

# IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 Update

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## Question of the Week

**What resources are available to address mental health concerns during the pandemic?**

According to Mental Health America (MHA), national [data](#) indicates that the number of individuals who took a mental health screen increased by 500% during the pandemic years of 2019–2021. Additionally, MHA reported an increase in individuals experiencing anxiety, depression, psychosis, loneliness and other mental health concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has launched the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline — the new 3-digit number that replaces the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to make it easier for people to receive assistance during a mental health crisis or to request assistance for a loved one who may need immediate crisis support.



Individuals who call, text or chat 988, will be connected to trained, compassionate crisis counselors who will listen to their concerns, provide support and connect you with local resources. The chat feature will also be available through the [Lifeline's website](#). All calls are confidential. The service is being provided 24/7, free of charge.

“Mental health impacts everyone and we need to make sure those who need help have access to it. This important initiative will make it easier for more residents to access critical mental health services when they need it most. A year in the making, Louisiana stands ready to join the nation for this launch,” said LDH Secretary Dr. Courtney N. Phillips.

For questions, or additional information email [988@la.gov](mailto:988@la.gov) or visit the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) website.

## New COVID-19 Vaccine effectiveness data showcase protection gained by 3rd and 4th doses

Third and fourth doses of COVID-19 vaccine offered “substantial protection among adults with healthy immune systems who were eligible to receive them during Omicron variant evolution in early 2022,” according to a new study published in the CDC’s [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly](#).

The findings of this study, in conjunction with [recently published data](#) showing people infected with BA.2 may also have antibodies that can protect against illness with BA.5, suggest that currently available vaccines may provide protection against serious illness caused by the currently circulating BA.5 variant.

[Read the study and findings.](#)

## New data shows large decline in childhood vaccines

Approximately 25 million infants did not receive one or more doses of the three-dose DTP vaccine in 2021, according to World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF. DTP offers protection against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP).

The data points to a 5% decline in DTP vaccinations across countries, and is the “[largest sustained decline in childhood vaccinations in approximately 30 years.](#)” according to WHO and UNICEF.



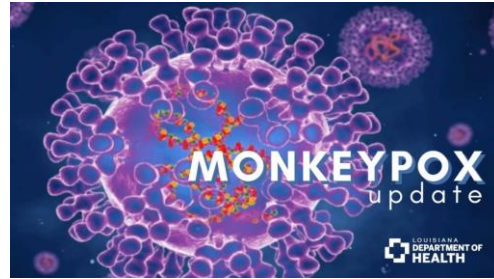
## CDC Study: Why COVID vaccines for children ages 5–11 remain low

A recent CDC study found that counties with the availability of at least one pediatric COVID-19 vaccine provider serving children aged 5–11 years had higher vaccination rates in this age group than counties with no active pediatric COVID-19 vaccine provider. Further, the study found that half of the counties included did not have an active pediatric clinic, family medicine clinic or federally qualified health center (FQHC) offering COVID-19 vaccinations to children aged 5–11 years. Lack of access to a pediatric COVID-19 vaccine provider could be a barrier to vaccination for 5–11-year-olds, as survey data continue to show that pediatricians are among the most trusted sources for information on COVID-19 vaccinations. See the report [here](#).

## LDH providing daily monkeypox updates

As of today, there are 16 known cases of monkeypox in Louisiana.

Monkeypox is a potentially serious viral illness that typically involves flu-like symptoms, swelling of the lymph nodes and a rash that includes bumps that are initially filled with fluid before scabbing over. Illness could be confused with a sexually transmitted infection like syphilis or herpes, or with chickenpox. Most infections last two to four weeks.



LDH is providing updates on detected monkeypox cases in Louisiana residents on its website: [ldh.la.gov/monkeypox](https://ldh.la.gov/monkeypox). The Department will update its monkeypox dashboard daily at noon, except for weekends and state holidays.

LDH is working closely with the CDC and the patients' healthcare providers to identify and notify individuals in Louisiana who may have been in contact with the patients while they were infectious. LDH has kept providers in Louisiana up to date, urged providers to be on the lookout for symptoms in patients, and shared specific monkeypox reporting and specimen submission guidance.

## COVID-19 Resources

- [Louisiana COVID-19 information](#)
- [COVID-19 Community Levels](#)
- [COVID Data Tracker](#)

## Good Reads

- [CDC stops monitoring COVID-19 cases on cruise ships](#)
- [When COVID strikes twice in less than 3 months](#)
- [Long COVID patients turn to 'blood washing' procedure](#)
- [CDC endorses more traditional Novavax COVID shot for adults](#)
- [New COVID-19 subvariant is now the dominant strain in Louisiana](#)

## 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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