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Louisiana Higher Education COVID-19 Webinar with Louisiana Department of Health



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Tuesday, August 17, 2021

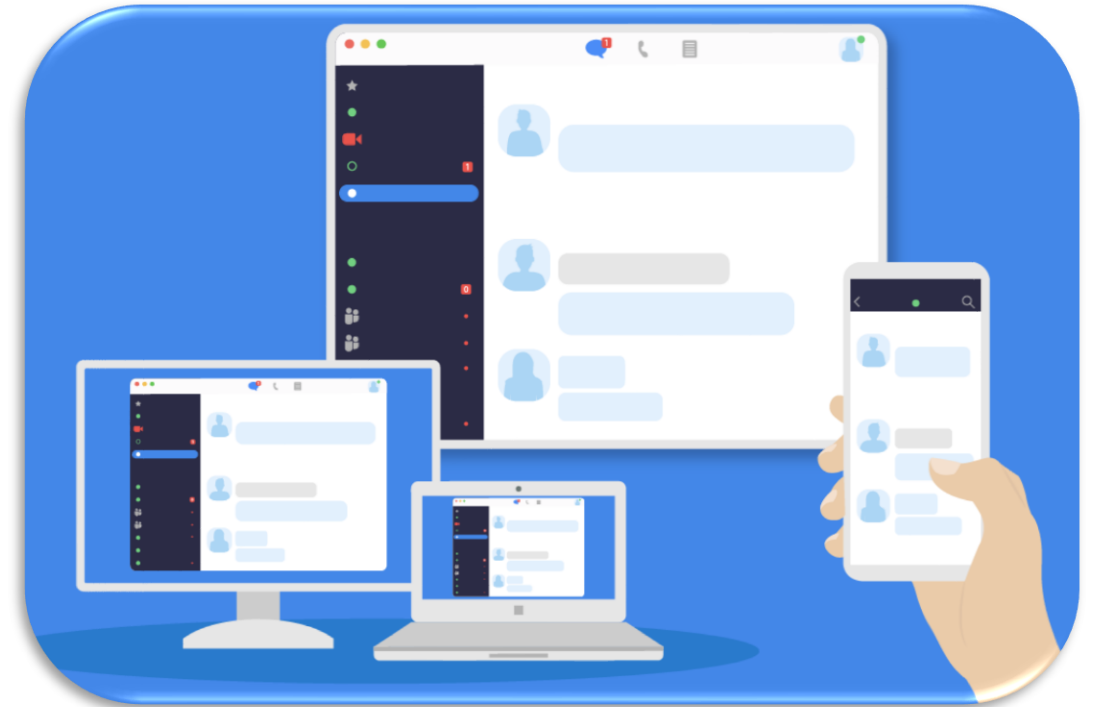
WEBINAR AGENDA

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. State of COVID-19 Cases in Louisiana**
- 3. COVID-19 General Guidance**
- 4. Vaccine Incentives**
- 5. Questions & Answers**



WEBINAR INSTRUCTIONS

- **Submit questions via chat in Zoom.**
- **Please include your e-mail address.**



Louisiana Board of Regents and Department of Health Staff



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Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, *Commissioner of Higher Education, BOR*

