

# IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 Update

July 27, 2022 | Issue 70



## Question of the Week

### Are UV lamps safe for disinfecting surfaces?

Last week, FDA [warned consumers](#) about the potential risk of injury associated with the use of “certain” brands of ultraviolet (UV) wands. These wands may expose the user or any nearby person to unsafe levels of ultraviolet-C (UV-C) radiation and may cause injury to the skin, eyes, or both after a few seconds of use.

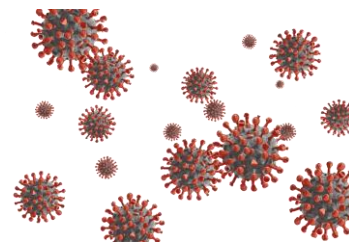
The FDA said some manufacturers are marketing unsafe UV wands to consumers to disinfect surfaces and kill germs in the home or similar spaces outside most health care settings. The FDA recommends that consumers do not use these products and consider using safer alternative methods.



## CDC and FDA authorize emergency use of Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, Adjuvanted

On July 19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) affirmed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, Adjuvanted. CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) said their recommendation offers the public another COVID-19 vaccination choice with no major safety or efficacy concerns.

The Novavax vaccine prevents severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in individuals 18 years and older.



Unlike the mRNA vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, the Novavax vaccine is a protein-based shot. Protein-based vaccines have been used for decades to combat diseases including hepatitis B and influenza.

The vaccine contains the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein and Matrix-M adjuvant. Adjuvants are incorporated into some vaccines to enhance the immune response of the vaccinated individual. The spike protein in this vaccine is produced in insect cells; the Matrix-M adjuvant contains saponin extracts from the bark of the Chilean soapbark tree.

### **Ordering the Novavax Vaccine**

The U.S. government has secured 3.2 million Novavax vaccine doses, and Louisiana now has more than 59,000 doses ready for distribution. Providers can make orders in LINKS using the normal ordering pages starting this week.

This new product can be ordered in as little as 10 doses and will come refrigerated with ancillary supplies from M&D or 100 doses for direct shipment from McKesson.

### **Safety and Effectiveness**

FDA has conducted analysis and evaluation regarding the Novavax vaccine's safety and effectiveness. The agency determined that the known and potential benefits of the vaccine outweigh its known and potential risks for those eligible to receive the vaccine.

- In clinical trials, the most reported side effects by this vaccine included pain/tenderness, redness and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, muscle pain, headache, joint pain, nausea/vomiting, and fever.
- [The Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine \(Vaccination Providers\)](#) includes a warning that clinical trial data provide evidence for increased risks of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of tissue surrounding the heart) following administration of Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted.
- [The Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#) informs that in most people who have had myocarditis or pericarditis after receiving the vaccine, symptoms began within 10 days following vaccination and that vaccine recipients should seek medical attention right away if they experience any of the following symptoms after vaccination: chest pain, shortness of breath, feelings of having a fast-beating, fluttering or pounding heart.

### **Reporting Adverse Events**

LDH reminds providers to report possible vaccine-related adverse events and vaccination administration errors to the FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html> or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

Any possible severe adverse events (those resulting in hospitalization, death, or persistent disability) should be immediately reported to the Office of Public Health (OPH) Infectious Disease/Epidemiology Hotline at 1-800-256-2748.

If you have vaccine-related questions, please contact [la.immunization@la.gov](mailto:la.immunization@la.gov).

Any member of the public with questions on COVID-19 testing, therapeutics, vaccines or other related issues can call the Louisiana COVID Community Hotline at 1-855-453-0774.

