

From: dph.immunizations@ct.gov <noreply@everbridge.net>

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Subject: Updated CDC Guidance for Use of Bivalent mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

April 24, 2023

This communication is being sent to all key contacts at provider organizations administering COVID-19 vaccine— please read this message in its entirety. Please feel free to share it with others in your organization who may benefit from the update. Note that all our communications are archived on our web site.

Dear COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP) Providers,

Last week the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) amended the emergency use authorizations \(EUAs\)](#) for Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 bivalent mRNA vaccines to simplify the vaccination schedule for most individuals. Additionally, the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) met to discuss clinical considerations](#).

The new recommendations have been [endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and are now updated on the [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#) webpage.

For people who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised, revision of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccination schedule as follows:

- At the time of initial vaccination, depending on vaccine product, children ages 6 months–4 years are recommended to receive 2 or 3 bivalent mRNA vaccine doses; children age 5 years are recommended to receive 1 or 2 bivalent mRNA vaccine doses. For young children, multiple doses continue to be recommended and will vary by age, vaccine, and which vaccines were previously received. Specifics are provided in the clinical considerations.
- People ages 6 years and older who are unvaccinated or previously received only monovalent vaccine doses are recommended to receive 1 bivalent mRNA vaccine dose. Individuals ages 6 years and older who have already received an updated mRNA vaccine do not need to take any action unless they are 65 years or older.
- People ages 65 years and older may receive 1 additional bivalent mRNA vaccine dose if it has been at least 4 months after their first bivalent mRNA dose.
- **Information about the COVID-19 vaccination schedule for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised will be available soon.**

Reminder: Use of Current Monovalent mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) COVID-19 Vaccines

The monovalent mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) COVID-19 vaccines are NO LONGER authorized for use in the United States for any age. This change is NOT due to any safety concerns, but rather due to the new simplified schedule. Providers should do the following:

- Remove all monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccine currently in inventory to reduce the risk of accidental administration.
- Report all removed monovalent mRNA doses as waste to the CT WiZ [Helpdesk](#).
- Dispose of the vaccine vial (with any remaining vaccine) and packaging as medical waste. Do NOT return vaccine.

Providers can continue to utilize Novavax and Janssen COVID-19 vaccines as indicated in the [clinical considerations for COVID-19 vaccines](#).

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and effort with the COVID-19 vaccines.

For the CT DPH Immunization Program, visit: [Contact Us](#)

For the COVID-19 webpage, visit: [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#)

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