

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 Update

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Question of the Week

What age groups are eligible to receive the updated COVID-19 booster?

Earlier this month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended the first updated COVID-19 boosters from Pfizer-BioNTech for people ages 12 years and older and from Moderna for people ages 18 years and older.



CDC expects to recommend updated COVID-19 boosters for other pediatric groups in the coming weeks. When data are available and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorizes these other types of COVID-19 boosters, CDC will quickly move to help make them available in the United States. [Read more.](#)

FDA authorizes & CDC recommends updated COVID-19 vaccine boosters to target current variants

Last week, CDC and the FDA authorized bivalent formulations of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use as a single booster dose at least two months following primary or booster vaccination. These updated boosters are formulated to offer continued protection against the ancestral strain while also offering better protection against two lineages of the omicron variant, BA.4 and BA.5, which represent over 90% of currently circulating virus.



This FDA action is for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of these two bivalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines:

- The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent, is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 18 years of age and older.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent, is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 12 years of age and older.

“Mix and matching” of the new bivalent booster dose is allowed; one may receive either the Pfizer or Moderna product regardless of which product they received for their primary series and/or prior booster dose.

Both authorized bivalent COVID-19 vaccines include an mRNA component of the original strain to provide an immune response that is broadly protective against COVID-19 and an mRNA component in common between the omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5 lineages to provide better protection against COVID-19 caused by the omicron variant. In June, the FDA’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee voted overwhelmingly to include an omicron component in COVID-19 booster vaccines.

With authorization of these two bivalent vaccines, the original monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized as booster doses for individuals 12 years of age and older.

For information regarding eligibility, vaccine safety and effectiveness, side effects, ordering, reporting adverse events, and additional resources, please read [Health Alert Network Message 22-30: FDA Authorizes and CDC Recommends Updated COVID19 Vaccine Boosters Targeted to be More Effective Against Current Variants](#).

CDC releases “Moving Forward” report

CDC faces structural and systemic operational challenges, which were exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, the agency has experienced successes and public mistakes.

The report consists of two key components:

- Scientific and Programmatic Review: Identify ways to improve and institutionalize how CDC develops and deploys its science, both in pandemic and non-emergency times.
- Structural Review: Gather feedback on the agency's current processes, systems, and structure and solicit suggestions for strategic change, with a strong focus on the agency's core capabilities.

Findings from the Structural Review include:

- Translate science into practical policy
- Prioritize public health communications, with a focus on the American public
- Develop a CDC workforce ready to respond to future threats
- Promote partnerships

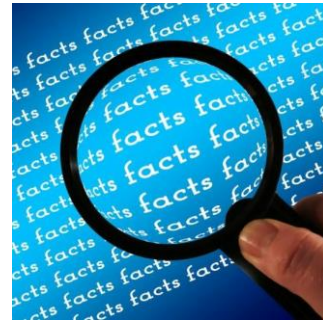
See this link for the full [CDC Moving Forward Summary Report](#).

New study shows parental intent and perception towards COVID-19 vaccination declined during the pandemic

According to a new CDC study, during July 2021–May 2022 parental intent to vaccinate children against COVID-19 and perception of COVID-19 vaccine safety and effectiveness declined over a three-month period.

However, intent to vaccinate and perceptions of vaccine safety returned to baseline after six months.

The study included a longitudinal cohort of 393 children between the ages of 4 months and 4 years in four states. For more information, read [Parental Intentions and Perceptions toward COVID-19 Vaccination among Children Aged 4 Months to 4 Years](#).



Updated public health communications toolkit

The Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC) updated its [Answers to Tough Questions](#) page and [booster dose toolkit](#) with new messaging guidance, graphics, and sample social posts in both English and Spanish to help answer questions in your community.

Good reads

- [White House requests \\$22.4B in COVID-19 funding, \\$3.9B in monkeypox funding](#)
- [Americans may need yearly shots to protect themselves against COVID-19](#)
- [Study finds link between poor mental health and long Covid](#)
- [Omicron COVID boosters are on their way to Louisiana. What you need to know](#)
- [COVID cases climb among Louisiana schoolchildren after schools return from summer](#)

GET THE FACTS

COVID-19 SUPPORT HOTLINE

855-453-0774

MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

SUNDAY
12:00 PM - 8:00 PM

BRING BACK
LOUISIANA

Submit a Question of the Week

Do you have a frequently asked question that you would like to submit or have answered in the QOW?

[SUBMIT HERE](#)

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