

Hi Bob and Anna, Please excuse my late submission. Here's my first stab at the newsletter. For the men's health section I would love to include some statics on immunizations for men. Do we have a database I can tap into to find that information? Also please lend any suggestions you have.

IMMUNIZATION Update

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Question of the Week

What is being done to address misinformation about COVID and vaccines when the incorrect information has already gone viral?



We have all heard of some version of incorrect information as it pertains to COVID-19 and vaccines. Some community members are hesitant about the vaccines while others don't believe the virus exists. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) want to address these narratives and provide information and tools for communities to be empowered and make the best-informed decisions about their health.

~~Both, the CDC and CDPH will be hosting a~~ These joint briefing series ~~will to~~ address misinformation and provide greater insight as to how and why these narratives permeate

our communities. This briefing series is intended for public health [organizations professionals](#) and will highlight important topics including the following:

- English and Spanish narratives that may undermine confidence in COVID-19 vaccines
- Tactics to counter incorrect narratives
- COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy
- Rumors and inaccurate information about COVID-19 vaccines

The next session of the [series](#) will be held on **Tuesday, November 15 at 3:00 PM CST** via Zoom. Subsequent sessions will take place monthly. To register for this session go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZUfumrrTMtH9INH6f8CLpol-la7u2dZVCr>. For more information about this briefing, series [click here](#).

'Tis the season, time to put the clippers and razors away

November is National Men's Health Awareness Month. To honor this initiative, men and all individuals who would like to participate go without shaving for the entire month of November. That's right, that includes no waxing, no taper fades, or rubbing on Nair. The purpose of abstaining from grooming is to start a conversation about men's physical and mental health and bring attention to suicide prevention and testicular, colon and prostate cancer. In addition, this is an excellent opportunity for men to check in with their primary care physicians or local pharmacies to make sure all of their vaccinations are current.

The additional benefit of "No-Shave November" is all the money saved in avoiding the barber. As much as those Amazon and Black Friday shopping impulses kick in, the idea is to use the money saved to support an organization that is helping men's health. [No-Shave November](#) and [Movember](#) are two of the organizations that are leading the charge in supporting men's health, visit their websites to find out more information about how to support them.

Flu update from CDC and Louisiana Office of Public Health

According to national data, the U.S. is seeing early increases in seasonal influenza activity, with the southeast and south-central areas of the country reporting the highest levels of activity. See the CDC's Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report [here](#).

Nationally, the percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories is increasing; however, activity varies by region. Percent positivity increased $\geq 0.5\%$ this week in regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (Louisiana), 7, 8, 9, and 10, and

was similar to the previous week but trending upward in region 1. For regional and state-level data and age group distribution, please visit [FluView Interactive](#).

Viruses associated with recent live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) receipt or found upon further testing to be a vaccine virus are not included, as they are not circulating influenza viruses.

Last week in Louisiana, 6.67% of patient visits reported through the Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). This percentage is above the regional baseline of 3.9%. The ILI case definition is fever >100.3 AND cough and/or sore throat.

Flu shots given to date in Louisiana as of 10/31/2022:

1. Flu vaccines for 0-17 years of age: 65,793
2. Flu vaccines given for ages 18+: 389,122

CDC Update: ACIP Meeting Summary

As we reported last week, CDC has updated its ~~vaccination to the~~ 2023 childhood and adult [immunization schedules](#), including additional information for approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccines. See the complete media statement [here](#).

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) also voted to approve the incorporation of authorized COVID-19 vaccines into the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. This action ensures that in the future, vaccination coverage will continue once the COVID-19 vaccines are commercialized.

ACIP also voted on updated pneumococcal vaccine recommendations for adults who previously received PCV13. This includes:

1. Adults who have received PCV13 only are recommended to receive a dose of PCV20 at least ~~one~~⁴ year after the PCV13 dose or PPSV23 as previously recommended to complete their pneumococcal vaccine series.
2. Adults with an immunocompromising condition, cochlear implant, or cerebrospinal fluid leak who have received both PCV13 and PPSV23 with incomplete vaccination status are recommended to complete their pneumococcal vaccine series by receiving either a dose of PCV20 at least ~~five~~⁵ years after the last pneumococcal vaccine dose or PPSV23 as previously recommended.
3. Shared clinical decision-making is recommended regarding the administration of PCV20 for adults aged ≥65 years who completed their vaccine series with both PCV13 and PPSV23. If a decision to administer PCV20 is made, a dose of PCV20 is recommended at least ~~five~~⁵ years after the last pneumococcal vaccine dose.

CDC reports on bivalent booster coverage rates

Last week, CDC released new estimates of bivalent booster vaccination coverage, including bivalent booster uptake and intent to receive bivalent booster based on results from the National Immunization Survey – Adult COVID Module (NIS-ACM) on:

- [CDC COVID Data Tracker: Vaccine Confidence](#), and
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Vaccine Confidence Among Adults | CDC](#).

Additional bivalent booster dose administration data, nationally and by jurisdiction and age group can be found here:

- [CDC COVID Data Tracker: Vaccinations in the US](#).

Possible Moderna Shelf-Life Extension (Monovalent Only)

Moderna is currently evaluating many Moderna 10 and Moderna 5 vaccines for submission to the FDA for a shelf-life extension. The first submission for extension is anticipated in early November. FDA will require time following submission to review these lots, so some may expire before this process is complete.

ACTION: Please quarantine and hold both Moderna 10 and Moderna 5 lots at the correct storage temperature and conditions as they reach their expiration date to avoid possible administration errors with the expired vaccine. CDC has clinical materials outlining proper storage and handling practices for Moderna vaccines.

Additional requests for extension are planned throughout the month for Moderna 10 and Moderna 5 lots that expire in November. A submission for a shelf-life extension does not guarantee approval by FDA.

COVID-19 vaccine anniversary-two years of vaccine delivery and administration

December 14, 2022, will mark the two-year anniversary of domestic COVID-19 vaccination. LDH and CDC want to celebrate the hard work and success of your organization and recognize individuals and teams that have worked hard together these past two years or gone the extra mile along the way.

Send us your favorite moments, accolades, photos, or video clips from the last two years so we can include you in a collage celebration featuring you and your team. If you would like something included in this newsletter, send it to La.Immuization@la.gov by Nov. 14.

Click this [link](#) to watch last year's anniversary video from CDC for ideas.

COVID-19 vaccine training opportunities

Moderna offers office hours about the recently authorized and recommended Moderna bivalent vaccine multiple times each day. Register for a session here:

<https://app.livestorm.co/moderna-na-medical/moderna-office-hours-omicron-bivalent-boosters>

Pfizer hosts biweekly training webinars about the recently authorized and recommended Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent vaccine. Attendee links can be found on the Pfizer website:

<https://www.pfizermedicalinformation.com/en-us/medical-updates>

Novavax office hours are scheduled for every Wednesday at noon through December 7, 2022. Office hours will include updates about the recently authorized and recommended Novavax monovalent booster. Register here: <https://novav.ax/officehours>

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