Dr. Susannah Craig, *Deputy Commissioner, BOR*

Mellynn Baker, *Assistant Commissioner, BOR*

*Theresa Sokol, State Epidemiologist, Office of
Public Health*





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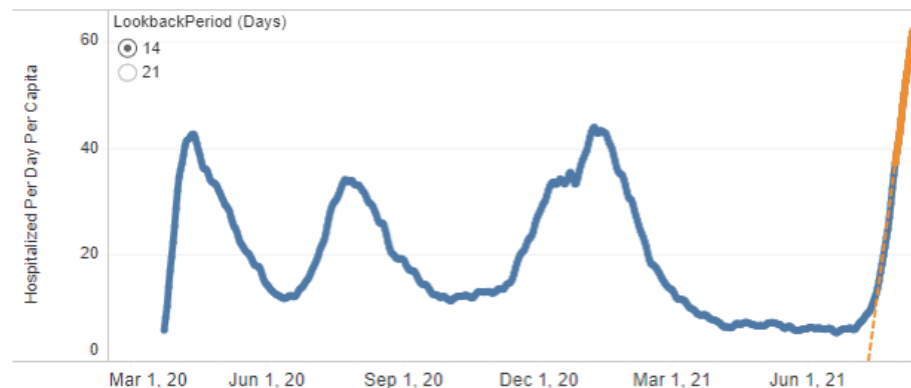
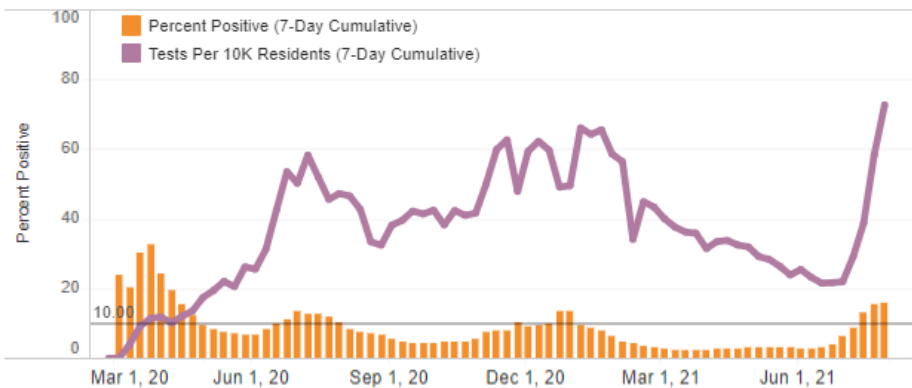
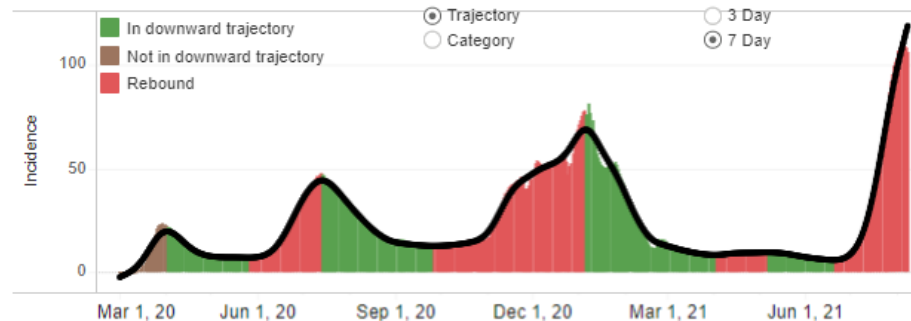
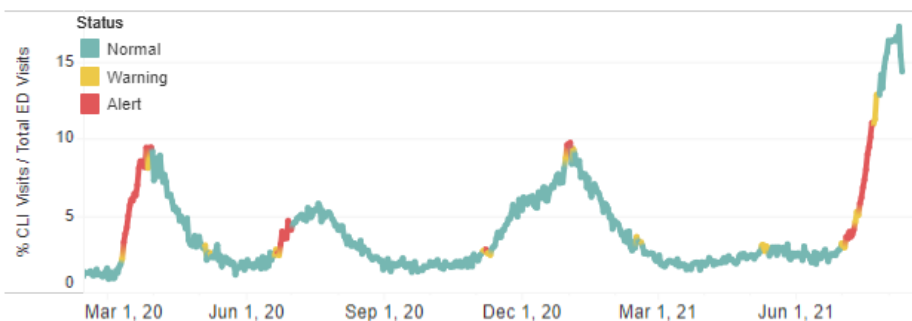
COVID-19 Update

*Theresa Sokol,
State Epidemiologist, Office of Public Health*

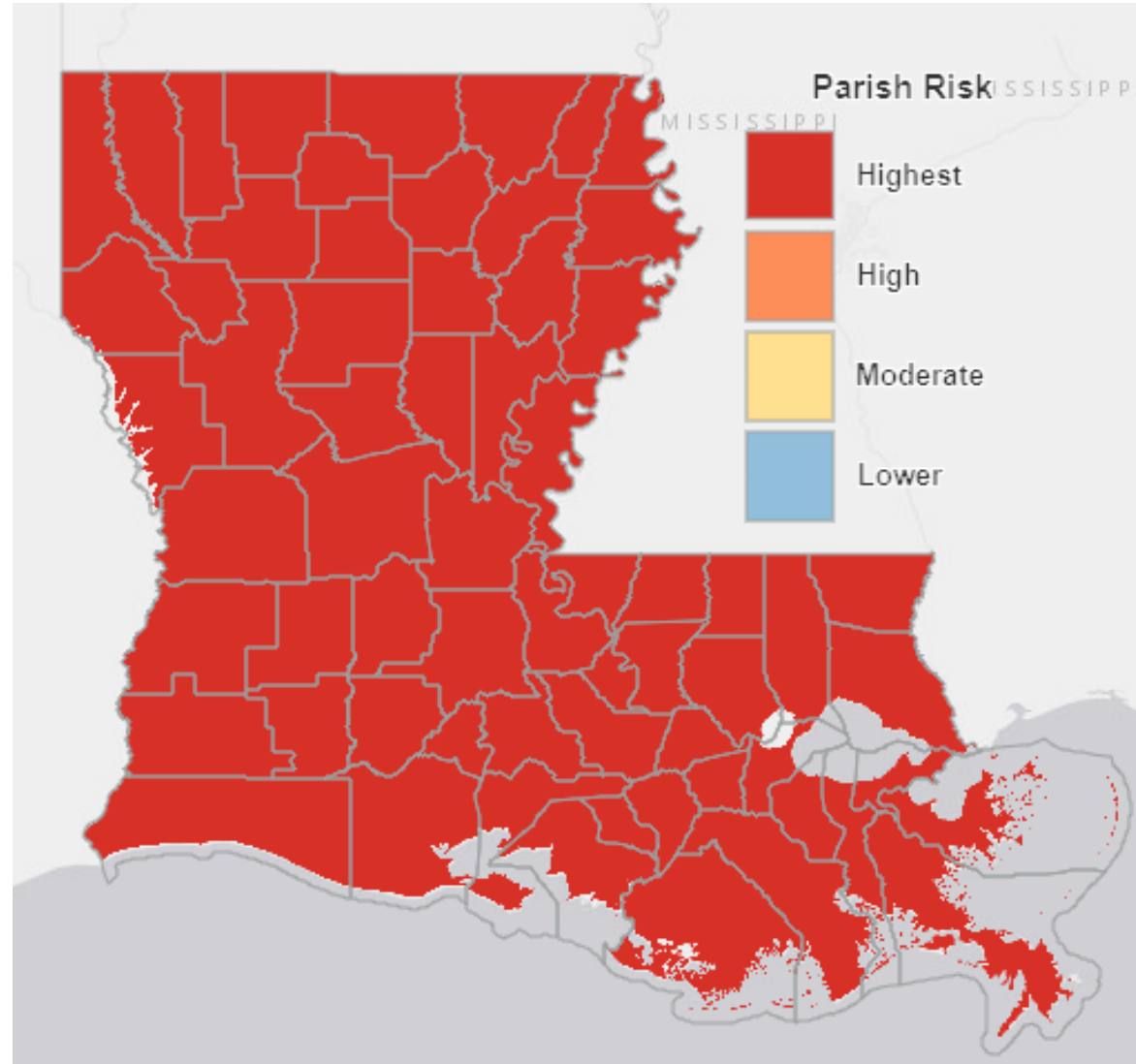
COVID-19 trends, Louisiana



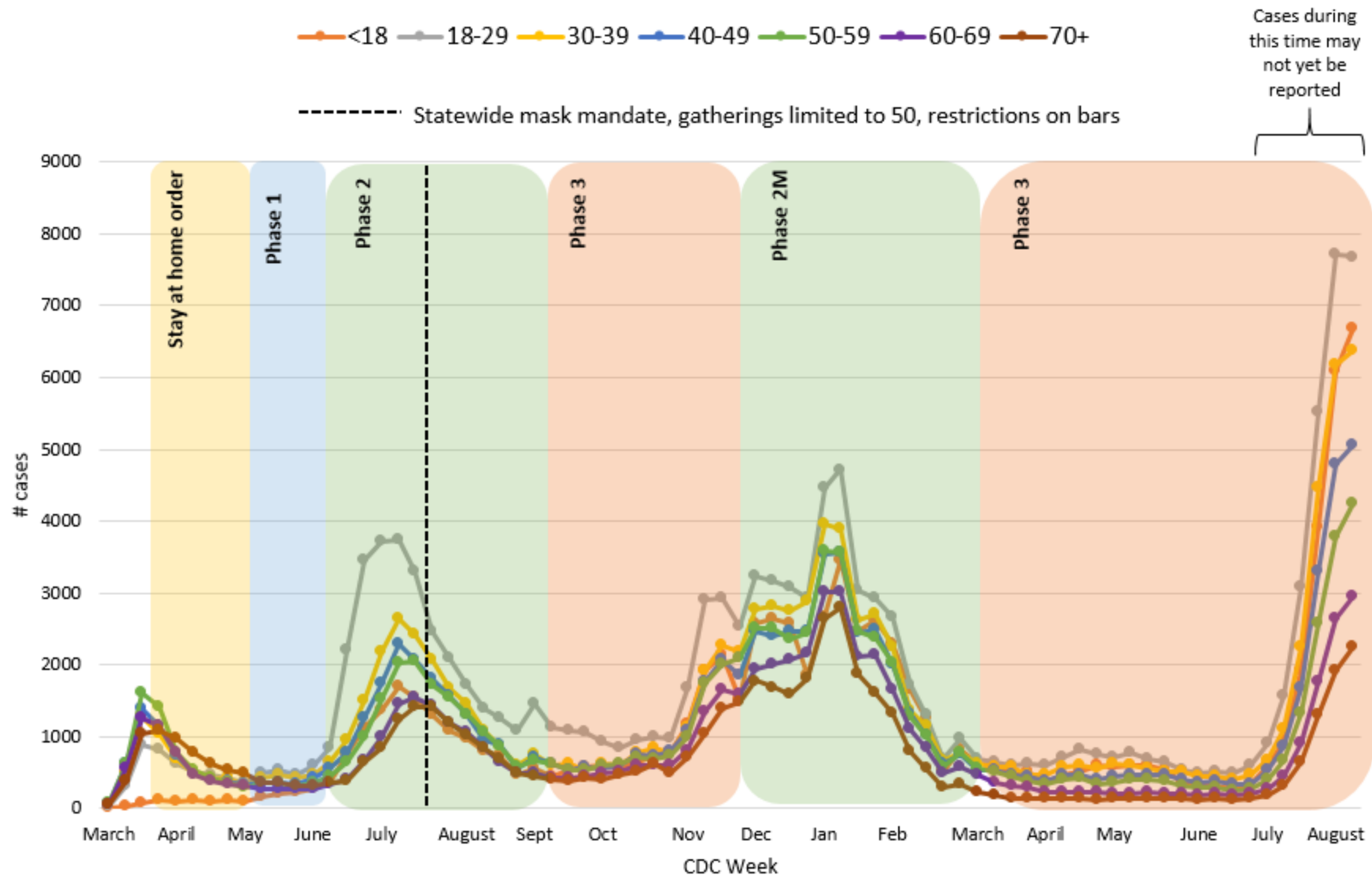
Gating Indicators | All



Community Risk, Louisiana



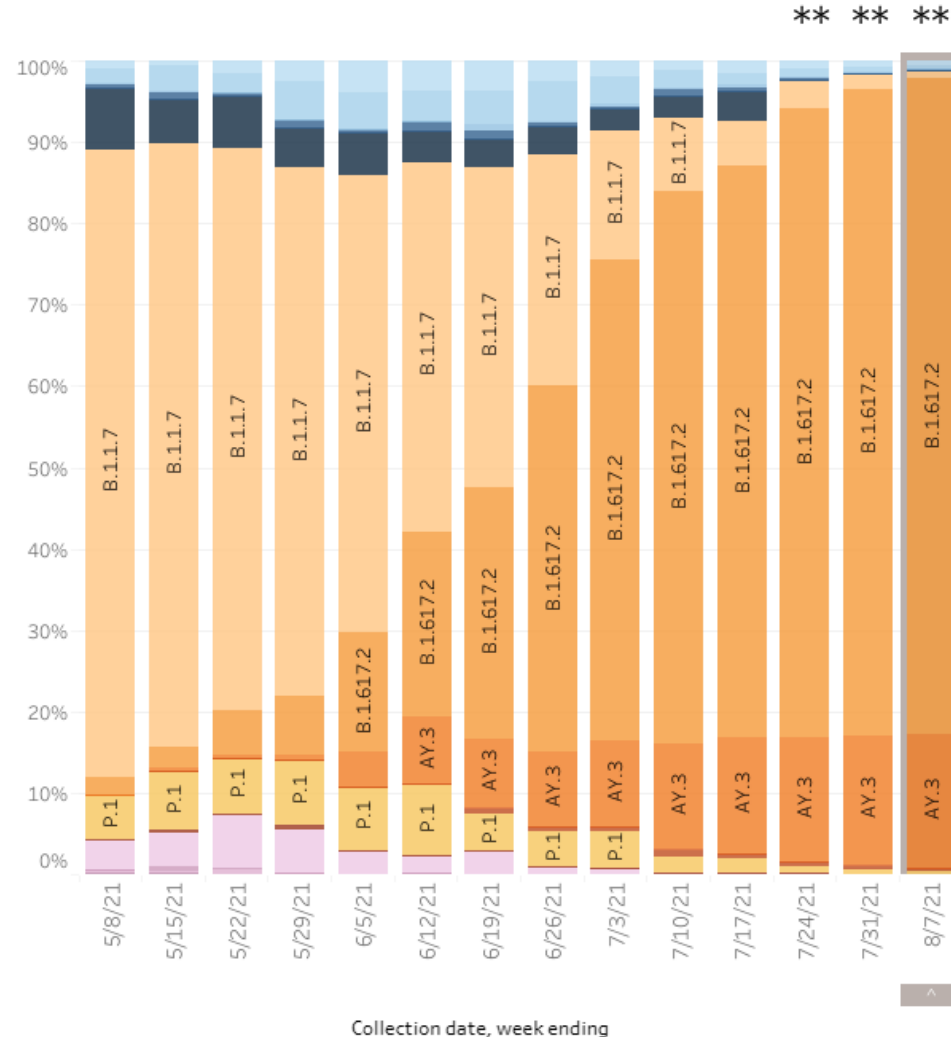
COVID-19 cases by age group, Louisiana



HHS Region 6 lineage proportions

HHS Region 6: 5/2/2021 – 8/7/2021

HHS Region 6: 8/1/2021 – 8/7/2021 NOWCAST



Region 6 - Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

WHO label	Lineage #	Type	%Total	95%PI	
Alpha	B.1.1.7	VOC	0.9%	0.0-4.9%	
Beta	B.1.351	VOC	0.0%	0.0-2.4%	
Gamma	P.1	VOC	0.3%	0.0-2.4%	
Delta	B.1.617.2	VOC	80.8%	68.3-92.7%	
	AY.3	VOC	16.4%	4.9-29.3%	
	AY.2	VOC	0.4%	0.0-2.4%	
	AY.1	VOC	0.0%	0.0-2.4%	
Eta	B.1.525	VOI	0.0%	0.0-2.4%	
Iota	B.1.526	VOI	0.0%	0.0-2.4%	
	B.1.621		0.5%	0.0-2.4%	
	B.1.628		0.4%	0.0-2.4%	
	B.1.621.1		0.1%	0.0-2.4%	
	Other*		0.1%	0.0-2.4%	
	A.2.5		0.1%	0.0-2.4%	
