

COVID-19 vaccines – VRBPAC makes recommendations for new monovalent vaccine composition for 2025 – 2026

- On May 22, 2025, the FDA's [Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee \(VRBPAC\)](#) unanimously voted for the 2025 – 2026 formula of COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S to include a vaccine composition of a monovalent JN.1-lineage.
 - For 2024 – 2025, Moderna's [Spikevax[®] \(COVID-19 vaccine, mRNA\)](#) and Pfizer's [Comirnaty[®] \(COVID-19 vaccine, mRNA\)](#) vaccines contained KP.2. Novavax/Sanofi's [Nuvaxovid[®] \(COVID-19 vaccine, adjuvanted\)](#) vaccine contained JN.1.
- Information was presented to the VRBPAC from the FDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization and the COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers. SARS-CoV-2 was discussed, and several relevant points were made:
 - Genetic drift has slowed from last year to this year compared to major evolutionary changes in previous years. All currently circulating lineages are related to JN.1.
 - Currently, the most dominant strain is LP.8.1. Variants that become predominate usually dominate for a relatively short period of time (months).
 - The continued evolution and diversity of JN.1-lineage viruses complicates the specific strain selection decision.
 - SARS-CoV-2 continues to evolve without a well-defined seasonality and in an unpredictable manner. The timing for vaccine updating is not easily aligned with the emergence of virus variants.
- The VRBPAC discussed the selection of JN.1 and/or a specific JN.1-lineage strain for COVID-19 vaccine (2025 – 2026) to be used in the U.S.
 - Monovalent JN.1 or KP.2 remain appropriate COVID-19 vaccine antigens; monovalent LP.8.1 is a suitable alternative vaccine antigen.

What's Next?

- The FDA will review VRBPAC's recommendations and approve final composition for the 2025 - 2026 COVID-19 vaccines.
- The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet in [June 2025](#) to discuss and make recommendations on the FDA's approvals.
- The new vaccines are expected to be available in the Fall 2025 timeframe.