



Question of the week

LDH launches awareness campaign to protect youths from HPV



Human papillomavirus (HPV), the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the United States, is a significant health concern. As we observe HPV Awareness Month in May, the Louisiana Department of Health Immunization Program is excited to introduce our new campaign, “Be Protected.” We encourage parents and guardians to protect our youth from HPV by ensuring they receive vaccinations and initiating conversations about prevention.

Together, let us prioritize the health and well-being of our youth by equipping them with the knowledge and resources needed to prevent HPV-related illnesses. 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.

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.

There is no cure for HPV, and the best way to protect yourself and your child against HPV is through vaccination. HPV is so common that almost everyone who is sexually active will get HPV at some point if they are not vaccinated.

Here are some tips to help our youth further reduce their risk of getting HPV :

- Abstain from sex
- Limit number of sexual partners
- Be in a mutually monogamous relationship where the partner does not have additional sexual partners
- Use condoms **correctly** (this adds protection, but condoms do not fully protect against HPV)
- Get routine cancer screenings

[Click here](#) for more information about HPV.

On Wednesday, April 24, CDC launched a new [webpage](#) dedicated to actively monitoring the current avian influenza HPAI A(H5N1) strain. This page provides insights into various indicators being assessed by CDC to monitor the spread of the virus among people in jurisdictions where HPAI A(H5N1) has been identified in humans or animals.

The information, which is readily available on other CDC sites but now consolidated on this page, includes:

- Jurisdictions reporting HPAI A(H5N1) virus infections in 2024,
- National and regional public health laboratory testing results and
- Percentages of specimens tested positive for influenza A viruses



Additionally, CDC has updated its [interim guidance](#) for worker protection and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce exposure to the virus. A list of the types of workers who should take proper precautions are:

- Poultry and livestock farmers and workers
- Backyard bird flock owners
- Veterinarians and veterinary staff
- Animal health responders
- Public health responders
- Slaughterhouse workers

This update includes expanded recommendations to define additional job tasks that may increase workers' risk of avian influenza A virus infection.

Additional defense authorized by the FDA to protect against COVID-19

To help prevent COVID-19 for moderately or severely immunocompromised people ages 12 and older and weighing at least 88 pounds, the FDA has authorized a monoclonal antibody. In addition to vaccination, Pempgarda may provide another layer of protection against COVID-19 and can be given at least two weeks after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

Healthcare providers administer Pempgarda as a single intravenous infusion over 60 minutes at a doctor's office or healthcare facility. Providers may give additional doses every three months if continued protection is needed.



Privately insured people or those with Medicare Part B may receive Pempgarda for free. Pempgarda will be payable through the mandatory COVID coverage until September 30, 2024.

Talk to your healthcare provider to see if it is right for you. Click [here](#) for the announcement from the CDC.

To find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you, search [vaccines.gov](#), text your ZIP code to 438829 or call 1-800-232-0233.

PENBRAYA™ (Meningococcal Groups A, B, C, W and Y Vaccine) available to order in LINKS beginning May 1

Product Details:

PENBRAYA™ Meningococcal pentavalent vaccine, conjugated Men A, C, W, Y-tetanus toxoid carrier, and Men B component, for intramuscular use.

NDC Code 00069-0600-05, CPT Code 90623

Package Description: Vial with MenACWY lyophilized component, Syringe (of MenB component), and vial adapter will consist of 5 kits.

Package Insert: <https://www.fda.gov/media/173223/download>

Childhood vaccination recommendations for PENBRAYA™:

Two doses of PENBRAYA™ are recommended for VFC-eligible patients 10-18 years of age. The minimum interval between doses is 6 months.

For inquiries regarding this notification, call the Immunization Program at **504-568-2600**.
Resources:

[Penbraya Quick Reference Guide PFIZER](#)
[Penbraya Managed Care Flashcard PFIZER](#)
[LDH Penbraya order announcement](#)



The CDC releases tools to help prepare for extreme heat

In partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS), CDC launched a new Heat and Health Initiative on Monday, April 22, to educate Americans about heat exposure.

Heat events are becoming more frequent and intense. More than two-thirds of all Americans were under heat alerts in 2023. A

[recent report from CDC](#) found that daily emergency department visits because of heat-related illness in 2023 peaked in several regions over the warm-season months and, in those



regions, remained exceedingly high for an extended duration.

The Heat and Health Initiative promotes proactive actions people can take to protect themselves: stay cool, stay hydrated and know the symptoms of heat-related illness. Heat can be especially dangerous for people with underlying health conditions.

Below are the tools developed by CDC and partners to beat the heat this summer:

- **Forecasting:** The [HeatRisk Forecast Tool](#), developed by both CDC and NOAA, provides a seven-day heat forecast nationwide that tells you when temperatures may reach levels that could harm your health.
- **Information:** The consumer-friendly [HeatRisk Dashboard](#) integrates the HeatRisk Forecast Tool data with other information, including details on local air quality, to inform the public on how best to protect themselves when outdoor temperatures are high and could impact their health.
- **Clinical Guidance:** Newly developed [CDC guidance](#) helps clinicians keep at-risk individuals safe when temperatures rise.



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Was IZ Newsletter Issue 145 informative?

Yes

No

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