

## IMMUNIZATION Update

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November 10, 2022 | Issue 85



### Question of the Week

#### Is it too late in the season to get a flu shot?



No. You should get a flu shot as soon as possible if you're not yet vaccinated.

Flu season starts in the fall, and most of the time, flu activity peaks between December and February in Louisiana. CDC recommends that people get vaccinated early in the season, ideally by October 30, but it's not too late to get critical protection from the flu if you're not yet vaccinated.

#### Flu messaging and resources

There are early signs that this upcoming flu season in the U.S. could be severe, according to recent [CDC data](#). Flu hospitalizations are rising, and they are higher than usual at this time of the season. Flu is one of several respiratory illnesses circulating, including RSV and COVID-19.

The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine. **Effective, consistent communication strategies** are critical to ensure that people have the information they need to take necessary actions to prevent the spread of the flu.

With the possibility of a severe flu season ahead, the Public Health Communications Collaborative updated their [Answers to Tough Questions](#) with new messaging to help you answer questions like “Is it too late in the season to get a flu shot if I haven’t yet?” and “Can I get my flu shot and COVID-19 booster the same day?” You will also find outreach materials in English and Spanish and other messaging resources to support your flu communications efforts.

[FAQ - Public Health Communication Collaborative \(publichealthcollaborative.org\)](#)

## CDC's Health Alert Network advisory alerts clinicians about increased respiratory virus activity. Protect your patients by offering and administering vaccinations.

On November 4, CDC issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory: [Increased Respiratory Virus Activity, Especially among Children, Early in the 2022–2023 Fall and Winter](#). Circulation of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza viruses, SARS-CoV-2, and others could place stress on healthcare systems this fall and winter. Influenza vaccination this season should offer protection against the predominant A(H3N2) viruses to date.

Key recommendations for healthcare professionals from the Health Advisory are listed below:

- Recommend and offer vaccinations against influenza and COVID-19 for all eligible persons age 6 months or older
- Use diagnostic testing to guide treatment and clinical management
- Treat patients with suspected or confirmed influenza who meet clinical criteria with influenza antivirals
- Treat outpatients and hospitalized patients with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection who are at increased risk for severe illness and meet age- and weight-eligibility requirements

Additionally, the linked documents below share key points on respiratory disease in the United States overall, including flu, RSV and COVID-19.

- [CDC FluView November 4 2022](#)
- [CDC ID Weekly Key Points](#)
- [CDC HAN 479](#)
- [CDC Respiratory Disease Key Points](#)

[Access the complete CDC HAN Health Advisory.](#)

## 2022-2023 seasonal influenza testing and treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic

CDC has announced a Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Call on **November 15 at 1 pm CST**.

**Topic:** 2022-2023 Seasonal Influenza Testing and Treatment During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted influenza activity during the past two seasons. Since October 2022, influenza activity has increased, signaling an early start to the U.S. influenza season. While it is not possible to predict influenza activity or the severity of the upcoming influenza season in the United States, CDC is preparing for the co-circulation of influenza and SARS-CoV-2 viruses.

While annual influenza vaccination remains the best way to prevent influenza, antiviral medications are an essential addition to vaccination—especially in treating outpatients with suspected or confirmed influenza, people at high risk for influenza complications, those with progressive disease, and hospitalized influenza patients.

This COCA call will provide an overview of CDC's recommendations for healthcare providers regarding influenza diagnostics and the use of antiviral medications for the 2022-2023 influenza season, including considerations during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

[https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2022/callinfo\\_111522.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2022/callinfo_111522.asp)

There will be a web-on-demand version of the call available after the live event.  
**CDC COCA Call: Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 1 pm CST**

## Pfizer single dose vials – greater flexibility for providers

On **November 14**, HHS will open ordering to jurisdictional and federal entity administration partners for a limited amount of the updated (bivalent) Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for people 12 years of age or older in single-dose vials. This vial presentation is in response to widespread requests from our vaccine administration partners for the greater flexibility this presentation provides.

The U.S. government will continue distributing multi-dose vials of the updated (bivalent) Pfizer vaccine for people 12 years of age or older through our distribution network which reaches more than 70,000 vaccine administration sites.

Please [click here](#) to see the attached message from ASPR (Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response) regarding ordering, distribution, storage and handling, and other important information about this product. HHS will send an email notification when provider ordering in LINKS goes live for the Pfizer single-dose vials.

## FluMist quadrivalent update

We have been notified by AstraZeneca about a change to the shelf life for one specific batch of FLUMIST QUADRIVALENT that was supplied as part of a prior delivery.

Details, including the batch number and expiry date, are included in the attached letter that AstraZeneca is sending out this week to providers who received this batch. Upon expiry, these doses will be eligible for replacement via the FluMist Quadrivalent Replacement Program, while supplies last.

If you have questions, please contact AstraZeneca Medical Information at 1-800-236-9933.

[Click here to read the detailed update regarding the expiry.](#)

## Reminder: 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 have 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 our Health Equity Communications Coordinator at [jourdan.barnes@la.gov](mailto:jourdan.barnes@la.gov) by Nov. 14.

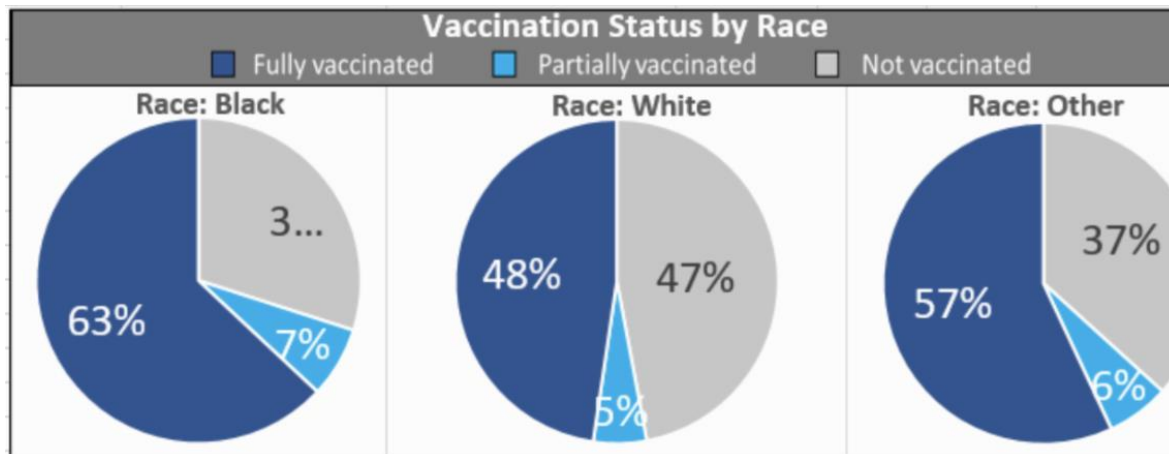
Click this [link](#) to watch last year's anniversary video from CDC for ideas.

## Understanding and communicating updated COVID-19 booster recommendations

CDC has released an updated presentation explaining the most current COVID-19 booster and recommendations. With cooler temperatures on the way and anticipated holiday gatherings, now is the time to communicate with clients, patients and partners on the importance of receiving the updated COVID-19 booster. This presentation covers information about the updated booster, COVID-19 vaccination schedules, co-administration and much more.

Link to presentation: [CDC Presentation \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com)

## COVID-19 demographics



Louisiana now has a *majority* of people identifying as Black and Other races fully vaccinated for Covid-19! In fact, the percentage of Black Louisianans fully vaccinated is the highest now among the three race categories shown here.