



# COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Considerations for Louisiana Pharmacies

Informational Webinar

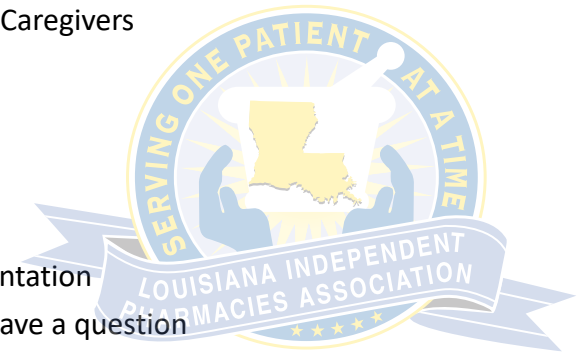
January 3, 2021

# Topics for Today's Meeting

- Welcome and Introduction
- Process Used to Select Pharmacies for Initial Rollout
- Update on Process for Enrolling Providers and Status of Pending Enrollment of Pharmacies (OPH)
- Discussion of LDH Immunization Team Discussion of Guidance Documents
  - [Pharmacy COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) (1.1.21)
  - [Avoiding Vaccine Loss](#) (12.31.20)
- Contents of LDH Webpage [COVID-19 Vaccination Information or Healthcare Providers](#)
- COVID Vaccine Operational Considerations for Pharmacies
  - Safe Vaccine Administration During COVID Pandemic
  - Moderna Vaccine Specifics
  - Providing the Required EAU Fact Sheet to Recipients & Caregivers
  - Vaccine Record Card
- Available Technical Assistance

## Q&A

- You can use **Chat** feature to ask questions during presentation
- At conclusion, you can use **Raise Hand** feature if you have a question



# COVID-19

Louisiana.gov > LDH > Louisiana Coronavirus COVID

## COVID-19 Vaccination Information

The Louisiana Department of Health is coordinating the COVID-19 vaccine distribution effort in Louisiana. As more vaccines become available from the CDC, more individuals and groups will be offered a vaccination.

**Limited amounts of COVID vaccines will be available beginning January 4, 2021 at some local pharmacies**

Starting the week of January 4, Louisiana will receive the first very limited doses of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine that will be available at approximately 100 pharmacies across the state.

These vaccines will be available only for people 70 years old and above and ambulatory/outpatient care personnel.

Patients must call and make an appointment at the pharmacy. Patients who arrive without an appointment will not be vaccinated.

**Information on  
LDH Website Now**

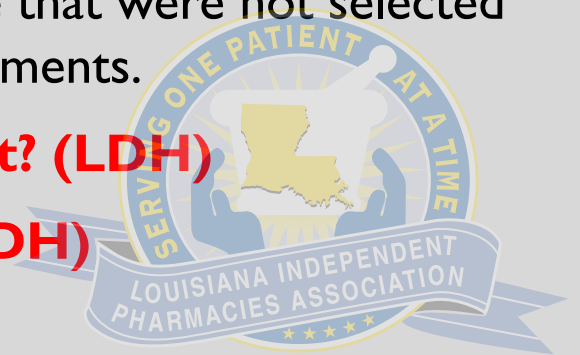


**Provider Information**

**Vaccine Playbook**

# Process for Selecting Pharmacies to Receive Vaccine in Initial Rollout

- Pharmacies were selected **randomly** from those enrolled in the LINKS system as “Ready to Receive” COVID-19 vaccine
- Equity between independent and chain pharmacies
- Based on distribution of population with effort to include pharmacy in every parish
- Input from LDH Regional Medical Directors informed final decisions
- Pharmacies registered in LINKS as “Ready to Receive” COVID vaccine that were not selected for Week 1 can expect vaccine when Louisiana receives additional shipments.
- **Looking Ahead to Next Week—What Can Pharmacies Expect? (LDH)**
- **Pharmacies Waiting to Be Added to Ready to Receive List (LDH)**



