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.

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.

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.


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This information is emerging and rapidly evolving because of ongoing research and events and is subject to the professional judgment and interpretation of the practitioner due to the uniqueness of the needs of individual patients. ASHP provides this information to help practitioners better understand the current status of COVID-19 vaccines. ASHP has made reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy and appropriateness of the information presented. However, any reader of this information is advised that ASHP is not responsible for the currency of the information, for any errors or omissions, and/or for any consequences arising from the use of the information for any purpose. Any reader of this document is cautioned that ASHP makes no representation, guarantee, or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy and appropriateness of the information contained in this vaccine information sheet and will bear no responsibility or liability for the results or consequences of its use.