



COVID-19 BIVALENT VACCINE

The bivalent COVID-19 vaccine contains an mRNA component of the original virus strain and an mRNA component of the omicron variant, specifically the BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants. This allows for broad protection against COVID-19 as well as improved protection against the omicron variant.



WHAT IS THE BIVALENT VACCINE?^{1,2}

HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM THE MONOVALENT VACCINE?^{1,2}

The monovalent vaccine contains a component of the mRNA from the original SARS-CoV-2. This is designed to generate an immune response to this original virus.

WHO SHOULD RECEIVE A BOOSTER DOSE?^{3,4}



Everyone ages 6 months and older is recommended to receive one bivalent mRNA booster dose after completion of any FDA-approved or FDA-authorized monovalent primary series or previously received monovalent booster dose(s) with the following exception: children age 6 months–4 years who receive a 3-dose Pfizer-BioNTech primary series are not authorized to receive a booster dose at this time regardless of which Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (i.e., monovalent or bivalent) was administered for the third primary series dose.

The virus that causes COVID-19 changes over time. Keep your protection against COVID-19 up to date by getting a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster dose. COVID-19 vaccines can help protect against severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. As the virus changes and your immunity naturally decreases over time, you may lose some of that protection.

WHY SHOULD YOU RECEIVE THE BIVALENT VACCINE?²

1. DeFrancesco C. Who you need to know about your next covid booster. UConn Today. Published September 6, 2022. Accessed January 24, 2023. <https://today.uconn.edu/2022/09/what-you-need-to-know-about-your-next-covid-booster/#>
2. US Food and Drug Administration. COVID-19 bivalent vaccine boosters. Accessed January 24, 2023. <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-bivalent-vaccine-boosters>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. FAQs for the interim clinical considerations for COVID-19 vaccination. Accessed January 24, 2023. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/faq.html>
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines including boosters. Accessed January 24, 2023. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html?s_cid=11747:bivalent%20covid%20booster;sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY22