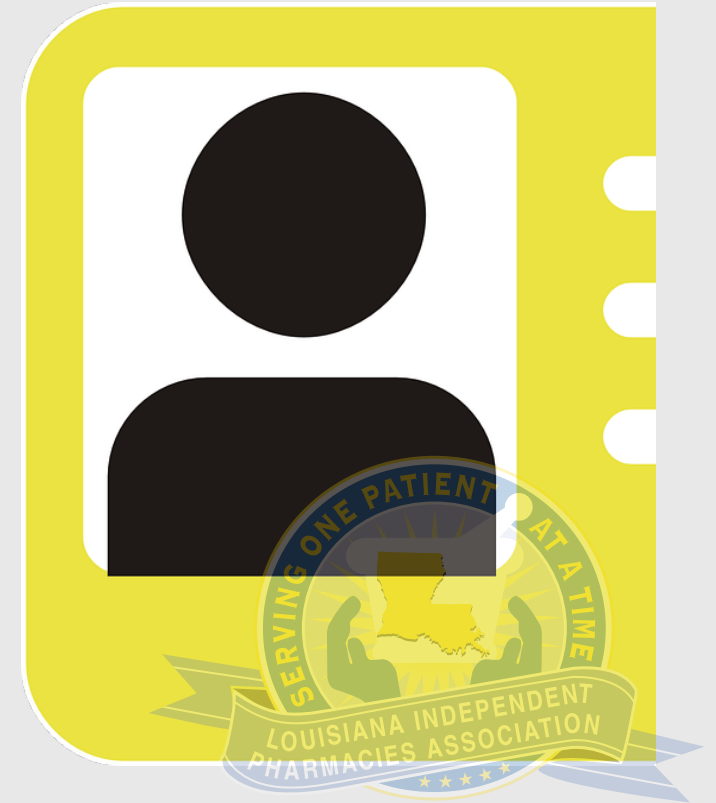
# Important Requirements for Administering COVID Vaccine in Community Pharmacies

- Vaccines should be given by appointment only—**no walk-ins**
- **No lines should be allowed to form**
- A waiting list should be kept for those who are awaiting vaccine
- Perform reasonable due diligence to ensure those being vaccinated fit into the current priority groups
- Customer service expectations
  - Pharmacies receiving vaccine must be prepared to--
    - Handle higher than normal volume of incoming phone calls (LDH will publicize name and phone number of pharmacies getting vaccine beginning January 4<sup>th</sup> )
    - Counsel callers, and
    - Schedule appointments appropriately
- All vaccines must be entered in LINK in 24 hours
- Receiving entities take full responsibility for tracking incoming vaccine shipments and properly receiving the delivery.



# Who is Eligible to Get COVID Vaccine at a Community Pharmacy Now?

- Eligibility
  - People age 70 and older
  - Ambulatory/outpatient health workers
- Verification of Eligibility Required
  - Patient must provide **ID showing proof of age**
  - Healthcare workers must present a **valid ID badge showing employment at an ambulatory/outpatient health clinic/center**
- Immigration status is **not** an eligibility factor



# LDH's Vaccine Storage and Management Expectations

## Vaccine Storage

- Receiving entities take full responsibility to--
  - Store vaccine appropriately
  - Ensure adequate security, and
  - Ensure all available doses are used and not wasted

## Vaccine Management

- Receiving entities take full responsibility for—
  - Tracking incoming vaccine shipments, and
  - Properly receiving the delivery





# Second Dose Considerations

- Don't save any vaccine for second doses
- Pharmacies will receive a subsequent allotment of vaccine for second doses
- The expectation is individuals will receive their second vaccine dose at the same facility as their first dose
- Pharmacies and other vaccinators bare responsibility for scheduling arrangements to ensure individuals receive appropriate appointments for their second dose
- Pharmacies and other vaccinators should have protocols in place to contact individuals whom they have administer a first dose to remind them of their second dose appointment and encourage compliance







## Schedule Appointment for Second Vaccine Before Patient Leaves

- Moderna—28 days
- *Pfizer*—21 days
- Set up outbound reminder calls or texts if you have them



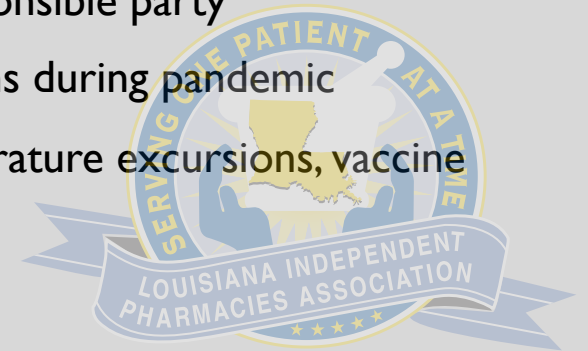
# Louisiana Guidance on Avoiding COVID Vaccine Loss

