

**From:** dph.immunizations@ct.gov <noreply@everbridge.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 2, 2022 9:19 AM  
**Subject:** CDC Recommends New Fall Bivalent Booster



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**September 1, 2022**

*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 Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

Yesterday the [FDA authorized both Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent boosters](#). Today the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met to issue the below recommendation; meeting and presentation materials are available [here](#). CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky endorsed those recommendations and released a [statement](#).

- Individuals 18 years of age and older are eligible for a single booster dose of the Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccine if it has been at least two months since they have completed primary vaccination or have received the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.
- Individuals 12 years of age and older are eligible for a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent COVID-19 vaccine if it has been at least two months since they have completed primary vaccination or have received the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.
- The new recommendation has been simplified and if eligible (see table below), a bivalent booster should not be denied based on total number of doses.

[Interim Clinical Considerations](#) for healthcare providers and [associated materials](#) will be updated shortly. It is expected that a [COCA call](#) reviewing the new recommendation and clinical considerations will be scheduled for next week. There is a [COCA call reviewing coadministration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines](#) on Thursday, September 8, 2022, from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET.

**COVID-19 vaccine providers in Connecticut may begin administration of doses in line with the FDA emergency use authorization and CDC recommendations as soon the vaccine arrives.**

Distribution of the new bivalent mRNA vaccines has started, and providers who placed a pre-order will continue to receive vaccine this week and next week. No orders will be delivered on Labor Day. Providers can now begin ordering both the Moderna and Pfizer bivalent vaccines using the standard weekly ordering practice through the [submissions portal](#).

- Providers should conduct outreach and messaging to their eligible patient populations, especially to their 65 and older and immunocompromised patients.
- The public will be directed to Vaccines.gov to find providers offering bivalent COVID-19 vaccine. After receiving your initial vaccine orders, providers are asked to report their inventory to [gov](#) as soon as possible.
- Providers are strongly encouraged to adopt strategies to minimize unnecessary vaccine wastage, however, they should not miss any opportunities to vaccinate every eligible person who requests a vaccination, even if it means puncturing a multidose vial to administer vaccine without having enough people available to receive each dose in the vial.
- In order to continue offering primary series vaccines in addition to bivalent boosters, providers will need to keep multiple COVID-19 vaccine products in their inventory throughout the fall. CDC recommends providers offer simultaneous administration of all age-appropriate doses of vaccines for children, adolescents, and adults for whom no contraindications exist at the time of the healthcare visit.
- Pfizer has virtual training for providers on their new COVID-19 bivalent booster vaccine as a booster dose in individuals 12 years of age and older; to access dates and links for upcoming training sessions, [visit the Pfizer website](#).
- Moderna has a virtual educational webinar and interactive office hours for providers on their new COVID-19 bivalent booster vaccine; to see webinar dates and register click [here](#) and to see office hour times click [here](#).

### Use of Current Monovalent\* mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

(\* Monovalent mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines are the initial Moderna and Pfizer products that contain the original strain only.)

**As of yesterday, the monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are NO LONGER authorized for use as boosters in people ages 12 years and older.** This change is NOT due to any safety concerns, but rather in anticipation of the new bivalent mRNA vaccines. Providers should do the following:

- Providers should not discard any monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine that they currently have in inventory. They should continue to properly store and handle these vaccines until expiration or until further direction is provided.
- The monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine is still safe and effective and should be administered for the primary series in individuals 6 months and older.
- Additionally, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine remains authorized for administration of a single booster dose for individuals 5 through 11 years of age at least five months after completing a primary series of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.
- Appointments for monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna boosters in people 12 years of age and older must be rescheduled for when locations have the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines available.

### Frequently Asked Questions

- Which monovalent mRNA vaccines are no longer authorized for use for boosters?

- Both the Pfizer and Moderna monovalent vaccines are no longer authorized as a booster for people 12 years of age and older.
- What if I have a 12–17-year-old patient that wants to continue with Moderna?
  - At this time, the Pfizer bivalent vaccine is the only vaccine authorized and recommended for use as a booster in individuals 12-17 years of age. Providers should recommend the Pfizer booster now to patients. In the coming weeks, CDC also expects to recommend updated COVID-19 boosters for other pediatric groups, if the patient decides to wait for the Moderna bivalent booster.
- What should we do with our monovalent mRNA vaccines?
  - If providers still have any of these vaccines, then at this time, they should continue to store them until expiration or until they receive further direction from the state. Providers should keep in mind that these original/monovalent mRNA vaccines can still be administered to individuals seeking to complete their primary series and for 5-11 boosters.
- Will the Monovalent version of Pfizer and Moderna no longer be distributed?
  - Providers will still be able to order doses of the monovalent Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, for use as a primary series in all ages and as a booster for children 5-11 years of age.
- Do the children 12+ still receive the monovalent (old) Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine when they are getting their primary series?
  - Yes, either the monovalent Pfizer, monovalent Moderna or Novavax can be used as to complete the primary series in individuals 12 years of age and older.
- How should we prevent wastage of the monovalent vaccines that we already ordered?
  - In order to continue offering primary series vaccines in addition to bivalent boosters, providers will need to keep multiple COVID-19 vaccine products in their inventory throughout the fall. Providers should not miss any opportunities to vaccinate every eligible person who requests a vaccination, even if it results in wasted doses from a multidose vial.

**Thank you for all your ongoing work and support of our COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in Connecticut.**

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

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

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