	B.1.427	VOI	0.0%	0.0-2.4%	
	B.1.429	VOI	0.0%	0.0-2.4%	
	B.1.626		0.0%	0.0-2.4%	

* Enumerated lineages are VOI/VOC or are circulating >1% in at least one HHS region during at least one two week period; remaining lineages are aggregated as "Other".

** These data include Nowcast estimates, which are modeled projections that may differ from weighted estimates generated at later dates

Sublineages of P.1 and B.1.351 (P.1.1, P.1.2, B.1.351.2, B.1.351.3) are aggregated with the parent lineage and included in parent lineage's proportion. AY.3.1 is aggregated with its parent lineage AY.3.

Delta, 2 week period ending 8/7: 97.6% (previously 93.6%)

What makes Delta different

- Delta is highly transmissible- about 2x more than previously circulating strains
- High levels of transmission in LA will result in infections among fully vaccinated people- this is expected
 - Fully vaccinated individuals infected with Delta experience milder symptoms than unvaccinated people
 - FDA authorized **vaccines continue to save lives** and are highly effective at preventing severe illness and death from COVID-19
- Fully vaccinated people infected with the Delta variant can spread the virus more easily than fully vaccinated people infected with previous strains

New Public Health Recommendations

- **LDH recommends all people mask while indoors, regardless of vaccination status (currently a statewide mask mandate).**
- **LDH recommends all people test immediately after a known or suspected exposure to COVID-19.**
 - **If positive, they should isolate immediately.**
 - **If negative, they should retest again between 5-7 days post-exposure.**
 - **If they develop symptoms of COVID-19 at any point they should test and immediately isolate pending the results**

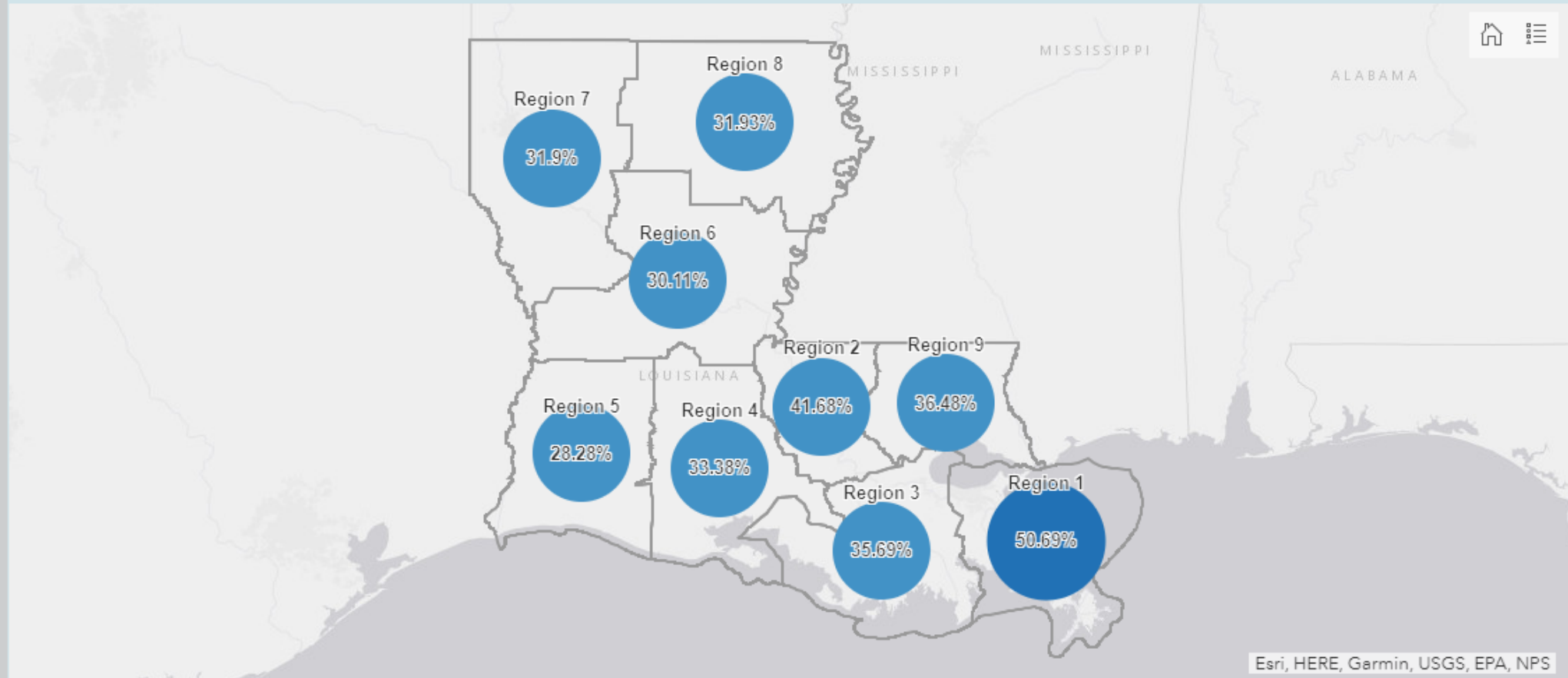
Why is vaccination so important?

- **Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can protect you, your family, friends and your community.**
- While not 100% effective, they are some of the most effective vaccines in history
 - 90% of new cases from 7/15-7/21 were among those not fully vaccinated
 - 85% of COVID-associated deaths reported 7/15-7/21 were among those not fully vaccinated
 - 89% of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 on 7/30 were among those not fully vaccinated

Louisiana Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccination Information

Initiated 2,176,967 Vaccine Series	Total Doses Administered 3,839,615 as of most recent update	Current Phase of Distribution Everyone 12+
Completed 1,806,044 Vaccine Series	Vaccine Doses Administered 84,271 since previous update	Providers Enrolled 2,461

Zoom in to see parish and tract level data.



VACCINE HOTLINE

1-855-453-0774



HOTLINE HOURS

8am - 8pm
Mon - Sat
12pm - 8pm
Sun

THE HOTLINE IS HERE TO HELP YOU:

- Schedule your vaccine appointment
- Find vaccine providers in your area
- Connect with medical professionals who can answer your vaccine questions

BRING BACK

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COVID-19 General Guidance

COVID-19 Guidance Principles

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As recommended by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), core principles of reopening safely and preventing the spread of COVID-19 among students, faculty, staff and visitors include:

- **Monitor, test, and isolate COVID-19 cases;**
- **Provide and support COVID-19 testing efforts on campus;**
- **Provide and support COVID-19 vaccination efforts on campus;**
- **If campus vaccination is not available, provide information on off-campus vaccine opportunities;**
- **Adjust class structures to accommodate physical distancing; and**
- **Have cleaning and disinfection plans in place.**



Personal Health Checks

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- Encourage students, faculty, and staff to perform daily health screenings at home for infectious illnesses, including COVID-19.
- Students, faculty, and staff with signs or symptoms of infectious illness, including COVID-19, to stay home when sick and/or seek medical care. A COVID-19 self-checker may be used to help decide when to seek COVID-19 testing or medical care.



Face Coverings

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Face masks that properly cover the wearer's mouth and nose should be worn indoors at all times, unless a person is in a private home or room in residential housing, under the Governor's statewide mask mandate, which will be in place until at least September 1, 2021.

The order requires face coverings for everyone age 5 or older or enrolled in kindergarten, except for the following:

- Anyone who has a medical condition that prevents the wearing of a face covering;
- Anyone who is consuming a drink or food;
- Anyone who is trying to communicate with a person who is hearing impaired;
- Anyone who is giving a speech for broadcast or to an audience; and/or
- Anyone temporarily removing his or her face covering for identification purposes.



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To lower risk for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people, LDH recommends:

- Limiting the size of indoor gatherings, moving events outdoors, or hosting meetings and events virtually to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 spread.
- Requiring all participants of indoor meetings and events to be masked.
- For people with underlying health conditions that make them more likely to have severe COVID complications, avoiding non-essential trips outside of the home.
- Event hosts and facilities practicing strong sanitation and hygiene practices and providing hand sanitizer for those who need it.
- Event spaces reducing capacity of the room/venue to provide for physical distancing.

