BIVALENT BOOSTERS

WHAT IS A BIVALENT COVID-19 BOOSTER?

The bivalent vaccine contains the mRNA protein codes for two specific strains (or variants) of COVID-19.

- The original COVID-19 virus.
- The Omicron BA.4/5 variant, which has caused the majority of cases in the U.S. recently.

The original COVID-19 vaccine is a monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

WHO CAN GET A BIVALENT BOOSTER?

Per the CDC: Everyone ages 12 years and older are recommended to receive one age-appropriate bivalent mRNA booster dose after completion of any FDA-approved or FDA-authorized primary series or last monovalent booster dose.

– People should not get a bivalent booster without first completing a primary series

– Age-appropriate homologous and heterologous boosters are allowed; there is no preference

- Ages 12 years and older can get a Pfizer bivalent booster
- Ages 18 years and older can get a Moderna bivalent booster

CAN THE ORIGINAL BOOSTER BE GIVEN?

Bivalent boosters are the only authorized boosters now available. Previously authorized monovalent boosters should not be used. Those 5 to 11 years can still be given the original (monovalent) Pfizer vaccine as a booster.

Note: there are no changes to the COVID-19 vaccine schedules for children ages 6 months through 11 years old.

WHAT IS THE TIMING BETWEEN DOSES?

At least two months since the last COVID-19 vaccine dose (primary or booster).

HAS THE PRIMARY VACCINE CHANGED?

The original monovalent vaccine products have NOT changed. The bivalent vaccine is authorized as a BOOSTER only.

MOST COMMONLY REPORTED SYMPTOMS:

Are similar to monovalent COVID-19 vaccines:

- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Joint pain
- Fever
- Headache
- Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site
- Fatigue

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2022-09-01/09-COVID-Hall-508.pdf