- Process for avoiding wastage of COVID-19 vaccine doses allocated by the State of Louisiana
- Guidance addresses vaccine product set to expire 1) within 48 hours and 2) within 6 hours
- For COVID-19 Vaccine Product set to expire within 6 hours identify and administer vaccine to persons that are eligible in following sequence:
  - Persons that are eligible in Phase 1a
  - Outpatient health personnel and health-related support personnel in the community;
  - Persons aged 70 years and older;
  - Other persons not identified above.
- Persons that receive a first dose of the vaccine should qualify for the second dose at the same location



# Recap of Key CDC COVID Vaccine Provider Agreement Requirements

- Record vaccine recipient's record in LINKS and report required information within 24 hours of administering the vaccine
- Do not sell or seek reimbursement for vaccine and supplies provided by federal government at no cost
- Administer vaccine regardless of recipient's ability to pay (you can get reimbursement from CARES Provider Relief Fund for uninsured individuals)
- No balance billing the recipient
- Before administering vaccine, **provide Fact Sheet** to recipient, caregiver or responsible party
- Conduct vaccination activities in compliance with CDC guidance for immunizations during pandemic
- Comply with CDC requirements for vaccine management (proper storage, temperature excursions, vaccine expiration dates, maintain records for three years)
- Report adverse events to VAERS either by phone or online



[CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement \(lalinks.org\)](https://www.lalinks.org/)

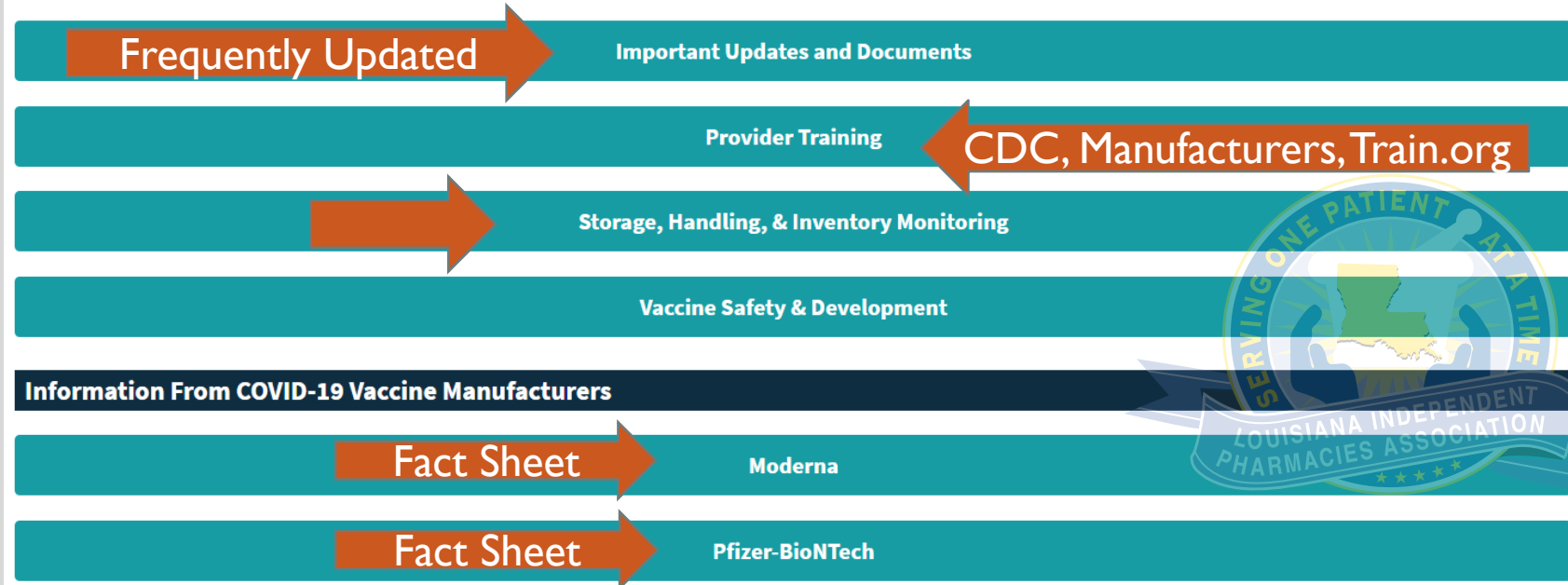
## COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Healthcare Providers

Healthcare Providers will play a crucial role in the COVID-19 vaccination response in Louisiana. This page includes information on healthcare provider updates from the Immunization Program on vaccine storage and handling, and vaccine safety.

