

# Updated COVID-19 Boosters for Children 5 Years and Older

## What is a bivalent COVID-19 booster?

The bivalent vaccine helps generate protection against two types (or variants) of the virus.

1. The original COVID-19 virus.
2. The Omicron BA.4/5 variant, which is now the cause of most COVID-19 infections in the U.S.

Bivalent boosters are known as "updated" or "fall" boosters.

## Why should my child get an updated booster?

Cases are probably going to increase this winter due to more time spent inside and fewer masking requirements. The virus is continuously changing and we have to change with it! Staying up to date with vaccines is the best way to avoid hospitalization, death, and other long term health conditions that we know COVID-19 can and does cause.

## Why do we need an updated booster?

For more protection from COVID-19. Each booster helps to give longer protection. The COVID-19 virus has changed since the vaccines first came out and we now have the Omicron strain. An updated vaccine will provide even more protection against current and future strains of the virus related to Omicron.

## What if my child already got a booster?

They can and should still get an updated booster - they just have to wait at least two months since their last COVID-19 vaccine.

## Who can get an updated booster?

Children who are 5 or older who have completed their primary series can get a **Pfizer** updated booster.

Those 6 years and older who have completed their primary series can get a **Pfizer OR Moderna** updated booster.



**I-VAC**   
ILLINOIS VACCINATES  
AGAINST COVID-19

A project led by the Illinois Chapter  
of the American Academy of Pediatrics