

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 BOOSTER?

Per the CDC: Everyone ages 6 months and older who have completed their primary monovalent COVID-19 series* is recommended to receive an age-appropriate bivalent mRNA booster dose. Except for those 6 months to 4 years old who have gotten three Pfizer primary doses.

CAN PATIENTS MIX AND MATCH?

Age-appropriate homologous and heterologous boosters are allowed for those 6 years and older; there is no preference. **Exception:** Children 5 years of age who completed the monovalent Moderna primary series are authorized to receive either age appropriate bivalent booster.

CAN THE ORIGINAL BOOSTER BE GIVEN?

No. Bivalent boosters are the only authorized boosters now available**.

WHAT IS THE TIMING BETWEEN DOSES?

At least two months since the last COVID-19 vaccine dose (primary or booster).

HAS THE PRIMARY VACCINE CHANGED?

No. Monovalent COVID-19 vaccines are still used to complete the primary COVID-19 series - *except for those 6 months to 4 years old who have gotten two Pfizer monovalent primary doses. The bivalent vaccine is now used as the third primary dose for this group.

MOST COMMONLY REPORTED SYMPTOMS:

Are similar to monovalent COVID-19 vaccines:

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

MORE INFORMATION:

Information on COVID-19 vaccines for non-immunocompromised patients [here](#) and moderately or severely immunocompromised patients [here](#).

**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 Single Bivalent Primary Dose	5-11 years Single Bivalent Booster Dose	12+ years Single Bivalent Booster Dose	6mos-5years Single Bivalent Booster Dose	6+ years Single Bivalent Booster 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 to 11 years: 0.25 mL/25 mcg 12 years and older: 0.5 mL/50 mcg
Doses per Vial	10 primary after dilution	10 booster after dilution	6 booster doses or 1 booster dose	2 booster doses	Varies by age: 5 booster or 10 booster
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) <i>including thaw time</i>	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)." Over the past months, safety monitoring efforts have demonstrated 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.