



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD
Commissioner

June 18, 2024

Dear Provider,

There are several important updates for providers related to COVID-19 vaccines.

Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Formulation for 2024-2025

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has advised manufacturers that the 2024-2025 formulation of COVID-19 vaccines should be an updated, monovalent vaccine targeting the JN.1 variant. This decision follows a unanimous recommendation from FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC). [VRBPAC expressed a strong preference for selection of the JN.1 variant over other subvariants \(e.g., KP.2\).](#)

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will discuss clinical recommendations for the 2024-2025 formulation during its meeting from June 26-28, 2024. Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will follow.

Pfizer and Moderna expect their updated COVID-19 vaccines to be available in August. Novavax expects its updated COVID-19 vaccine to be available in September. All updated products will require FDA approval prior to distribution.

End of the Bridge Access Program

CDC's [Bridge Access Program](#), which provides no-cost COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured and underinsured adults through retail pharmacies and the New York City Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program, will be ending in August 2024. The program was originally scheduled to end on December 31, 2024, but will now end earlier due to a congressional budget rescission. The exact end date in August will likely align with FDA approval of the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines.

After the Bridge Access Program ends, COVID-19 vaccines will continue to be covered by most commercial health insurance plans, Medicare, and Medicaid. Children eligible for federally funded vaccines through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program will continue to be able to access COVID-19 vaccines through providers participating in the VFC program. We are working on strategies to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured and underinsured adults.

Availability of 2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccines

Pfizer and Novavax 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines are no longer available for ordering through the VFC and VFA programs. Moderna 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines are expected to be available for ordering throughout the remainder of the 2023-2024 season and the latest expiry is late September 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bindy Crouch'.

Bindy Crouch, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization