



October 17, 2022

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the COVID-19 Bivalent Booster

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has created a **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** document to provide the latest answers to questions about the updated COVID-19 Bivalent Booster. This information has been sourced from guidance from IDPH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and partner agencies.

### Who is eligible for the bivalent booster?

The bivalent boosters are available for people ages 5 and older who have received their primary series (2 doses of Moderna or Pfizer, 1 dose of J&J).

On October 12, 2022, the FDA authorized use of the updated COVID-19 vaccines for children as young as 5 years old.

- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is available to children ages 5 through 11 years
- The Moderna vaccine is available to children and adolescents ages 6 through 17 years.
- For more information on eligibility, visit the [CDC Stay Up to Date with Vaccines](#) website.

### What does the bivalent booster do?

The updated (bivalent) boosters are called “bivalent” because they protect against **both** the original virus that causes COVID-19 **and** the Omicron variant, including subvariants BA.4 and BA.5.

### When can I get the updated booster?

Anyone who is eligible (see above) and has not received any primary series or booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in the past 2 months, should get their booster. **If you tested positive for COVID-19 in the past**, it is recommended that you also wait for at least 3 months since your COVID-19 infection to receive the vaccine.

### Can I get any type of COVID-19 vaccine for the booster dose?

Yes. The CDC stated that you can “mix and match” any of the available bivalent COVID-19 vaccines for your booster dose.

### How many doses of the bivalent booster need?

Only a single booster dose is recommended at this time by the CDC.

### What if I am immunocompromised?

If you are immunocompromised, it is even more important that you stay up to date with COVID-19 boosters. Visit the CDC website: [CDC COVID-19 Vaccines for People Who Are Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised](#) for more details.

### Where can I get this bivalent booster?

The best way to locate a vaccine provider near you is to go to [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) and search for bivalent booster availability.

### Can I get the COVID-19 bivalent booster AND the flu shot at the same time?

Yes – and it’s encouraged!