

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 Update

August 4, 2022 | Issue 71

STOP
CORONAVIRUS

Question of the Week

What should providers and the public know about the White House's plan to manage BA.5?

The White House COVID-19 Response Team's [strategy to manage BA.5](#), a subvariant of the Omicron variant, relies on ensuring that Americans continue to have easy and convenient access to the vaccines, treatments, tests and tools that protect against/treat COVID-19.

Key points in the strategy include:

- Making it easy for people to get vaccines and boosters
- Making it easy to access COVID-19 treatments and boost provider and patient awareness
- Making free COVID-19 testing, including at-home tests, widely available
- Making free high-quality masks widely available and communicate clear recommendations about when people should consider masking
- Prioritizing protections for immunocompromised individuals
- Encouraging all building owners to improve indoor ventilation
- Empowering people with the latest information on COVID-19 and where to access vaccines, treatments, tests and masks at [COVID.gov](#)

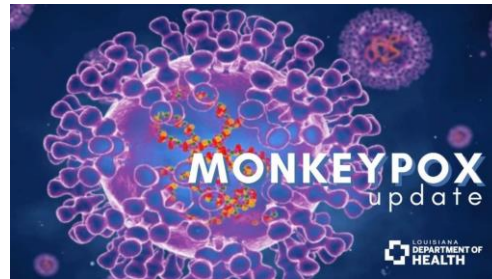
The Louisiana Department of Health encourages individuals who are not fully up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots to get their shot(s) as soon as possible. Go to [vaccines.gov](#) to find a nearby location.



Update for clinicians on testing and treatment for monkeypox

To date, there have been 58 known cases of monkeypox in Louisiana, seven of which are new infections. The Louisiana Department of Health has released recommendations for clinicians regarding commercial testing capability, using TPOXX® (tecovirimat) for treating monkeypox, and vaccine eligibility and availability in Louisiana.

To view the recommendations in their entirety, please view [Health Alert Network Message 22-26: Update for Clinicians on Testing and Treatment for Monkeypox](#).



LDH has updated its [monkeypox communications toolkit](#) with the following documents:

- Latest case count
- Vaccine eligibility
- Social media graphics for vaccine
- Q&A fact sheet

For more information

- [Considerations for Monkeypox Vaccination | Monkeypox | Poxvirus](#)
- [How to Report Test Results](#)
- [Preparation and Collection of Specimens](#)
- [Obtaining and Using TPOXX \(Tecovirimat\)](#)
- [Treatment Information for Healthcare Professionals | Monkeypox | Poxvirus](#)
- Visit [CDC-INFO](#) or call CDC-INFO at 1-800-232-4636
- CDC 24/7 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) 770-488-7100

Immunization Program launches podcast series, Vax Matters

Vax Matters, a new podcast series from OPH's Immunization Program, has recorded 20 episodes and released seven of them in a planned 36-episode series over the coming year.

The podcast, with a new episode being released every two weeks, takes a deep dive into the history and future of vaccines, as well as addresses facts, misconceptions and myths on a variety of immunization topics.

In each episode, host Diane Deaton, a former TV personality and weathercaster for WAFB 9News in Baton Rouge, along with a guest host, speaks with medical and infectious disease experts from Louisiana, as well as across the country, to address that episode's topic.

In a two-part episode, Dr. Frank Welch, a leading national expert on immunizations and former Medical Director for the Immunization Program, discusses the history of vaccines. During the episodes, Welch walks listeners through the origin of modern vaccines, beginning with smallpox through the polio epidemic. Welch explains why some vaccines are grouped and how it is decided which flu strain will be used each year for the vaccine.

Another episode features Dr. Joe Kanter, state health officer, who discusses the COVID vaccine and recounts the past two years of living during the current pandemic. Dr. Veronica Gillispie-Bell, OB-GYN,



talks about vaccines and fertility, and Dr. Shantel Hebert-Magee, OPH's Region 1 medical director, leads a conversation about medical mistrust.

In the trailer for the Vax Matters podcast, listeners learn, "For decades, vaccines were something most of us probably didn't give much thought to. Then COVID happened and suddenly vaccines were all we thought about. Today, facts about vaccines matter more than ever."

The podcast team is looking for experts in these areas for future episodes: influenza, pneumonia, herd immunity, shingles, hepatitis A and B, and COVID-19 booster shots. If you have an idea for a guest, send a message to robert.johannessen@la.gov.

Vax Matters can be found and downloaded on all the top podcast platforms including Apple, Google Podcast, Spotify, Audible and iHeart.

