



Question of the week

How can I access my immunization records if I have misplaced my physical copy?



If your physical immunization record is lost, destroyed or simply not with you, we have you covered!

MyIR Mobile is a web portal that allows you to review your immunization history, receive reminders for future immunizations and even print your own official record. This service is free, simple and secure, providing peace of mind when it comes to managing your immunization records.

As we enter hurricane season, now is a great time to register and become familiar with MyIR Mobile, saving you time and stress during emergencies.

Be prepared and stay safe!

Promising progress in HIV vaccine development

Using cutting-edge immunologic technologies, researchers have made significant strides in HIV vaccine development by stimulating animals' immune systems to produce precursor B cells that can develop into broadly neutralizing antibodies (bNAbs). Published in *Nature Immunology*, these findings highlight the potential of a preventive HIV vaccine.

HIV's genetic diversity poses a challenge for vaccine development, but bNAbs target stable regions of the virus, even when it mutates. The study focused on a bNAb called 10E8, which binds to a conserved region on HIV's gp41 glycoprotein. Researchers engineered nanoparticles to mimic this part of gp41 and vaccinated monkeys and mice, successfully eliciting responses from 10E8 B cell precursors. Similar success was seen with mRNA-encoded nanoparticles. Importantly, these immunogens also showed promise in human blood samples, suggesting potential for human application.



The research, supported by the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and other partners, indicates a promising step toward a multi-step HIV vaccine regimen capable of eliciting multiple bNAbs classes to prevent HIV.

Visit [NIH's website](#) for further updates on this groundbreaking research and its implications for HIV prevention.

Hurricane season 2024: Plan now and be prepared

As hurricane season began June 1, now is the time to review and update, as needed, your vaccine emergency storage plan for all vaccines in your inventory. In accordance with the *Vaccines for Children (VFC) Provider Agreement Emergency Vaccine Management Plan*, all VFC providers are required to have an emergency vaccine storage plan.

It is imperative providers strive to prevent needless and unsustainable loss of vaccine by detailing a plan for emergency vaccine storage in the event of a power failure. Following these plans during a hurricane or other natural disaster can help to save millions of dollars of vaccines.



The *Immunization Policies and Procedures Manual* (revised September 2023) provides step-by-step guidance to assist with your planning. [Click here](#) to review the manual, making note of the following sections: 1.) "Procedures for Vaccine Protection and Hurricane/Disaster Preparedness" (pages 188-192); 2.) "Policy on Transporting Vaccine" (pages 45-47); and 3.) "Policy on Power Outage" (pages 41-42).

This memorandum should be shared with your staff and maintained for future reference. If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please contact your Regional Immunization Consultant. A listing of the Immunization Consultants by name, with contact information, is available on the LINKS homepage at <https://lalinks.org/linksweb/main.jsp>.

Your family

In addition to preparing your agency for an emergency, considering your family is equally important. Your family may not be together when a disaster occurs, so it is important to know how you will contact one another and reconnect if separated. Plan in advance to ensure all household members, including children and those with disabilities, know how to reach each other and where to meet during an emergency, as communication networks and electricity might be disrupted.

Visit the resources below to help you create an emergency plan for your family:

- <https://getagameplan.org>
- www.ready.gov/plan
- <https://bit.ly/familycommsplan>

Build an Emergency Supply Kit

Everyone should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive several days if an emergency occurs. Here are some recommended items to include in a basic emergency supply kit:

- Water (one gallon per person per day)
- Non-perishable food
- Can opener
- Battery-operated radio
- First aid kit
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Medication (three-day supply)
- Toiletries
- Copies of important documents
- Cash
- Full tanks of gas in your vehicles

This list serves as a foundational guide you can tailor to your family's specific needs, including those of pets.

Here's a pro tip: Maintain at least two emergency supply kits — a comprehensive one at home and a compact version for your workplace or vehicle.

ICYMI: LDH launches awareness campaign to protect youths from HPV

Did you know that human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the United States? The good news is the vaccination can help prevent it.

The Louisiana Department of Health Immunization Program has launched a new HPV awareness and education campaign, "Be Protected," to encourage parents and guardians to protect young people from HPV by ensuring they receive vaccinations and initiating conversations about prevention.

HPV is spread from person to person through sexual contact. It is most commonly spread during vaginal or anal sex, but it can also be spread through oral sex or close and intimate skin-to-skin touching.

While most cases clear up on their own, persistent HPV infections can lead to health issues like genital warts and HPV-related cancers. By raising awareness and promoting preventive measures, we can combat the spread of HPV and protect the future health of our community. There is no cure for HPV, and the best way to protect yourself and your child against HPV is through vaccination. [According to the CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/HPV/), HPV is so common that almost everyone who is sexually active will get HPV at some point if they are not vaccinated.

Visit ldh.la.gov/hpv for more information about how to protect our youth by equipping them with the knowledge and resources needed to prevent HPV-related illnesses.





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