



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD
Commissioner

October 14, 2022

Dear Colleague,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has expanded the recommendation for bivalent COVID-19 booster doses to include children ages 5 to 11 years. According to the new recommendations, everyone 5 years of age and older should receive one age-appropriate bivalent mRNA COVID-19 booster dose at least 2 months after completion of a monovalent COVID-19 primary series or previously received monovalent booster dose. Age-appropriate homologous and heterologous boosters are allowed; there is no preference for homologous or heterologous boosters. **Monovalent booster doses are no longer authorized for any ages.**

The CDC's [Clinical Considerations](#) have also been updated, including revised COVID-19 vaccination schedules for [people who are not immunocompromised](#) and [people who are immunocompromised](#). The recommendations for children under 5 years of age are unchanged; children under 5 years of age are not recommended to receive any type of booster at this time.

The bivalent boosters contain two mRNA components of SARS-CoV-2 virus: one of the ancestral strain of SARS-CoV-2 and one of common portions of the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the Omicron variant. **Three bivalent booster formulations have received [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to date:**

- **Moderna bivalent booster (dark blue cap, gray label border):** no dilution, storage in a freezer (-15°C to -50°C) until expiration or refrigerator (2°C to 8°C) up to 30 days
 - Ages 6 to 11 years: 25 mcg / 0.25 mL dose
 - Ages 12 years and older: 50 mcg / 0.5 mL dose
- **Pfizer bivalent booster (orange cap):** dilution required, storage in an ultra-cold freezer until expiration or refrigerator (2°C to 8°C) up to 10 weeks
 - Ages 5 to 11 years: 10 mcg / 0.2 mL dose
- **Pfizer bivalent booster (gray cap):** no dilution, storage in an ultra-cold freezer until expiration or refrigerator (2°C to 8°C) up to 10 weeks
 - Ages 12 years and older: 30 mcg / 0.3 mL dose

Given that the bivalent formulations have the same or similar cap colors as the monovalent formulations for each manufacturer and dosing varies by product and age group, **providers must pay careful attention to the vial labels to prevent vaccine administration errors.**

Giving multiple vaccines at the same visit increases the chance that a person will be up to date with their vaccinations. Coadministration of the flu and COVID-19 vaccines will help ensure that people, especially older adults and others at increased risk of complications from both viruses, are protected. COVID-19 vaccines administered with seasonal flu vaccine showed similar immunogenicity and similar or slightly higher reactogenicity; no safety concerns were identified.

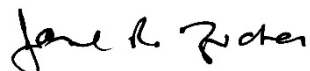
We will hold office hours on Tuesday, October 18 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. to answer providers' questions about bivalent booster recommendations.

- You can join the office hours at this meeting [link](#) or by calling 646-992-2010.
- The meeting number is 2346 541 8871 and the password is "Dohmh123."

If you are enrolled in the COVID-19 vaccination program, please order bivalent booster vaccine for your patient population in the [Citywide Immunization Registry](#). If you do not have vaccine at your facility, make sure to refer patients to a vaccination site. To find a vaccination site, visit [vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](#) or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).

Thank you for continuing to promote and protect the health of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,



Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene