

IMMUNIZATION COVID-19 Update

October 6, 2022 | Issue 80



Question of the Week

What should the public health community know about variants that are not neutralized by Evusheld?

This week, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) [added additional information](#) to the authorized Fact Sheets for Evusheld (tixagevimab co-packaged with cilgavimab). The Fact Sheets “inform health care providers and individuals receiving Evusheld of the increased risk for developing COVID-19 when exposed to variants of SARS-CoV-2 that are not neutralized by Evusheld.”



- [Evusheld](#) is currently the only option for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) of COVID-19. The FDA continues to recommend Evusheld as an appropriate option for PrEP to prevent COVID-19, in combination with other preventative measures like getting vaccinated and boosted as recommended, as Evusheld still offers protection against many of the currently circulating variants and may offer protection against future variants.
- Detailed data can be found in the revised authorized [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#).

For more information, [view additional information for patients and providers](#).

Pediatric bivalent booster rollout

The CDC has updated the [Fall COVID-19 Vaccination Operational Planning Guide](#) to include details about bivalent COVID-19 vaccines as boosters for children aged 5–11 years.

Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5–11 years and older is expected to have the following characteristics:

- **Storage temperatures and handling:**
 - Ultra-cold freezer storage (-90°C to -60°C) until expiry
 - NO FREEZER STORAGE
 - Refrigerate (2°C to 8°C) up to 10 weeks without puncture
 - **Once punctured, each vial must be used within 12 hours**
- 10-dose vials in cartons of 10 vials each (100 doses total)
 - Minimum order quantity of 100 doses
- Requires diluent (no ancillary kit opt-out)
- Same vial with an orange cap as existing Pfizer-BioNTech product for this age group, but with a label that identifies it as a bivalent booster
- NDC for Pfizer bivalent for children aged 5–11 years: 59267-0565-02

Pediatric Moderna bivalent boosters

There will be no pre-ordering period for Moderna bivalent vaccine for children as this product will already be in the field. Bivalent Moderna vaccines are available to order against current thresholds.

- **Storage temperatures and handling:**
 - NO ULTRA-COLD FREEZER STORAGE
 - Freezer storage (-50°C to -15°C) until expiry
 - Refrigerate (2°C to 8°C) up to 30 days without puncturing
 - **Once punctured, each vial must be used within 12 hours**
- 5-dose vials in cartons of 10 vials each (50 doses total)
 - Minimum order quantity of 100 doses
- Same vial (dark blue cap, gray border) and presentation for Moderna is expected for all authorized age groups, but the volume and dosage will differ by age:
 - Adolescents aged 12–17 years: same volume and dosage as for adults aged 18 years and older
 - Children aged 6–11 years: half the volume and dosage as for adults aged 18 years and older (drawn from the same vial)
- Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccine does not require diluent.
- NDC for Moderna bivalent for children aged 6–17 years will be the same NDC as for adults, which is 80777-0282-99.

Two virtual events featuring Moderna experts

The Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine, Bivalent ushers in a new stage of protection, targeting key Omicron variants and boosting durability. Providers are invited to join a panel of national experts on this Friday, Oct. 7 or Tuesday, Oct. 11 for a live virtual event discussing practical issues related to the bivalent vaccine. Visit [HERE](#) to reserve your spot.

Topics will include:

- Current case, outcome, and vaccine data
- Omicron variants, distinctions, and protection
- ACIP bivalent vaccine recommendations
- Patient FAQs and uptake strategies



Featured panelists are:

Wendy L. Wright, DNP, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, FNAP

Family Nurse Practitioner
Wright & Associates Family Healthcare

Gary S. Marshall, MD

Professor of Pediatrics Chief, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Norton Children's and the University of Louisville School of Medicine

Jeffrey Goad, PharmD, MPH

Tenured Professor, Pharmacy Practice Chair
Chapman University School of Pharmacy
Chapman University

Lauren B. Angelo, PharmD, MBA

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Rosalind Franklin University College of Pharmacy

Introducing Bench2Practice

Bench2Practice is Moderna's new, dynamic learning environment committed to the thoughtful dissemination of timely, relevant information and resources to support the practice of evidence-based medicine.

FDA and FTC issue joint warning regarding unapproved COVID-19 kit and products

Last week, the FDA [issued](#) a warning letter jointly with the Federal Trade Commission to Bespoke Apothecary LLC for selling unapproved and misbranded COVID kit and Post Virus Recovery Herbal Tea products. These products have been promoted for use in treating or preventing COVID-19. Consumers concerned about COVID-19 should consult with their health care provider.

LDH will host flu vaccination clinics across Northeast Louisiana

The Louisiana Department of Health's Office of Public Health for Region 8 (Northeast) will host drive-thru flu vaccination clinics at four of its parish health units to kick off the fall and to prepare Louisianans to fight the flu. Region 8 serves the parishes of Lincoln, Union, Morehouse, East Carroll, West Carroll, Madison, Tensas, Franklin, Richland, Caldwell, Jackson and Ouachita.



COVID-19 vaccines, including the COVID-19 bivalent boosters, will be available at the following locations:


- **Union Parish Health Unit:** Friday, September 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; 1002 Marion Hwy., Farmerville
- **Jackson Parish Health Unit:** Thursday, October 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 228 Bond St., Jonesboro
- **Morehouse Parish Health Unit:** Friday, October 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 650 School Rd., Bastrop
- **Ouachita Parish Health Unit:** Thursday, October 13 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.; 1650 DeSiard St., Monroe

The flu vaccines are available at no cost to individuals who are insured, have Medicaid or Medicare coverage, or are uninsured. There are no out-of-pocket costs, however, the insurance company will be billed for those individuals who have insurance coverage. Insured individuals should bring a valid insurance card to the clinic. Any existing COVID-19 vaccine cards will be updated. [Learn more.](#)

Good reads

- [Scientists are worried about new COVID-19 variants—but most Americans aren't](#)
- [Omicron BA.4.6 makes up nearly 13% of COVID variants circulating in U.S.](#)

- [Here's what might happen the second—or third—time you get Covid, experts say: 'There's no guarantee'](#)
- [Rapides Parish's COVID cases fall 26.3%; Louisiana cases plummet 28.9%](#)
- [Blood test for long COVID: Could blood proteins predict risk?](#)



The infographic features a background image of a laboratory setting with blue test tubes and a clear vial labeled 'COVID - 19 Vaccine'. A white text box with a blue exclamation mark icon at the top left contains the following text:

UPDATED COVID-19 BOOSTERS
CDC endorses updated COVID-19 boosters

Get the facts:

- These updated boosters are formulated to offer continued protection against the original strain, while also offering better protection against the two lineages of the Omicron variant, BA.4 and BA.5, which represent over 90% of currently circulating virus
- "Mix and matching" of the new bivalent booster dose is allowed

Who is eligible?

- **Moderna:** individuals 18 years of age and older
- **Pfizer:** individuals 12 years of age and older

At the bottom right of the infographic is the Louisiana Department of Health logo.

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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