### **Related Information**

- [Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccines Explained](#)
- [Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccines to Prevent COVID-19; Guidance for Industry](#)
- [Development and Licensure of Vaccines to Prevent COVID-19; Guidance for Industry](#)

### **Additional Resources**

- [Updated Interim Clinical Considerations](#)
- [Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine Overview and Safety](#)
- [Understanding Protein Subunit COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Stay Up to Date with Your COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

- [COVID-19 Vaccines for People who are Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised](#)
- [Updated CDC COVID-19 booster tool](#)

## View the most recent planning guide for the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine

The **CDC Novavax COVID-19 Vaccination Operational Planning Guide** is now available on the CDC website: [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Operational Guidance](#). The guide offers background information, a projected launch plan, considerations for jurisdictions, and a readiness checklist.

## Louisiana Department of Health, Where Y'Art Works host creative COVID-19 vaccine event showcasing Louisiana artists this week

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and [Where Y'Art Works](#) will host a COVID-19 vaccine event on Friday, July 29, showcasing artwork from Louisiana artists illustrating what it means to "Bring Back Louisiana" from the pandemic. The fun-filled event will take place from 4 to 8 p.m. at the [Where Y'Art Works](#) gallery located at 1901 Royal St. in New Orleans.

Xavier University and Ochsner Health will be administering COVID-19 vaccinations, conducting BMI and blood pressure screenings, and distributing information on nutrition and cancer awareness. COVID-19 vaccines and boosters will be available to everyone ages 12 and up.

Through a partnership with local art gallery and curator [Where Y'Art Works](#) and arts councils around the state, the Bring Back Louisiana campaign worked with local artists from each of Louisiana's nine public health regions to illustrate what it means to "Bring Back Louisiana" from the pandemic in their respective regions.

During the vaccination event, guests will have the opportunity to not only ensure they are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations, but also meet the artists and learn about what inspired them to create their unique works.

Artists who created original works for this initiative include: [Jessica Strahan](#) (New Orleans), [Antoine Mitchell](#) (Baton Rouge); [Mike Slage](#) (Houma); [Vergie Banks](#) (Lafayette); [Morgan Allain](#) (Lake Charles); [Leah Morace](#) (Alexandria); [Connie Stephens-Eaton](#) (Shreveport); [Vitus Shell](#) (Monroe) and [Adam Sambola](#) (Slidell).

View the full Bring Back Louisiana collection [here](#).

*Artwork: Leah Morace, Alexandria, Region 6, Bring Back Louisiana*



## Study explores the effectiveness of additional COVID-vaccine doses among

## immunocompetent during the periods of Omicron sublineages

A new study in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report found that vaccine effectiveness was lower during the Omicron variant's BA.2/BA.2.12.2 period than during the BA.1 period. Additionally, a third vaccine dose offered additional protection against moderate and severe COVID-19-associated illnesses in all age groups. A fourth dose provided additional protection in eligible adults aged 50 and older.

The researchers recommend that immunocompetent individuals receive the recommended COVID-19 booster doses to prevent moderate to severe COVID-19, including a first booster dose for all eligible recipients and a second dose for individuals ages 50 and older at least four months after receiving the initial booster.

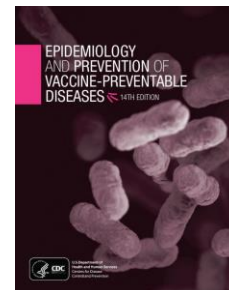
[Read the full study and findings.](#)

## 2022 Pink Book web-on-demand series: General Best Practices, Part 2, and Vaccine Safety now live

**The Pink Book web-on-demand series** update on general best practices and vaccine safety is [now live](#). Patricia Wodi, MD, Medical Officer, Communications and Education Branch (CEB), Immunization Services Division (ISD), National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) will provide an update on vaccination general best practices and vaccine safety. Suzanne Johnson-DeLeon will moderate this session.

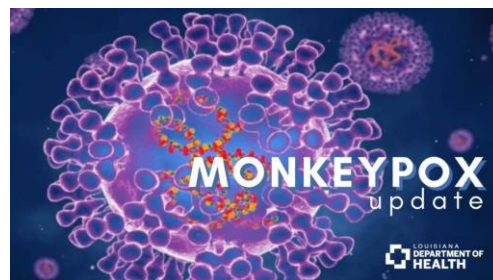
There is no registration process to view this presentation. Questions about the material presented can be submitted to [nipinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:nipinfo@cdc.gov).

