

**August 30<sup>th</sup> Q & A \*\*\*Administration of bivalent boosters can only happen after approval is granted. Information not final until ACIP/CDC recommendations are issued\*\*\***

<b>All of Illinois</b>	
Question	Answer
Will patients have the option to decide which booster dose they may receive (original vs updated)?	<p>No. Monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are NO LONGER authorized for use as boosters in people ages 12 years and older.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the FDA authorization issued 8/31/22, the monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are NOT AUTHORIZED as booster doses for individuals 12 years of age and older.</li> <li>Appointments for monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna boosters for people 12 years of age and older must be rescheduled for when locations have the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines available.</li> <li>Those 5 years to 11 years can still be given the monovalent mRNA COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine.</li> </ul>
Will guidance be updated for those who are immunocompromised?	This group will likely be eligible for an additional booster dose, but CDC clinical guidance has not been issued yet.
Can we share COVID-19 vaccines between Chicago sites and those located outside of Chicago?	<p>This depends on several factors and may require specific guidance, but a general rule of thumb is all provider sites administering COVID-19 vaccines must be enrolled to do so with either CDPH or IDPH.</p> <p>It is easiest to maintain accurate inventory if orders go directly to the site where they are going to be administered.</p> <p>For IDPH sites (those outside of Chicago), you can email <a href="mailto:dph.vaccines@illinois.gov">dph.vaccines@illinois.gov</a> and the team will help guide you through sharing across jurisdictions.</p>
For reporting inventory in vaccines.gov weekly, is there a preferred day for reporting that inventory (ex. Mondays)?	We recommend Fridays if the facility is open on Fridays and the vaccine coordinator can update then. But no specific day is required. Please make sure that you include the ages you can vaccinate.

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<p>Will pharmacies throughout IL be going into Long-term Care (LTC) facilities and congregate settings to give the Bivalent boosters?</p>	<p>Yes, LTCs will work with their normal providers to receive the bivalent booster. In most facilities, this is a pharmacy partner outside of the LTC. Federal pharmacy partners (Walgreens, CVS, etc.) receive a supply independent from Chicago and Illinois allocations, which they can use in both their retail locations and with LTC partners. We also process orders directly for many LTC pharmacy partners and will ensure they have sufficient vaccine supply.</p>
<p>Will there be written guidance to Providers regarding what to do with existing/ monovalent inventory?</p>	<p>Yes, as soon as CDC issues this guidance, we will share it via SIREN (IDPH) and via HAN (CDPH).</p>
<p>Are you planning to prioritize people experiencing homelessness (PEH) for the bivalent vaccines?</p>	<p>In early 2021, supply of vaccine was much more limited. Prioritization of populations was necessary across the state. With the new rollout, prioritization will likely come into play in some areas of the state but will be dictated by local demand and providers. Providers should prioritize those at greatest risk of hospitalization/death and other vulnerable populations.</p> <p>IDPH prioritized FQHCs, Rural Health Centers, and Local Health Departments in pre-orders, but beyond the first week or so, supply is not expected to play a huge role. All that is to say, IDPH recognizes the importance of ensuring PEH are able to receive the vaccine and are committed to doing everything possible to help with that. If you have any specific ideas, please email <a href="mailto:dph.immunizations@illinois.gov">dph.immunizations@illinois.gov</a>.</p>
<p>What is the time range for the bivalent booster following a primary series or other boosters?</p>	<p>According to the <a href="#">FDA press release</a> issued 8.31.22, at least two months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals 18 years of age and older are eligible for a single booster dose of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent if it has been at least two months since they have completed primary vaccination or have received the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.</li> <li>• Individuals 12 years of age and older are eligible for a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-</li> </ul>

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	<p>19 Vaccine, Bivalent if it has been at least two months since they have completed primary vaccination or have received the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>Final CDC clinical guidance is forthcoming.</p>
We will need to keep the current Pfizer gray cap on hand for patients seeking their primary COVID-19 vaccines?	Yes.
Is the bivalent booster available to uninsured patients free of charge?	Yes. The vaccine itself still cannot be charged for. While the HRSA (federal) uninsured program has come to an end, the HFS (state) has continued funding and more information about vaccinating the insured and reimbursement for administration and vaccine counseling is available <a href="#">here</a> .
When is ACIP meeting on this?	The ACIP meetings are this Thursday and Friday, so we expect CDC recommendations likely sometime on Friday (9.2.22).
When will community pharmacies have the bivalent vaccines?	Providers who have placed orders are expected to receive it within the next week.
Any chance that the bivalent booster will be re-authorized to also cover primary series?	No, not at this time. This is a booster only.
Any idea about Pfizer/Moderna crossover? Many adults have a combination of the two (e.g. MMMP, PPM, etc.)	CDC clinical guidance have not been issued. We expect this to be addressed when those are available.
Since Omicron is the prevalent variant now, should those 6 months and older pursue original COVID-19 vaccine or wait for bivalent authorization?	Bivalent vaccines are only available as a booster dose. Those 6 months and older who are not yet vaccinated, should receive their primary series doses as soon as possible.

**Illinois – OUTSIDE of Chicago**

Question	Answer
Will there be another chance to preorder bivalent vaccines (for providers outside of Chicago)?	No, pre-ordering is closed.
How do I order bivalent vaccines?	Pre-orders are closed. Once the Emergency Use Authorization is issued, the ordering process is the same across all COVID-19 vaccine products through I-CARE.

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**Chicago**

Can we pick up smaller orders of the bivalent vaccine at the Chicago Department of Public Health West Side CDC office on Ogden Ave as with other COVID-19 vaccine products?

Yes. Not right away, but we do expect this to be possible and will let providers know.