

BIVALENT COVID-19 VACCINES



WHAT IS A BIVALENT COVID-19 VACCINE?

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.

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

WHO CAN GET A BIVALENT VACCINE?

Per the CDC: People ages 6 months and older are eligible to receive bivalent vaccines - when and how many depends on their previous COVID-19 vaccine history.

CAN THE ORIGINAL VACCINES BE GIVEN?

No. The monovalent mRNA vaccines are no longer authorized and should not be used nor can they be ordered. If someone has never received a COVID-19 vaccine, they will start their series with the bivalent formulations.

WHAT ABOUT MIX & MATCHING PRODUCTS?

Those ages 6 years and older can get either Pfizer or Moderna for their bivalent dose. Children ages 6 months to <5 years should receive all doses from the same manufacturer. However, mixed manufacturer administration is authorized in certain situations. Refer to [the CDC](#) for more information.

WHAT IS THE TIMING BETWEEN DOSES?

The number of bivalent doses a person needs to be up-to-date with their vaccines will vary based on age, vaccine manufacturer, immunocompromised status, and number of monovalent doses previously received.

WHO CAN RECEIVE A SECOND mRNA BIVALENT "BOOSTER" DOSE?

Patients 65 year and older, and those 5 years and older who are immunocompromised are eligible for more than one bivalent booster as of April 2023.

MOST COMMONLY REPORTED SYMPTOMS:

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

MORE INFORMATION:

Information on the new dosing schedules and recommendations for immunocompromised people can be found at the [CDC](#) or on [ICAAP Dosing and Scheduling](#) charts.

**A single Novavax booster dose (instead of a bivalent mRNA booster dose) may be given to persons 18 years of age or older who have not received a previous booster dose in limited situations

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STORAGE, HANDLING AND PREP:

	Pfizer	Pfizer	Pfizer	Moderna	Moderna
Age Indications and Formulation	6mos-4years Bivalent Dose	5-11 years Bivalent Dose	12+ years Bivalent Dose	6mos-5 years Bivalent Dose	6+ months Bivalent Dose
Vial Cap Color	MAROON cap with Bivalent label	ORANGE cap with Bivalent label	GRAY cap with Bivalent label	DARK PINK with a YELLOW label border	DARK BLUE with a GRAY label border
Preparation	Dilute		Do Not Dilute		
Dose Volume/Dose	0.2 mL/3 mcg	0.2 mL/10 mcg	0.3 mL/30 mcg	0.2 mL/10 mcg	6 mos to 11 years: 0.25 mL/25 mcg 12 years and older: 0.5 mL/50 mcg
Doses per Vial	10 after dilution	10 after dilution	6 doses or 1 dose	2 doses	Varies by age
ULT Freezer (-90°C to -60°C)	18 months			DO NOT STORE	
Freezer	DO NOT STORE			Until Expiration	
Refrigerator (2°C to 8°C)	10 weeks			30 days	
Room Temperature (8°C to 25°C) including thaw time	12 hours prior to first puncture			24 hours	
After First Puncture (2°C to 25°C)	Discard after 12 hours			Discard after 8 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)." At the April 19th, 2023 ACIP meeting, detailed [safety data](#) was presented and continue to demonstrate that bivalent vaccines are just as safe as monovalent vaccines and reported adverse effects are less common and less serious than the effects of COVID-19 disease.

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