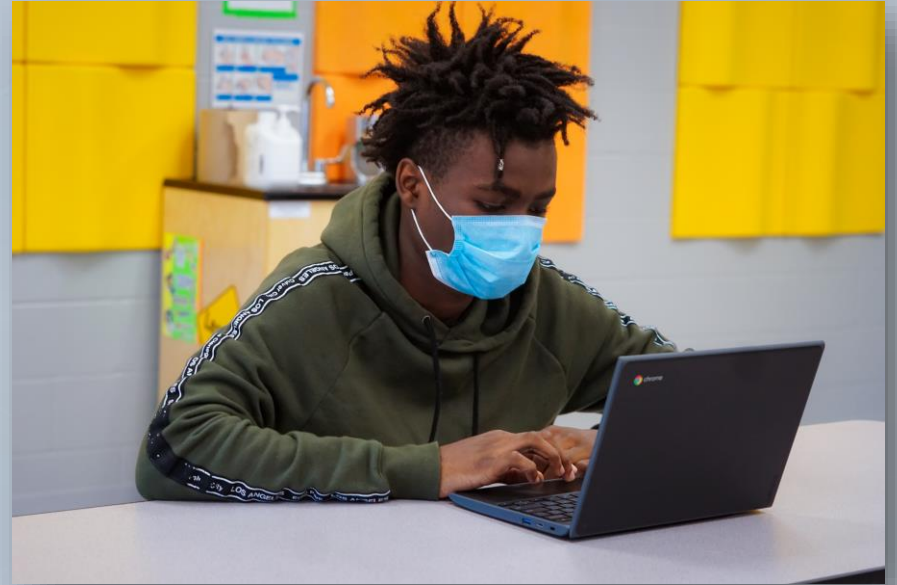


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Continue to provide options for remote courses/telework for high-risk students, faculty, and staff.

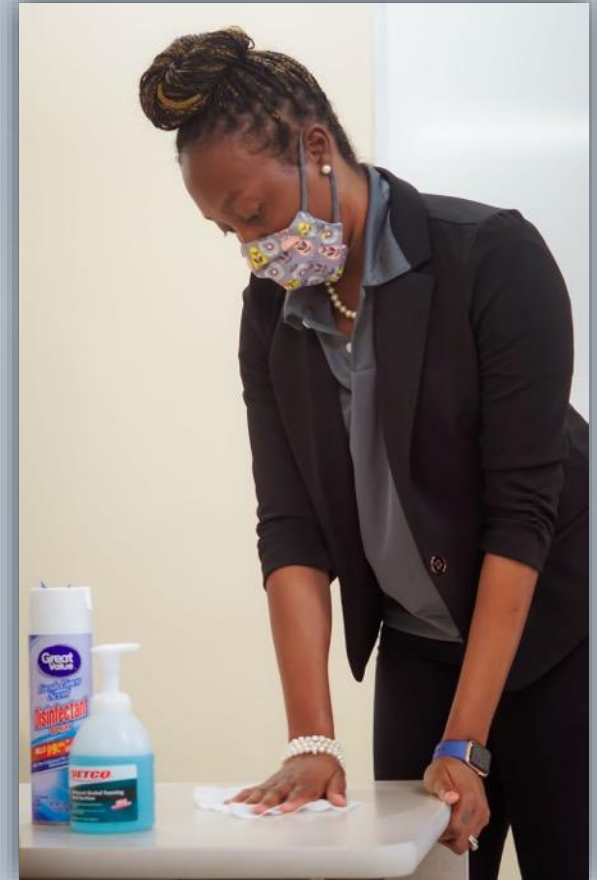


Maintaining Healthy Environments

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- **Shared classroom space must be cleaned daily.**
 - Recommend having cleaning wipes available for student, faculty, and staff use. This will allow students to wipe seat and area before leaving class.
 - High touch areas in common areas and bathrooms cleaned multiple times a day (e.g. door handles, sinks).
 - Recommend providing hand sanitizing stations throughout campus.

