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Get informed on bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccines

On Aug. 31, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized updated bivalent boosters from Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech. The emergency use authorization (EUA) clears the bivalent booster for use at least 2 months after a primary or booster shot. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has officially recommended these vaccines.[1]

What is different about a bivalent booster vaccine?

The new boosters target 2 forms of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. They include the original coronavirus strain and the newest omicron versions, called BA.4 and BA.5. The new shots aim to offer broader protection against future strains of COVID-19.

Am I eligible for an updated (bivalent) COVID-19 vaccine booster?

Eligibility for a booster depends on:

- Your age.
- When you finished the primary vaccine series.
- When you received your most recent booster dose of a monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.

Moderna's vaccine is authorized for adults 18 and older, while Pfizer's is for people 12 and older. To get the new booster, wait 2 months after your last COVID-19 vaccine dose or booster.

Who is eligible for a monovalent booster dose?

People ages 5–11 years who received a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine primary series. See chart on next page for details.

Will there be any out-of-pocket costs for the bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine?

No. The booster vaccine will have a $0 cost share during the emergency health period.

How to find a bivalent COVID-19 booster

Check with your doctor's office or local pharmacy. Parents, check with your child's healthcare provider about whether they offer the vaccination.

Try one of these easy ways to find out where you can get a COVID-19 vaccine:

- Online: **vaccines.gov**
- Call: **1-800-232-0233**
- **Text** your ZIP code to **438829**. Standard text message rates may apply.

Do I have to go to an in-network pharmacy to get a bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine?

No, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine at most pharmacies. You will not need a prescription to get a vaccine.

Bivalent booster vaccine manufacturer	Ages	Booster dose
Pfizer-BioNTech	12+ years old	A single booster at least 2 months since your last primary series vaccine dose or booster.
Moderna	18+ years old	A single booster at least 2 months since your last primary series vaccine dose or booster.

Monovalent vaccine manufacturer	Primary series	Ages	Booster dose
Pfizer-BioNTech[2]	3 doses Dose 1 and 2 given 3 weeks (21 days) apart. Dose 3 given 8 weeks after second dose. 2 doses of primary vaccine, given 3 weeks apart.	6 months through 4 years 5+ years old	First booster for people age 5 to 11 years at least 5 months after the primary series.
Moderna[3]	2 doses Given 4 weeks (28 days) apart	6 months and older	Not used for booster doses.
Novavax[4]	2 doses Given 3 weeks (21 days) apart	12+ years old	Not used for booster doses.

If you had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose or if you have a known (diagnosed) allergy to a COVID-19 vaccine ingredient, you should not get that vaccine. If you have been instructed not to get one type of COVID-19 vaccine, you may still be able to get another type.

Immunocompromised individuals are eligible for an additional primary series dose in individuals 5 years and older for Pfizer-BioNTech and 6 months and older for Moderna.

Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is currently recommended for primary series only.

You should get your second shot as close to the recommended 3-week or 4-week interval as possible. You should not get the second dose early.

Would a bivalent booster COVID shot have to be the same brand of vaccine I got originally?

No. Anyone eligible may choose which bivalent vaccine they receive as a booster dose. The CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match for booster shots.

Am I eligible for oral COVID-19 treatments and the Test-to-Treat program?

- The FDA granted EUA for 2 oral drugs for people who have tested positive for COVID-19[5] with mild to moderate symptoms. One is called Lagevrio™ and is for adults ages 18 and over. The second is called Paxlovid™ and can be prescribed for children and adults ages 12 and over. Prescribed oral treatment is offered at no cost during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

- The Biden Administration launched a nationwide Test-to-Treat program to make treating COVID-19 simple. You can get tested at a pharmacy-based clinic.

If you test positive and are at high risk, you can get prescribed antiviral pills on the spot, if appropriate.

- People can also be tested and treated by their own health care providers who can appropriately prescribe these oral antivirals.

- The program does not require an individual to be tested on-site, so people can bring at-home test results to a participating site.

To find a Test-to-Treat location, go to **covid-19-test-to-treat-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com** or call **1-800-232-0233** (TTY **1-888-720-7489**) to get help in English, Spanish, and more than 150 other languages. 8 a.m. to midnight ET, 7 days a week.

Should I get a flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. The flu and COVID-19 vaccines are for different illnesses. A seasonal flu shot will not protect you from COVID-19. Getting both vaccines will help protect you the most.

Where can I go for more information?

Visit **cdc.gov** to learn more about side effects and tips for after you get the vaccine.

More resources:
- **FDA's Moderna COVID-19 Patient Fact Sheet**
- **FDA's Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Patient Fact Sheet**
- **FDA's Paxlovid EUA Patient Fact Sheet**
- **FDA's Lagevrio EUA Patient Fact Sheet**
- **CDC COVID-19 Vaccines**
- **CDC COVID-19 Things You Need to Know**
- **COVID-19 Test-to-Treat Program**

1. FDA August 31 bivalent approval, **https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-moderna-pfizer-biontech-bivalent-covid-19-vaccines-use#:~:text=Today%2C%20the%20U.S.%20Food%20and,following%20primary%20or%20booster%20vaccination**
2. Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, **https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/index.html**
3. Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, **https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/index.html**
4. Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, **https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/novavax/index.html**
5. Test-to-Treat program, **https://aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat/Pages/default.aspx**

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