**LDH COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Toolkit:** The toolkit includes guides, posters, labels, stickers, logs, slides, and more to assist you while storing, handling, and administering the COVID-19 vaccine.

- [Additional Information \(Moderna\)](#)
- [Additional Information \(Pfizer\)](#)

**Post-Vaccination Guidance for LTCF and Healthcare Providers:** This guidance offers recommendations for individuals who develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and/or an adverse vaccine reaction to minimize unnecessary exclusion and isolation of residents and healthcare personnel (HCP).



Resources  
on  
LDH  
Webpage

# Safe Vaccine Administration During the Pandemic: Infection Prevention & Control

- Wear medical facemask at all times
- Conduct recommended hand hygiene and cleaning of environment between all patient appointments
- Use eye protection based on level of community transmission:
  - Moderate to substantial: healthcare providers should wear eye protection
  - Minimal to none: eye protection considered optional (unless advised otherwise)
- Gloves should be changed with each patient in addition to performing hand hygiene.
- *Administration of vaccine is not considered an aerosol-generating procedure—N95 or higher respirator not required.*



[https://lalinks.org/linkswb/docs/Safe\\_Vaccine\\_Administration\\_during\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://lalinks.org/linkswb/docs/Safe_Vaccine_Administration_during_COVID-19.pdf)

# Minimize COVID Exposure Among Patients Coming to Pharmacy to Get COVID Vaccine

- Screen patients for COVID-19 symptoms and contact with COVID-19 before (if scheduling appt by phone) and after arrival
- Isolate any symptomatic patients as soon as possible
- Ensure physical-distancing measures, with separation of at least 6 feet
- Utilize electronic communications as much as possible ( e.g. getting information for needed paperwork in advance) to minimize time in the office as well as reuse of materials (e.g. clipboards, pens)

