

BIVALENT BOOSTERS



WHAT IS A BIVALENT COVID-19 BOOSTER?

The bivalent vaccine contains the mRNA protein codes for two specific strains (or variants) of COVID-19.

- The original COVID-19 virus.
- The Omicron BA.4/5 variant, which has caused the majority of cases in the U.S. recently.

The original COVID-19 vaccine is a monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

WHO CAN GET A BIVALENT BOOSTER?

Per the CDC: Everyone ages 5 years and older who have completed their primary monovalent COVID-19 series is recommended to receive one age-appropriate bivalent mRNA booster dose.

- Pfizer bivalent vaccine is approved for 5 y.o. and older
- Moderna bivalent is approved for 6 y.o and older

Age-appropriate homologous and heterologous boosters are allowed; there is no preference.

CAN THE ORIGINAL BOOSTER BE GIVEN?

No. Bivalent boosters are the only authorized boosters now available.

WHAT IS THE TIMING BETWEEN DOSES?

At least two months since the last COVID-19 vaccine dose (primary or booster).

HAS THE PRIMARY VACCINE CHANGED?

No. Monovalent COVID-19 vaccines are still used to complete the primary COVID-19 series. Bivalent vaccines are authorized as a BOOSTER only.

MOST COMMONLY REPORTED SYMPTOMS:

Are similar to monovalent COVID-19 vaccines:

- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Joint pain
- Fever
- Headache
- Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site
- Fatigue

MORE INFORMATION:

- Moderna EUA Factsheet for Healthcare Providers [here](#)
- Pfizer EUA Factsheet for Ages 5 to 11 for Healthcare Providers [here](#)
- Pfizer EUA Factsheet for Ages 12 and older for Healthcare Providers [here](#)

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STORAGE, HANDLING AND PREP:

	Pfizer	Pfizer	Moderna
Age Indications and Formulation	Single Bivalent Booster Dose 5 to 11	Single Bivalent Booster Dose 12+	Single Bivalent Booster Dose 6+
Vial Cap Color	ORANGE	GRAY	DARK BLUE with a GRAY label border
Preparation	Dilute	Do Not Dilute	Do Not Dilute
Dose Volume/Dose	0.2 mL/10 mcg	0.3 mL/30 mcg	6 to 11 years: 0.25 mL/25 mcg 12 years and older: 0.5 mL/50 mcg
Doses per Vial	10 booster after dilution	6 booster	Varies by age: 5 booster or 10 booster
ULT Freezer (-90°C to -60°C)	12 months	12 months	DO NOT STORE
Freezer	DO NOT STORE	DO NOT STORE	Until Expiration (-50°C to -15°C)
Refrigerator (2°C to 8°C)	10 weeks	10 weeks	30 Days
Room Temperature (8°C to 25°C) including thaw time	12 hours prior to first puncture	12 hours prior to first puncture	24 hours
After First Puncture (2°C to 25°C)	Discard after 12 hours	Discard after 12 hours	Discard after 12 hours

WHAT SAFETY DATA DO WE HAVE?

According to [Your Local Epidemiologist](#), "The difference is a few amino acids or equivalent to a few letter edits on a Word document. We aren't changing the number of words in the paper (like dosage of RNA), or the content of the paper, or the platform (like Word to Excel). Because of the minimal change, we are confident that BA.1 bivalent safety data will accurately reflect BA.5 safety. The risk of myocarditis after COVID-19 infection (compared to vaccination) is 1.8 - 5.6 times higher among young males."