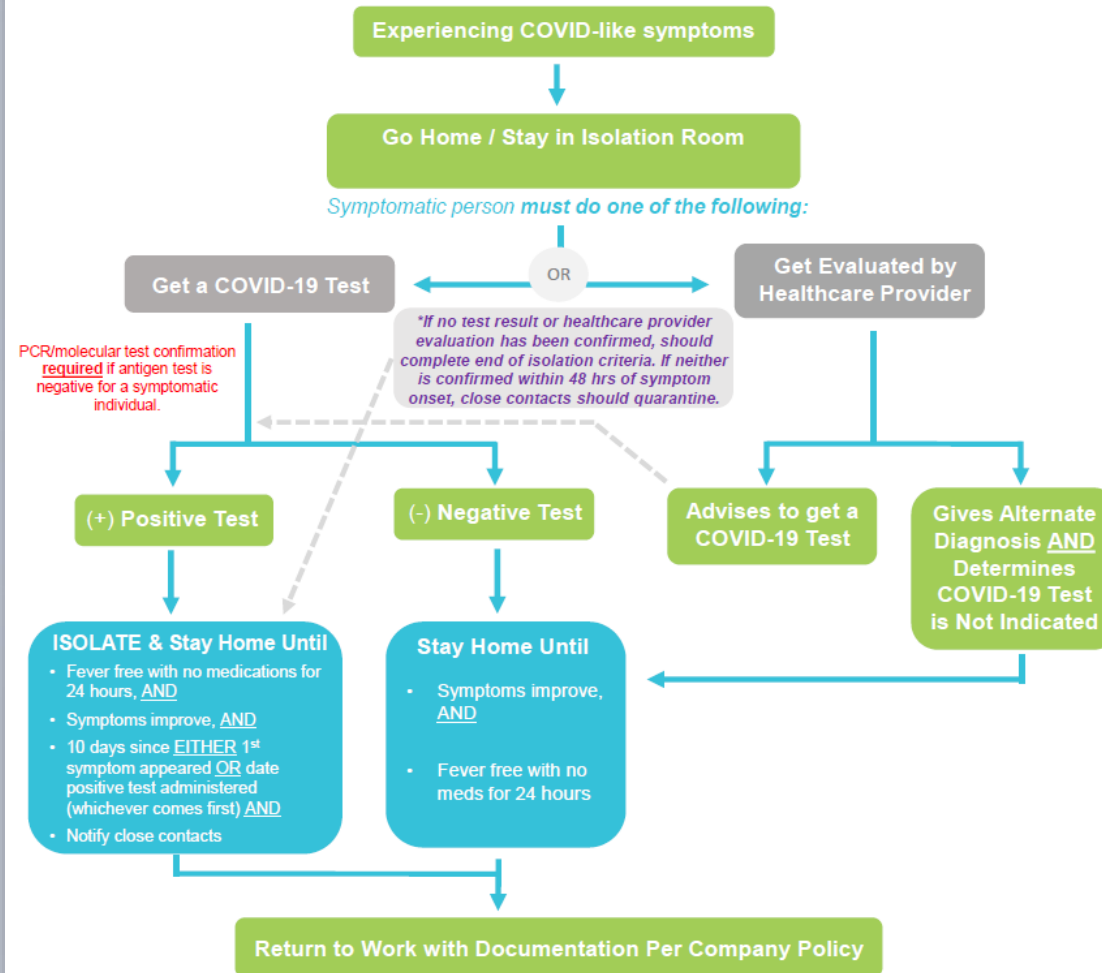


Quarantine Length

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COVID-19 Screening Decision Tree: Responding to a Symptomatic Individual – 8.03.2021



COVID-19 symptoms include but are not limited to:

- Fever $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Increasingly nonproductive (dry) cough
- Body aches or fatigue
- GI symptoms (nausea, diarrhea)
- Loss of taste and/or smell
- Other flu or cold like symptoms such as headache, sore throat, or congestion

In case of an emergency, dial 911.

This chart follows the most up-to-date CDC & LDH recommendations.



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Reference LDH Website for Form Titled: [Return-to-Work Self-Certification for COVID-19](#)

COVID-19 Exposure

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- All people should take a COVID test immediately after a known or suspected exposure to COVID-19 and take the following actions:
 - If positive, isolate immediately;
 - If negative, retest again five to seven days post-exposure.
 - If they develop symptoms of COVID-19 at any point, test and immediately isolate pending the result.
- **This guidance will remain in place at least until Louisiana is safely out of its fourth COVID-19 surge, with additional guidance and mitigation measures put in place if and when necessary to slow the spread of the more contagious and virulent Delta variant and preserve hospital capacity.**



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Quarantine Length

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- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, even those who are fully vaccinated or without a known exposure, should get tested.
- Anyone who tests positive should immediately isolate. Isolation typically consists of:
 - If symptomatic, at least 10 days after symptoms first appeared, when symptoms are improving, and at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication; or
 - If asymptomatic but with a positive test, 10 days from the time the test sample was collected.
- **Call 211 to find a COVID-19 testing site near you.**



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Residential Protocols

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- Residential Life: Normal occupancy
- If single occupancy is not possible, then institutions need to provide a space to isolate and quarantine when needed.
- Disinfect common areas and bathrooms regularly, concentrating on high-touch areas like door handles and sinks.
- For dorms with shared hallway or bathroom space, enhanced cleaning.



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COVID-19 Vaccine Incentives



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COVID-19 Vaccine

- 18-29-year-olds are one of the two least vaccinated age groups in Louisiana – and this leaves them and us vulnerable.
- With the spread of the highly transmissible Delta variant to younger populations, we are seeing more young people go sleeves up. More than anything, students want an in-person college experience. But to do that safely, we need more shots in arms.
- It's in everyone's interest that our young people get the COVID vaccine - to protect themselves, their families and friends, and their larger communities.
- Our best pathway out of this dangerous surge and pandemic is a one-two punch of masking and getting the vaccine.



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- “Shot For 100” will be led by individual campuses; the program may look different from institution to institution.
- At participating colleges and universities, students will be given a deactivated Visa card upon vaccination. After registering online at ShotFor100.com, that card will be loaded with \$100.
- To learn more about this new program, visit **ShotFor100.com** or call Louisiana’s COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at **1-855-453-0774**.



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**MASKS STOP
THE SURGE.
VACCINES STOP
THE PANDEMIC.**

BE A MASK/VACCINE AMBASSADOR
AS **#STUDENTSDOTHEIRPART**





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Questions?

Please include e-mail address in chat.

Thank You

www.regents.la.gov/covid19-response
Email: webinar@laregents.edu
Twitter: @la_regents

