Learn About Updated (or Bivalent) COVID-19 Vaccines

What is a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine?

Bivalent COVID-19 vaccines help generate protection against two types (or variants) of the COVID-19 virus.

1. The original COVID-19 virus.
2. The Omicron BA.4/5 variant.

Bivalent vaccines are mostly used as booster doses and are sometimes called "updated" or "fall" boosters.

Why should my child get a booster?

Respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, are spreading 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.

What if my child already got a booster?

They should stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines, meaning they should get all the doses they are eligible for - this may mean getting a bivalent booster dose.

Why do we need booster doses?

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. The boosters we have now will provide more protection against current and future strains of the virus related to Omicron.

Who can get an bivalent vaccine?

Children who are 6 months to 4 years old who have gotten two doses of the monovalent vaccine (or original COVID-19 vaccine) can get a bivalent vaccine at least two months after their last dose.

Those 5 years to 18 years old can get a bivalent vaccine (this will be a booster) as long as they have finished their primary series. They will be able to get their booster two months after their last dose.

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ILLINOIS VACCINATES AGAINST COVID-19

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