FAQs on Testing for SARS-CoV-2

On Tuesday, the FDA updated the [FAQs on Testing for SARS-CoV-2](#) to note that no tests remain on the commercial manufacturer serology test notification list described in the FDA's [Policy for Coronavirus Disease-2019 Tests](#). All tests previously on the commercial manufacturer serology test notification list have either been issued an Emergency Use Authorization or should no longer be distributed, marketed, or offered.

Biden–Harris administration releases two new reports on Long COVID

On August 3, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued two reports on Long COVID commissioned by the Biden-Harris Administration earlier this year. The reports were developed to "pave an actionable path forward to address Long COVID and associated conditions," [HHS reported](#).

[The National Research Action Plan on Long COVID](#) (the Research Plan), created in coordination with 14 government departments and agencies, introduces the first national research agenda focused on advancing prevention, diagnosis, treatment and provision of services and supports for individuals and families experiencing Long COVID.

The Research Plan focuses on four core areas that will govern federal government work and data analysis: health equity, accelerating and expanding current research, orienting the research effort to improve patient care, and partner engagement.

[The Services and Supports for Longer-Term Impacts of COVID-19 Report](#) (Services Report) outlines federal services available to the American public to address longer-term effects of COVID-19, including Long COVID and related conditions, as well as other impacts on individuals and families. It provides valuable information in three key areas:

- Federal supports and services available for people experiencing Long COVID – from how to navigate your rights to how to navigate health care coverage, community services, financial assistance, nutrition and educational questions and more.
- Resources for health care personnel treating patients with Long COVID, as well as support for health care personnel experiencing stress and trauma related to COVID-19.
- Services for individuals confronting challenges related to mental health, substance use and bereavement.

CDC to host 11th International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Task Force for Global Health will hold the 11th [International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases \(ICEID\)](#) August 7–10, 2022 in Atlanta, GA. The 3-day, in-person conference brings together public health professionals to exchange the latest information on issues affecting the emergence, spread, and control of infectious diseases.

Keynote speakers at the Opening Session, Sunday, August 7 at 5:30 pm, include:

- **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
 - Rochelle Walensky: Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- **Communicating Science in a Changing Media Environment**
 - Josh Sharfstein: Vice Dean for Public Health Practice and Community Engagement, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- **Preparing for the Next Pandemic: Lessons Learned from the Black Coalition Against COVID**
 - Reed Tuckson: Co-founder, Black Coalition Against COVID
- **Lessons from the Pandemic for Future Global Health**
 - Soumya Swaminathan: Chief Scientist, World Health Organization



The conference will include plenary panel sessions with invited speakers, oral abstract and poster presentations, and multiple scientific and public health exhibitors—all focusing on emerging and re-emerging infections.

Learn more at www.ICEID.org.

COVID-19 vaccine expiration dates and shelf life extensions

Pfizer Purple Cap expiration dates

Most of the distributed Pfizer **PURPLE** Cap vaccine has expired, but small amounts of inventory remain on shelves. Providers are encouraged to transition to the Pfizer **GREY** Cap product by August 31, 2022, and to dispose of all expired **PURPLE** Cap COVID-19 vaccines according to state and local regulations.

Moderna shelf-life extension

Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are receiving additional shelf-life extension by lot number. Please continue to regularly monitor the expiration dates of all vaccines, as dates are subject to change. Moderna vaccine vials have a QR code that, when scanned, provides the up-to-date expiration date from the manufacturer website. Check your Moderna lot number expiration dates regularly at [Vial Expiration Date Lookup | Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine \(EUA\) \(modernatx.com\)](#). Additionally, properly dispose of expired vaccine according to state and local regulations.

Novavax expiration page

An [Expiry Page](#) is now available for the new Novavax COVID-19 vaccine recently approved for emergency use by the FDA. Novavax was approved for a 9-month refrigerated shelf life, and all Novavax

vaccine purchased by USG currently expires February 2023. Should this date be extended, the Novavax Expiry Page will contain all current expiration date information.

Johnson and Johnson/Janssen

A large quantity of J&J COVID-19 vaccine is expiring in August 2022. Please check expiration dates at [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Expiry Checker \(vaxcheck.jnj\)](#). Additionally, dispose of all expired vaccine in accordance with state and local regulations.

COVID-19 resources

- [Louisiana COVID-19 information](#)
- [COVID-19 Community Levels](#)
- [COVID Data Tracker](#)
- [V-Safe After Vaccination Health Checker](#)

Good reads

- [U.S. CDC expected to ease COVID-19 guidelines for schools this week](#)
- [COVID deaths: US stuck in 'horrible plateau,' experts say. Here's why.](#)
- [Eli Lilly to make COVID-19 antibody drug commercially available from August](#)
- [White House to establish Office on Long Covid](#)
- [Louisiana dealing with sixth COVID-19 surge](#)



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](#)

