

Bivalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines – ACIP discusses FDA updates to bivalent mRNA vaccine schedules

- On April 19, 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) expressed their support for the [FDA's amended](#) emergency use authorizations (EUAs) of the [Moderna coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) bivalent mRNA vaccine](#) and [Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 bivalent mRNA vaccine](#).
 - The [CDC Director signed off](#) on the changes discussed by ACIP and amended by the FDA.
- The changes include:
 - An additional updated (bivalent) vaccine dose is recommended for adults ages 65 years and older and additional doses for people who are immunocompromised. This allows more flexibility for healthcare providers to administer additional doses to immunocompromised patients as needed.
 - Monovalent (original) mRNA COVID-19 vaccines will no longer be recommended for use in the U.S.
 - Everyone ages 6 years and older should receive an updated (bivalent) mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of whether they previously completed their (monovalent) primary series.
 - Individuals ages 6 years and older who have already received an updated mRNA vaccine do not need to take any action unless they are 65 years or older or immunocompromised.
 - For young children, multiple doses continue to be recommended and will vary by age, vaccine, and which vaccines were previously received.
- Alternatives to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines remain available for people who cannot or will not receive an mRNA vaccine.
- CDC's recommendations for use of (monovalent) [Novavax](#) or Johnson & Johnson's [Janssen](#) COVID-19 vaccines were not affected by the changes made today.
- The [CDC is developing education materials](#) for all age groups and situations for the bivalent vaccines. These final recommendations will be posted to the [CDC website](#).
- According to the [CDC](#), only 16.7% of the U.S. population has received an updated (bivalent) booster dose.