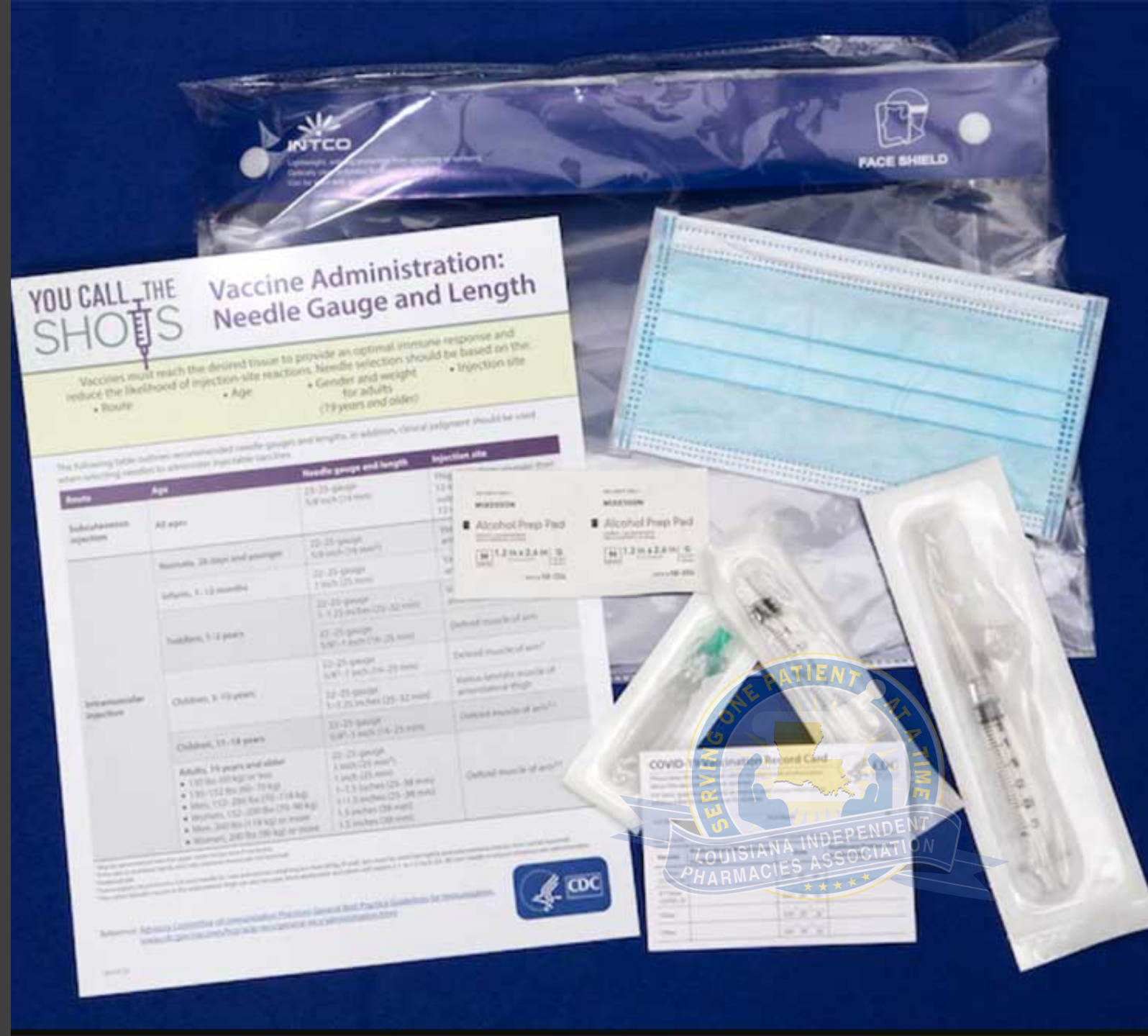


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# CONTENTS OF MODERNA ANCILLARY KIT

Alcohol prep pads  
Surgical masks and face  
shields for vaccinators  
Needles  
Syringes  
Needle Gauge and Length  
Chart  
Vaccination record cards





# Don't Shake Moderna Vaccine

- Discard the vaccine if it is inadvertently shaken
- . mRNA vaccine is very fragile and should not be shaken
- Vials should only be gently swirled



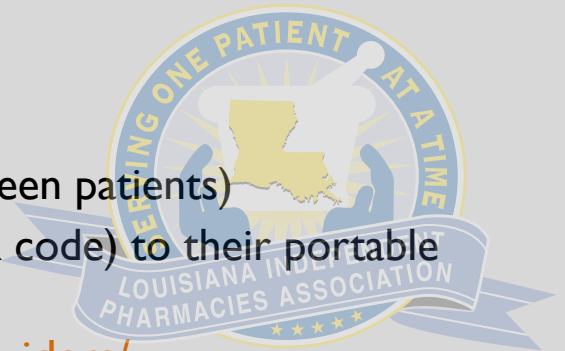
# Scenarios Vaccinators Could See (and What They Should Do)

- Patient has had flu shot within past 14 days
  - FDA recommends 14-day interval between flu vaccine and COVID vaccine
- Patient has previously tested positive for COVID-19
  - COVID-19 vaccination should be offered regardless of whether patient already had COVID-19 infection
  - Not appropriate to require antibody test before they are vaccinated.
  - Anyone currently infected with COVID-19 should wait to get vaccinated until after their illness has resolved and after they have met the [criteria](#) to discontinue isolation.
  - Current evidence suggests that COVID reinfection is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection. People with a recent infection may delay vaccination until the end of that 90-day period if desired.



# Providing Required Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers

- **Different** Fact Sheet for each) Moderna's is 5 pages; Pfizer's is 6 pages;
- Fact Sheets are developed by manufacturer, approved by FDA, **subject to change**
- Find latest version of **Moderna** vaccine Fact Sheet [here](#) . Click on pink button “ Download EAU Fact Sheet for Vaccine Recipients & Caregivers”
- Find latest version **Pfizer** vaccine Fact Sheet [here](#). Click on “Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers”
- Information must be provided **prior** to vaccine to help make informed decision
- **Not** required to give patients a **paper copy** of Fact Sheet to keep
- Alternative ideas for providing the required Fact Sheet:
  - Print and post the pages on wall so that patients can read them
  - Print limited number and place in sheet protector or laminate (wipe down between patients)
  - Assist patient in downloading electronic copy (Fact Sheet includes scannable QR code) to their portable device



[Home](#) | [CVDvaccine-US.com \(cvdvaccine-us.com\)](#) | [modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/providers/](#)

