

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 UPDATE

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What are the COVID-19 recommendations for booster dose and additional doses?

It's important to recognize that the CDC has established separate booster and additional dosage guidelines for people who are immunocompromised that are different for people who are not immunocompromised. Becoming familiar with these recommendations can help you stay up to date on your vaccination status and options.

Non-immunocompromised individuals can receive a booster shot after the completion of an initial vaccination series, which is defined as two shots of Pfizer or Moderna, or one shot of Johnson & Johnson (J&J). The booster shot should be given no less than five months after completing the initial series of Pfizer or Moderna, or two months after receiving J&J.

Eligible individuals who are **moderately to severely immunocompromised** and have completed the primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines are eligible to receive a third dose of the vaccine 28 days later. These recommendations apply to individuals 5 years and older who completed the Pfizer series and adults 18 years and older who completed the Moderna series. Immunocompromised individuals 12 years and older can receive an additional fourth dose five months after completing the primary, three-dose series.

Moderately or severely immunocompromised people ages 18 years and older who received a single dose J&J COVID-19 vaccine primary series should receive a single COVID-19 vaccine booster dose two or more months after the first dose, preferably with an mRNA vaccine instead of the J&J vaccine.

For more information about third and fourth doses, see this Health Alert Network [message](#).

COMPLETED
VACCINE SERIES
IN LOUISIANA

2,377,122*

*4,896,265 total doses
administered in Louisiana

FREE AT-HOME
COVID-19 TESTS
NOW AVAILABLE

Every U.S. household is eligible to receive one free at-home COVID-19 self-test kit.
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ISOLATION AND
QUARANTINE
UPDATES FOR
HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS

The CDC provided important isolation and quarantine updates for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and for those who are immunocompromised.
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WEEKLY COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

Free at-home COVID-19 tests now available

COVID-19 self-tests are now more accessible to the public. Effective last week, every U.S. household is eligible to receive one free at-home COVID-19 self-test kit. These easy-to-use kits include four at-home COVID-19 rapid antigen tests, which generate results within 30 minutes (no lab drop-off required). Self-tests can be taken regardless of vaccination status or the presence or absence of symptoms.

COVID-19 self-tests (or over-the-counter tests) along with vaccination, masking, boosters (for eligible recipients) and physical distance play important roles in helping reduce the spread of COVID-19

Kits will be shipped free of charge beginning this month.

Visit [here](#) to order a free COVID-19 self-testing kit.

Study finds vaccination did not impact fertility for males or females

To address questions about possible side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines, a recent study looked at the particular concern regarding the potential effects of vaccination on fertility.

The study was conducted between December 2020 and September 2021, and included 2,126 females residing in the U.S. or Canada, as well as their male partners. Both were asked to complete a survey every eight weeks until they became pregnant, or up to 12 months if they didn't.

The survey included questions about lifestyle and medical factors, including vaccination status and previous COVID-19 infections. Chances of conception among vaccinated vs. unvaccinated people and those with a previous COVID infection vs. no infection were assessed. These are the results:

- **Vaccination:** The results showed vaccination did not impact fertility for males or females.
- **COVID-19 Infection in Females:** There was not an impact on fertility or conception for females who contracted COVID-19.
- **COVID-19 Infection in Males:** For males, getting the virus may be associated with a short-term decline in fertility, however the COVID-19 vaccination does not impair a male's fertility.

The full study can be found [here](#).

CDC addresses vaccine equity among children

The CDC has created two online tools geared towards addressing vaccine disparities and barriers among children. The first resource, [Equity in Childhood COVID-19 Vaccination](#), covers the CDC's work in addressing vaccination equity among children, discusses what communities can do to improve equity in childhood vaccination, and highlights successful health vaccine equity initiatives focused on children.

The second resource, [Barriers to Equity in Childhood COVID-19 Vaccination](#), identifies priority groups of children who face vaccination barriers and historical disparities, and shares lessons learned about vaccination barriers from schools and families.

USING YOUR SELF-TEST | COVID-19 |

- 1** Follow instructions very carefully.

- 2** Use the QR code below for more information about self-testing and how-to videos.

- 3** If your results are positive
Isolate yourself from others. As much as possible, stay in a specific room and away from other people and pets in your home.
Tell your close contacts that they may have been exposed to COVID-19.

- 4** Call your health care provider with any questions, including if you have worsening COVID-19 symptoms.


 

www.cdc.gov/covidtesting

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Isolation and quarantine updates for healthcare professionals

CDC provided important isolation and quarantine updates on January 14. The changes provide new isolation recommendations for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and add new isolation recommendations for individuals who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and are infected with COVID-19.

- **Children and adults with mild symptoms:** Isolate for 5 days after the onset of symptoms and after fever ends for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are improving. Wear a well-fitted mask around others for 5 or more days after the isolation period. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms.
- **People who are infected but asymptomatic:** Isolation can end at least 5 days after the first positive test (Day 0 is the date of specimen collection for the positive test). If possible, these individuals should continue to wear a well-fitted mask around others for 5 more days after the 5-day isolation period. However, if symptoms develop after a positive test, their 5-day isolation period should start over (Day 0 changes to the first day of symptoms).
- **People who have moderate COVID-19 illness:** Isolate for 10 days.
- **People who are severely ill (i.e., requiring hospitalization, intensive care, or ventilation support):** Extended isolation period and precautions of at least 10 days and up to 20 days after symptom onset, and after fever ends (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are improving, may be warranted.
- **People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised might have a longer infectious period:** Extended isolation period of 20 or more days (Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or a positive viral test). Use a test-based strategy and consult with an infectious disease specialist to determine the appropriate duration of isolation and precautions.
- **Recovered patients:** Patients who have recovered from COVID-19 can continue to have detectable SARS-CoV-2 RNA in upper respiratory specimens for up to three months after illness onset. However, replication-competent virus has not been reliably recovered from such patients, and they are not likely infectious.

LOUISIANA COVID-19 VACCINE DEMOGRAPHICS

SERIES COMPLETED BY RACE:

- **White:** 58.34%
- **Black:** 31.46%
- **American Indian:** 0.41%
- **Asian:** 2.8%
- **Native Hawaiian:** 0.19%
- **Unknown:** 1.14%
- **Other:** 5.61%

SERIES COMPLETED BY AGE:

- **5-17:** 6.9%
- **18-29:** 13.2%
- **30-39:** 13.44%
- **40-49:** 13.78%
- **50-59:** 16.32%
- **60-69:** 18.2%
- **70+:** 18.2%

SERIES COMPLETED BY GENDER:

- **Female:** 54.07%
- **Male:** 45.69%
- **Unknown:** 0.25%

All breakdowns shown here are for Louisiana residents only. Race data completeness is expected to improve as we continue our outreach with vaccine providers.

Good Reads

Free N95 masks are arriving at pharmacies and community health centers. – This article discusses distribution sites for free N95 masks in Louisiana.

Read more at [WDSU.com](https://www.wdsu.com).

Don't be ashamed of getting COVID. – This article provides ways to overcome difficult emotions that can accompany COVID-19 diagnosis.

Read more at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com).

How to reuse respirator masks. – This article offers tips for reusing N95, KN95, and other disposable masks.

Read more at [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com).