



# COVID-19 Vaccines

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

As the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to more people, the Office of Group Benefits wants you to have all the available information on where to get the vaccine and how it will be covered.

For active employees, their covered dependents and non-Medicare retirees, the vaccine will be covered no different than the flu shot. If you go to a pharmacy to receive the vaccine, there will be no out-of-pocket cost to you. If you go to your primary care physician to receive the vaccine (when it is available to physicians' offices), you may be required to pay your normal visit copay/coinsurance if you receive the vaccine in addition to other services.

For retirees with Medicare, the COVID vaccine will be covered under regular Medicare at no cost to you.

For more information about what your specific health plan covers, please click the appropriate link below:

- [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana](#)
- [Blue Advantage](#)
- [Humana](#)
- [Peoples Health](#)
- [Vantage Health Plan - MHHP](#)
- [Vantage Health Plan - Medicare Advantage](#)

OGB encourages members to get the vaccine when it is made available to them. Until then, continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC and the Louisiana Department of Health.

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. You can learn more about the State's roll-out plan for the COVID-19 vaccine at [ldh.la.gov/COVID-vaccine/](https://ldh.la.gov/COVID-vaccine/)

Currently, Louisiana is in phase 1B, Tier 1 of the state's vaccine plan. Vaccines are only available for:

- Persons ages 70 years or older in the community,
- Outpatient clinic providers and clinic staff,
- Urgent care clinic providers and staff,
- Community care clinic providers and staff,
- Behavioral health providers and staff,
- Dialysis providers and staff,
- Home health service providers and recipients,
- Dental providers and staff, and
- Students, residents, faculty and staff of allied health schools (if not already receiving the vaccine or in a plan to receive from their respective schools.

Click [HERE](#) for Vaccine Locations\*

*\*Patients must contact a participating location and make an appointment at the location. Do not arrive at a location without an appointment.*



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## HOW IT WORKS



COVID-19 VACCINE

## HOW IT WORKS

LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### 1) INSTRUCTION MANUAL

The COVID-19 vaccine does not contain a dead or weakened virus, but a genetic instruction manual that tells your immune system how to respond and protect you from exposure to the actual virus.

### 2) MESSENGER RNA

The technology used in the vaccines is not new. Called mRNA, or messenger RNA, it has been around for decades. This is the first time mRNA has been used in a vaccine, but the effect is the same as other vaccines.

### 3) EFFECTIVE PROTECTION

Your body gets protection without the serious consequences of a severe illness due to COVID-19 exposure. The Pfizer vaccine is taken in two doses, and is safe and more than 90% effective in preventing COVID-19.

## STOP THE SPREAD

Remember, we all can help stop the spread by following these few simple tips:

- Wear a mask to protect yourself and others. The mask should be worn over your nose and mouth.
- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from others who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds. The more people you are in contact with, the more likely you are to be exposed to COVID-19.
- If you are sick, stay home. Isolate yourself from other members of your family to prevent spread to them and the people they may have contact with.
- Get tested! If you have symptoms, call your health care provider about getting tested.

### What Symptoms to Watch For

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- Fever
- Cough
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Lost of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Other symptoms are signs of serious illness. If someone has trouble breathing, chest pain or pressure, or difficulty staying awake, get medical care immediately.