

From: dph.immunizations@ct.gov <noreply@everbridge.net>
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Subject: New Bivalent Booster Coming Soon, Pre-order Your Vaccine Now



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

August 19, 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,

As many of you know, during June the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) advised manufacturers](#) seeking to update their COVID-19 vaccines to add an Omicron BA.4/5 spike protein component to the current vaccine composition to create a **NEW** bivalent booster vaccine. Submissions for a new Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) are expected from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna **in early September, potentially by Labor Day.**

After an EUA is issued, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will convene to discuss potential recommendations. Once scheduled, [ACIP meeting information is announced on the CDC website](#). Administration of any new bivalent COVID-19 boosters can begin only after CDC's official recommendations.

The bivalent COVID-19 vaccine will be administered as a single booster dose to those who previously completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine. It is anticipated that bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster doses may initially be authorized for people ages 12 years and older (Pfizer-BioNTech) and for people ages 18 years and older (Moderna), followed by younger pediatric age groups. **It is also anticipated that the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines will only be authorized as a single dose in people who have completed a primary vaccination series.** The type and number of COVID-19 boosters that people have previously received is not expected to matter for the purposes of eligibility for bivalent COVID-19 boosters.

The new vaccines will have the same storage and handling parameters as the original vaccine products:

[Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

- Ultra-cold freezer storage (-90°C to -60°C) until expiry
- NO FREEZER STORAGE
- Refrigerate (2°C to 8°C) up to 10 weeks without puncturing
- 6-dose vials in cartons of 10 vials each (60 doses total), with a minimum order quantity of 300 dose

- Once punctured, each vial must be used within 12 hours

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines

- NO ULTRA-COLD FREEZER STORAGE
- Freezer storage (-25°C to -15°C) until expiry
- Refrigerate (2°C to 8°C) up to 30 days without puncturing
- 5-dose vials in cartons of 10 vials each (50 doses total), with a minimum order quantity of 100 doses
- Once punctured, each vial must be used within 12 hours

In anticipation of the ACIP recommendation meeting, the Department of Public Health Immunization Program is accepting pre-orders for the new booster formulation. These pre-orders will be shipped once the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) is issued and are anticipated to arrive **during the first week of September**.

For delivery during week 1 of distribution, please complete [this pre-order form](#) by noon Tuesday August 23rd. Please order only what you think you can administer in one week, more vaccine will be available during week 2 of distribution.

We will send out a new link to collect pre-orders next week for week 2 of distribution. Please note that we anticipate weekly ordering will be established through the ordering portal after the EUA is issued.

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 Vaccines.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.

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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