

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 Update

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Question of the Week

How can homebound patients or their caregivers access information about COVID-19 vaccines?

Homebound patients (or their caregivers) who desire to receive in-home COVID-19 vaccination can contact the Louisiana Department of Health's vaccine hotline at 855-453-0774 or call 211. Learn more at ldh.la.gov/covidvaccine.

Additional helpful information may be available by:

- Calling [The Aging Network](#) at 1-800-677-1116
- Searching for services by ZIP code with the [Eldercare Locator](#)
- Contacting the [Disability Information and Access Line](#) (DIAL) at 1-888-677-1199
- Calling the hotline for Medicare recipients at 1-800-633-4227 (TTY 1-877-486-2048)



Getting critical information during the COVID-19 pandemic: experiences of Spanish and Chinese speakers with limited English proficiency

People with limited English proficiency in the United States have suffered disproportionate negative health outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic. A recent study looked at the experiences of several Spanish and Chinese communities with limited English proficiency as to how they received relevant information during COVID-19.

The findings:

- Spanish and Chinese speakers did not consistently receive information about protective behaviors from key public health and government institutions early in the pandemic.
- For obtaining information, Spanish and Chinese speakers used a diverse set of resources that included family and friends, social media and traditional media from both inside and outside the United States.
- Spanish and Chinese speakers faced challenges getting COVID-19 information, including receiving media messages that felt discriminatory toward Latin Americans or Chinese people.

To address these gaps to effectively reach Spanish and Chinese speakers, researchers noted:

- The need for bilingual materials for Spanish or Chinese speakers
- The need for digital news content for traditional and social media
- The need to address discriminatory messaging in media and to actively counter it in public health communications

See this [link](#) for the full study.

FDA approves COMIRNATY for certain youth populations

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has approved [COMIRNATY](#) (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) for active immunization to prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in individuals 12 through 15 years of age.

The Pfizer-BioNTech and COMIRNATY are the same vaccine and can be used interchangeably by a vaccination provider when prepared according to their respective instructions for use.

According to the FDA, “The approval follows a rigorous analysis and evaluation of the safety and effectiveness data conducted by FDA. The [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) has been, and will continue to be, authorized for emergency use in this age group since May 2021. COMIRNATY (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) has been approved for use in individuals 16 years of age and older since August 2021.



COVID-19 was third-leading cause of death in the U.S. in 2020 and 2021

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently published information indicating that [COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death in the United States](#) between March 2020 and October 2021. During the 20-month period studied, COVID-19 accounted for 1 in 8 deaths (or 350,000 deaths) in the United States.

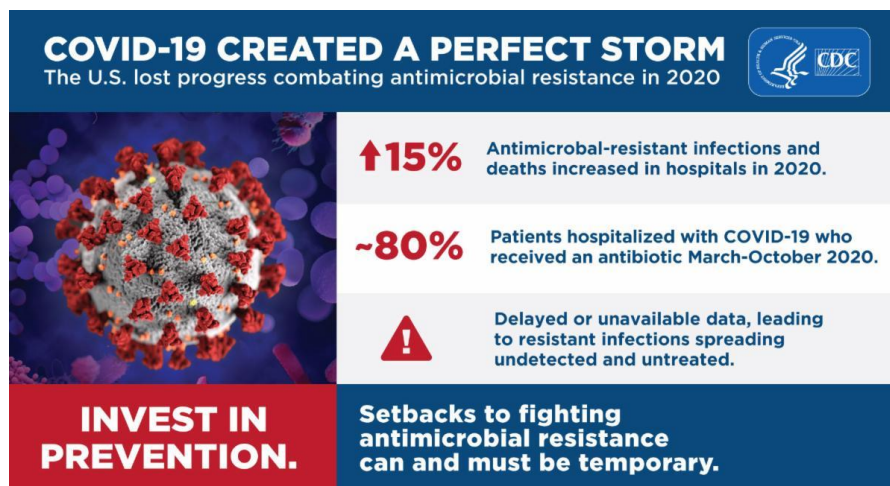
According to the report, heart disease was leading cause of death, followed by cancer, with these two causes of death accounting for a total of 1.29 million deaths. Accidents and stroke were the fourth and fifth leading causes of death.

In every age group 15 years and older, COVID-19 was one of the top five causes of death during this period. When the authors analyzed deaths in 2020 (March–December) and in 2021 (January–October) separately, they found:

- In 2020, COVID-19 was the fourth and fifth leading cause of death among people ages 45–54 and 35–44, respectively.
- But in 2021, COVID-19 became the first and second leading cause of death in these age groups.

- Among those 85 and older, COVID-19 was the second leading cause of death in 2020, but dropped to third in 2021, likely because of targeted vaccination efforts in this age group.

COVID-19 reverses progress in fight against antimicrobial resistance in U.S.



The U.S. experienced a setback in “years of progress made combatting antimicrobial resistance (AR)” as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic the CDC revealed in a new report, [COVID-19: U.S. Impact on Antimicrobial Resistance, Special Report 2022](#).

During the first year of the pandemic, more than 29,400 people died from antimicrobial-resistant infections commonly associated with healthcare. Of these, nearly 40% got the infection while they were in the hospital. Within this period, hospitals faced compounded challenges in staffing, securing personal protective equipment, and longer patient stays. In addition, “In U.S. hospitals, CDC data show significant surges in antibiotic use and difficulty in following infection prevention and control guidance, which are key to preventing antimicrobial-resistant infections and their spread.”

The following are among the key findings from the report:

- During the first year of the pandemic, both resistant hospital-onset infections and deaths increased at least 15%.
- Infections that originated during hospitalization grew an overall 15% from 2019–2022 among seven pathogens, including:
 - carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter* – 78% increase in infections,
 - multidrug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* – 32% increase in infections,
 - vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) – 14% increase in infections, and
 - methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) – 13% increase in infections
- Antifungal-resistant threats rose in 2020:
 - *Candida auris* increased 60% overall
 - *Candida* species (excluding *Candida auris*), experienced a 26% increase in infections in hospitals.

“This setback can and must be temporary. The COVID-19 pandemic has unmistakably shown us that antimicrobial resistance will not stop if we let down our guard; there is no time to waste,” said Michael Craig, MPP, Director of

CDC's Antibiotic Resistance Coordination & Strategy Unit. "The best way to avert a pandemic caused by an antimicrobial-resistant pathogen is to identify gaps and invest in prevention to keep our nation safe."

[Learn more.](#)

Attend today's virtual town hall meeting on children's vaccines

Louisiana Community Engagement Alliance (LA-CELA), in partnership with Louisiana Primary Care Association, will host a virtual town hall meeting regarding children and the COVID-19 vaccine today from 5pm to 6pm.

The event, **COVID-19 Conversations: Children and the Vaccine**, will feature infectious disease pediatricians, Dr. John Schieffelin (Tulane University) and Dr. John Vanchiere (LSU-Shreveport).

[Register here.](#)

Good Reads

- ['Immune-evading' BA.5 subvariant now accounts for 65% of U.S. COVID cases](#)
- [Uptick in Louisiana COVID cases as new variants blamed for 'wave within a wave'](#)
- [Undercounted Covid-19 cases leave US with a blind spot as BA.5 variant becomes dominant](#)
- [Biden Administration to Again Extend the Covid Public-Health Emergency](#)
- [A new COVID strain was discovered in Louisiana. Here's how LSU found the first 4 patients.](#)
- [Louisiana in sixth COVID-19 surge, state health officer says](#)
- [Louisiana Expands LA Wallet to Give Parents Access to Child's COVID-19 vax info](#)

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](#)

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