

***TN Health Alert Network Communication***  
**Update on COVID-19 Vaccine Booster**  
**September 9, 2022**

Thank you for your continued support in making COVID-19 information and vaccine accessible to Tennesseans. On August 31, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized both Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent COVID-19 boosters. On September 1, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation for use of the updated bivalent COVID-19 booster.

The updated COVID-19 “bivalent” vaccines increase protection against the currently circulating variants by adding protection against these strains of the virus to the original strain in the COVID-19 “monovalent” vaccines. These vaccines are safe and effective.

- The following individuals are eligible for a single booster dose of **either the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent OR the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent:**
  - Are 18 years of age and older
  - Completed primary vaccination or have received the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine at least two months prior
- The following individuals are eligible for a single booster dose of the **Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent:**
  - Are 12 years of age and older
  - Completed primary vaccination or have received the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine at least two months prior

Please be aware that the Pfizer monovalent and bivalent boosters both have a gray cap and gray border on the vial. The only difference is the writing on the vial indicating “Bivalent” vaccine (pictured below).

**TDH wants to emphasize an important change resulting from the FDA approval. As of Thursday, August 31, 2022, monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are NO LONGER authorized for use as boosters in people ages 12 years and older.**

- With this week’s authorization, the monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are not authorized as booster doses for individuals 12 years of age and older.
- Appointments for monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna boosters in people 12 years of age and older must be rescheduled for when locations have the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines available.

Tennessee COVID-19 vaccine providers will begin receiving the updated booster vaccines next week. Please communicate with your patients as appropriate to notify them about receipt and availability of new vaccine boosters.

**Helpful links**

[FDA Authorizes Moderna, Pfizer BioNTech Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines for Use as a Booster Dose](#)

[CDC Recommends First Updated COVID-19 Booster](#)

[CDC Interim Clinical Considerations for Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters](#)

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Again, thanks for all you do to support the health of Tennesseans. Please contact TDH Division of Communicable and Environmental Diseases and Emergency Preparedness if you have any questions (615)741-7247.

**Attached**

Images of the Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna labels and comparison tables.

