



Health Alert Network Message 22-34: FDA Authorizes and CDC Recommends Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines for Use as a Booster Dose in Younger Age Groups

Origination Date:

October 14, 2022

Revision Dates (List All Revision Dates):

FDA Authorizes and CDC Recommends Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines for Use as a Booster Dose in Younger Age Groups

On October 12, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) endorsed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) authorization to expand the use of Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent formulations of COVID-19 vaccine for use as booster doses in children as young as five years of age and older.

The Louisiana Department of Health now recommends these new updated bivalent booster options:

- Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent COVID-19 booster for children ages 5 through 11 years old, and
- Moderna bivalent COVID-19 booster for children and adolescents ages 6 through 17 years old.

These bivalent COVID-19 vaccines include a component of the original strain to provide an immune response broadly protective against COVID-19 and a component in common between the omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5 lineages.

Who is eligible to receive the bivalent single-dose booster dose?

- **Moderna:** Individuals aged 6 through 17 and older are eligible for a single bivalent booster dose if it has been at least two months since they have completed the primary vaccination series or received their most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Pfizer-BioNTech:** Individuals age 5 through 11 years and older are eligible for a single bivalent booster dose if it has been at least two months since they have completed the primary vaccination series or since they received their most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine. Previously, the FDA had authorized the updated Pfizer bivalent booster dose in individuals 12 years of age and up.

Side Effects

Individuals who receive a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine may experience side effects commonly reported by individuals who receive authorized or approved monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

Where and how can families get their children vaccinated?

Web Resources

For immunization providers/partners:

- [Vaccine Product Wall Chart](#) (vial cap color guide)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations](#)
- [FAQs for the Interim Clinical Considerations](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/faq.html) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/faq.html>
- [Moderna Bivalent Factsheet for Providers](#) (for ages 6 and over)
- [Pfizer Bivalent Factsheet for Providers](#) (for ages 5-11)
 - [Vaccinate with Confidence](#)
- [MMWR: Interim Recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for use of the bivalent COVID-19 boosters for people aged 5 years and older – United States – November 10, 2022](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar Series](#)
- Pfizer Training: <https://www.pfizermedicalinformation.com/en-us/medical-updates>
- Moderna Training: <https://app.livestorm.co/moderna-na-medical/moderna-office-hours-omicron-bivalent-boosters>

For the public:

- [CDC COVID-19 booster tool](#)
- [Moderna Bivalent Factsheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#) (for ages 6 and over)
- [Pfizer Bivalent Factsheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#) (for ages 5-11)
 - [Stay Up to Date with Your COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccines for People who are Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised | CDC](#)
 - [Overview of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children and Teens with Disabilities | CDC](#)

Reporting Adverse Events

LDH reminds providers to report possible vaccine-related adverse events to the FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html> or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

Any possible severe adverse events (those resulting in hospitalization, death, or persistent disability) should be immediately reported to the Office Public Health (OPH) Infectious Disease/Epidemiology Hotline at 1-800-256-2748.

If you have vaccine-related questions, please contact la.immunization@la.gov . Any member of the public with questions on COVID-19 testing, therapeutics, vaccines, or other related issues, can call the Louisiana COVID-19 Community Hotline at 855-453-0774.