

Your Guide to Bivalent COVID-19 Booster Vaccines



The information provided in this document are general recommendations and are not intended as medical advice for individual situations.

What is a bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine?

The bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine is a new vaccine that was created to protect against the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in addition to the original strain of COVID-19 virus. The bivalent vaccine will be given as a single booster dose to people who have already completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine or 2 months after the last monovalent booster dose.

Why were bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccines developed?

The COVID-19 virus is always changing to make new types of viruses called “variants”. Vaccines may not be as effective in preventing infection from these newer variants.

As of April 2022, the Omicron variant is the main variant found in the United States and is more than twice as contagious as past COVID-19 variants. The bivalent booster vaccines were created to help provide additional protection against this leading Omicron variant.

If you have any questions about COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, please discuss with your healthcare provider.

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines to protect yourself and others. Visit www.vaccines.gov to book a COVID-19 booster appointment near you.

How are bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccines different from the original booster vaccines?

In the United States, the bivalent booster vaccines have had an Omicron BA.4/5 spike protein component added to the original vaccine formula.

- These subvariants (BA.4 and BA.5) are two of the most common strains of Omicron currently in the country.
- Adding the Omicron BA.4/5 spike protein component to the current vaccine formula may help protect the public from the leading strains of COVID-19.

What does the CDC recommend for Omicron specific booster vaccines?

The CDC currently recommends COVID-19 vaccine booster doses to everyone 5 years of age and older. Recommendations on the use of the new bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine are available on the CDC website.