A new video will be released every Tuesday through November 1, 2022. Please visit the [Pink Book Series](#) webpage for the 2022 release schedule and additional information. Continuing education will be available for this event



## Provider info for obtaining and using TPOXX to treat monkeypox

The CDC, in partnership with FDA, has streamlined the process for healthcare providers to begin providing tecovirimat (TPOXX) to treat patients with monkeypox. The existing protocols allow healthcare providers to start treatment before paperwork is submitted. It also reduces the number of required forms, photos, and patient samples, and allows patients to participate in virtual visits with physicians.



- TPOXX is available through the Strategic National Stockpile. Contact LDH or CDC (Emergency Operations Center 770-488-7100; [poxvirus@cdc.gov](mailto:poxvirus@cdc.gov))
- Treatment with TPOXX can begin upon receipt of the medication and after obtaining informed consent. No pre-registration is required for clinicians or facilities.
- Forms requested under the EA-IND can all be returned to CDC **after** treatment begins.
- For Louisiana monkeypox updates, vaccine resources, and additional information, visit [ldh.la.gov/monkeypox](http://ldh.la.gov/monkeypox).

[Learn more.](#)

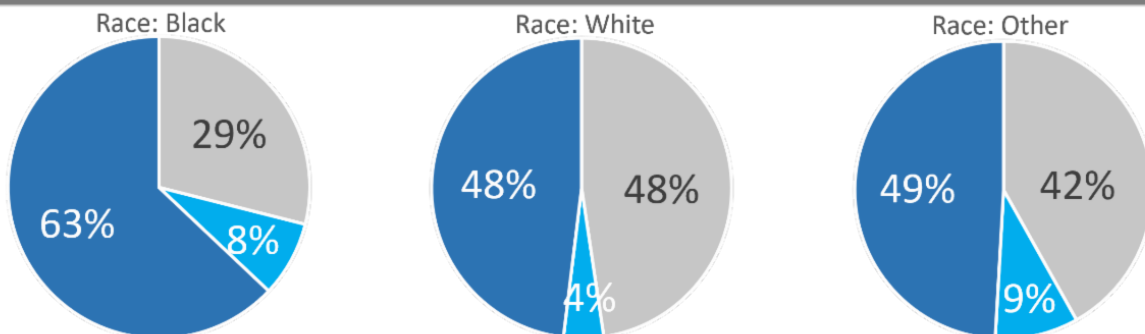
## COVID-19 device updates

- The FDA has updated the device shortage list and the device discontinuance list as it relates to COVID-19. For more information, view [Medical Device Shortages During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#).
- The FDA updated its [Supplies of Medical Devices for COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions](#) web page to provide information about how the FDA determines to remove product codes from the device shortage list and what the FDA is doing to help medical device manufacturers with the global shortage of semiconductor chips.

## COVID-19 demographics

*As of July 26, 2022*

### Vaccination Status by Race



## COVID-19 resources

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

- [COVID Data Tracker](#)
- [V-Safe After Vaccination Health Checker](#)

## Good reads

- [California man infected with COVID-19 and monkeypox](#)
- [Biden's physician says his COVID-19 symptoms have "almost completely resolved"](#)
- [TSA, American Airlines hit by COVID outbreaks at LAX - CBS Los Angeles](#)
- [Omicron variants fuel Louisiana's longest COVID surge, but fewer severe cases seen](#)
- [Louisiana in middle of 6th COVID surge – maybe 7th](#)

### 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**

Office of Public Health | Immunization Team | [La.Immuization@la.gov](mailto:La.Immuization@la.gov)

Office of Public Health | Immunization Team | 1450 Poydras Street, Suite 1938, New Orleans,  
LA 70112

[Unsubscribe robert.johannessen@la.gov](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [la.immunization@la.gov](mailto:la.immunization@la.gov)