# CDC's Recommended Observation Period After Administration of mRNA Vaccine

- **Persons with a History of Anaphylaxis**
  - (due to any cause)



**All Other Persons**



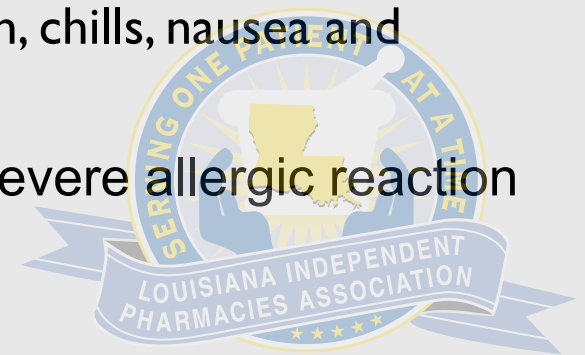
# COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card

- Complete and give record card to patient
  - Last Name, First Name, MI, Date of Birth, Patient, Medical IIS record #
  - Date of Birth
  - Product Name, Manufacturer, and Lot Number of Vaccine
  - Date Administered MM/DD/YY
  - Name of Pharmacy Administering Vaccine
- Tell patient to keep the card and bring it with them when they return for second dose



# Reported Side Effects in Moderna Trial

- More people experienced side effects after second dose than after first dose.
- Expect after either dose, but even more so after second dose.
- Typically lasted several days
- **Injection site reactions:** pain, tenderness and swelling of the lymph nodes in the same arm of the injection, swelling (hardness), and redness
- **General side effects:** fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills, nausea and vomiting, and fever
- **Remote chance:** severe allergic reaction



# Report Adverse Reactions to COVID Vaccine

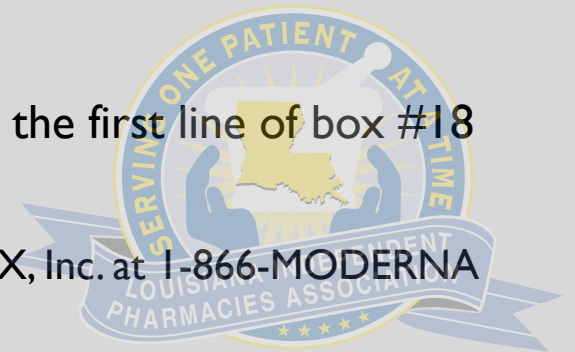
- **Louisiana Office of Public Health**

- Immediately (24/7) report severe COVID-19 vaccine reactions **requiring hospitalization** to the Office of Public Health (OPH) at **1-800-256-2748**.
- For more information, view the [Health Alert Networks Message 20-52: COVID-19 Vaccination Severe/Allergic Reaction Reporting](#).

- **Federal VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System)**

- Report vaccine side effects to FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). The VAERS toll-free number is 1-800-822-7967 or report online to <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.
- For Moderna vaccine, please include “Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine EUA” in the first line of box #18 of the report form.

- **Manufacturer (Moderna)** In addition, you can report side effects to ModernaTX, Inc. at 1-866-MODERNA (1-866-663- 3762)





# LDH COVID Vaccine Technical Assistance

- LINKS Systems Issues (e.g. entering vaccine information or inventory), contact LINKS Help Desk 1-844-216-4410
- Email immunization-related questions to [la.immunization@la.gov](mailto:la.immunization@la.gov)  
Email provider enrollment questions to [la.LINKS@la.gov](mailto:la.LINKS@la.gov)
- Requests for corrections to pharmacy information on LDH website (LDH)
- Tips and/or “lessons learned” by LDH from early vaccinators



# Examples of LIPA Support to LDH for Vaccine Rollout to Community Pharmacies

- Dissemination of information through LIPA's communication resources (-e-mail, newsletter, fax blasts)
- Responding to pharmacy inquiries regarding COVID vaccine provider enrollment LDH status as "Ready to Receive" (e-mail [kennedy@ssgla.com](mailto:kennedy@ssgla.com))
- Identification of seniors living in congregate settings not receiving vaccine through Walgreens/CVS federal partnership and coordination onsite vaccine by pharmacy in community
- Providing LDH with pharmacies' preferred phone number to schedule COVID vaccine appointment (for listing on LDH website)
- Providing feedback to LDH on LINKS and other operational issues
- Liaison to Immunization Program leadership





## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

You can use **Raise Hand** feature if you want to ask a question

