



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

September 11, 2023

Dear Vaccines for Children program provider,

Good news! **Ordering for updated COVID-19 vaccines (2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines) is now open** for New York City Vaccines for Children (VFC) program providers in the [Citywide Immunization Registry \(CIR\)](#). COVID-19 vaccine ordering is now integrated with ordering for other VFC vaccines.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is meeting to review the updated vaccines on September 12. Updated vaccine is expected to be available to providers soon afterwards, pending approval/authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and recommendation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We also expect that the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines currently in circulation will be unauthorized in the coming days, prior to rollout of the updated vaccines. Do not administer bivalent vaccines after this point, even if you have not yet received the updated products.

The updated vaccines are **monovalent products** and were **designed to target the Omicron XBB.1.5** variant. The majority of the updated COVID-19 vaccines are now offered in **single dose vial (SDV)** presentations. The vaccines currently available for ordering are listed below:

| Product | VFC ages | Presentation | Minimum order |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|
| Moderna Spikevax 12y+ | 12–18 years | Single-dose vials | 10 doses |
| Pfizer COMIRNATY 12y+ | 12–18 years | Single-dose vials | 10 doses |
| Pfizer 5–11yr | 5–11 years | Single-dose vials | 10 doses |
| Pfizer 6m–4y | 6 months–4 years | Multi-dose vials (3 doses per vial) | 30 doses |

The Pfizer vaccine for children 6 months–4 years of age will automatically ship with diluent in a separate package. None of the other products require diluent.

Ordering for Moderna vaccine for children ages 6 months–11 years and Novavax vaccine for people 12 years of age and older will be available at a later date.

The updated vaccines have the same storage and handling parameters as previous COVID-19 vaccine products:

- **Pfizer:** Store in an ultra-cold freezer (-90°C to -60°C) until expiration and/or refrigerate (2°C to 8°C) up to 10 weeks before the vial is punctured. **Do not store in a regular freezer.**
- **Moderna:** Store in a freezer (-50°C and -15°C) until the expiration date and/or refrigerate (2°C and 8°C) for up to 30 days. **Do not freeze once thawed. Do not store in an ultra-cold freezer.**

We will send additional communications to providers in the coming days to summarize regulatory decisions and CDC recommendations related to the updated vaccines. In the interim, please email questions about COVID-19 orders to CovidVax@health.nyc.gov.

Thank you for promoting and protecting the health of New Yorkers

Bureau of Immunization
Department of Health & Mental Hygiene