Data from this investigation reinforce the importance of COVID-19 booster doses and early notification in combination with other multicomponent prevention measures to limit transmission and prevent severe illness from Omicron and other SARS-CoV-2 variants." [Read the findings at cdc.gov.](#)

Physical inactivity increases risks of more severe COVID infection, CDC reports

The Centers for Disease control has added physical inactivity to the list of precursors that may increase the risk of becoming very sick from COVID—particularly among individuals who have one or more existing health conditions.

According to the CDC, individuals who experience one or more of the following conditions are at a greater risk of experiencing severe COVID, hospitalization, intensive care treatment, ventilator assistance, or possible death:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Chronic lung disease
- Cystic fibrosis
- Dementia or other neurological conditions
- Diabetes
- Disabilities
- Heart condition
- HIV infection
- Immunocompromised
- Mental health conditions
- Overweight and obesity
- Physical inactivity
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease or thalassemia
- Smoking (current or former)
- Solid organ or blood stem cell transplant
- Stroke or cerebrovascular disease
- Substance use disorders
- Tuberculosis

Read more [here](#).

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.12%
- **Black:** 31.8%
- **American Indian:** 0.42%
- **Asian:** 2.9%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.19%
- **Unknown:** 1.1%
- **Other:** 5.51%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 7.4%
- **18-29:** 13.3%
- **30-39:** 13.4%
- **40-49:** 13.7%
- **50-59:** 16.2%
- **60-69:** 18%
- **70+:** 17.9%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 54%
- **Male:** 45.7%
- **Unknown:** 0.2%

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 COVID-19 hospitalizations fall below 1,000 patients. [Read more at wwltv.com.](#)

Study looks at pediatric emergency department visits before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. between Jan. 2019 and Jan. 2022 [Read more here.](#)

How doctors can help stop human trafficking while treating COVID. [Read more at msn.com.](#)

LDH: 961 new COVID-19 cases reported in Louisiana on Feb. 23. [Read more at kadn.com.](#)

Three Louisiana children died of COVID over the past week. [Read more at nola.com.](#)

Visitation resuming at Louisiana prisons. [Read more at wdsu.com.](#)