



**TO:** West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and Other Healthcare Facilities

**FROM:** Ayne Amjad, MD, MPH, Commissioner and State Health Officer  
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health

**DATE:** September 2, 2022

**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:** Please distribute to community health providers, hospital-based physicians, infection control preventionists, laboratory directors and other applicable partners.

**OTHER RECIPIENTS:** Please distribute to association members, staff, etc.

On September 1, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) endorsed the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendations for use of the COVID-19 Omicron updated boosters (i.e., bivalent boosters) from Pfizer-BioNTech for people ages 12 years and older and from Moderna for people ages 18 years and older.

Updated COVID-19 boosters add Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 spike protein components to the original COVID-19 vaccine composition. This helps the immune system restore protection that may have waned since previous vaccination by targeting variants that are prevalent and highly transmissible in our communities at this time.

The Omicron boosters (bivalent) are for those ages 12 years and older who have completed the primary series with any authorized/approved COVID-19 vaccine, **and** their most recent original (monovalent) COVID-19 vaccine of any kind was at least 2 months ago.

**Moderna COVID-19 Omicron (Bivalent) Boosters:**

The **Moderna COVID-19 Omicron (bivalent) booster** is authorized for use in individuals **18 years of age and older** as a single booster dose administered at **least 2 months after either:**

- Completion of primary vaccination with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine, or
- Receipt of the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.

**Moderna COVID-19 Omicron (bivalent) booster** is supplied as a multidose vial with a **dark blue cap** and **gray border label** and administered as a **0.5 mL dose**.

This product is **not** diluted prior to use (as with other Moderna COVID-19 vaccine products).

### **Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Omicron (Bivalent) Boosters:**

The **Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Omicron (bivalent) booster** is authorized for use in individuals **12 years of age and older** as a single booster dose administered at **least 2 months after either:**

- Completion of primary vaccination with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine, or
- Receipt of the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.

The **Pfizer COVID-19 Omicron (bivalent) booster** is currently supplied in a multidose vial with a **gray cap** and **label with gray border** administered as a **0.3 mL dose**.

This product is **not** diluted prior to use.

### **Other Considerations:**

#### ❖ *Storage/Handling*

Storage/handling and more can be found in the emergency use authorizations (EUAs).

**Pfizer EUA:** <https://bit.ly/PfizerOmicronEUA>

**Moderna EUA:** <https://bit.ly/ModernaOmicronEUA>

#### ❖ *Original Boosters – No Longer Authorized for Ages 12+*

As a reminder, if your entity offers the **original (monovalent) COVID-19 boosters for ages 12 years and older, halt immediately**. However, those original mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna, monovalent) remain authorized and recommended for use as the primary series.

#### ❖ *Important Naming Note*

There are several terms being used across the national, state, and local networks to refer to the new boosters. While the clinical considerations provided so far from CDC, the vial labels, and portions of the EUA refer to them as “Bivalent,” this is a term not easily understood or recognized by the general public.

Instead, **“Omicron Booster”** and **“Updated Booster”** are commonly used and better understood by the public. It is essential for providers to note that “bivalent”, “Omicron”, and “updated” boosters are referring to the same products. Consider using more common language (i.e., Omicron, updated) when discussing options with patients.

#### ❖ *Clinical Considerations and Updates*

The CDC’s Interim Clinical Considerations for the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines is expected to be updated in the next few days. As the official clinical guidance becomes available, state resources such as the COVID-19 Vaccination Due Date Calculator, FAQs on [vaccinate.wv.gov](https://www.wv.gov/vaccinate), and Just-in-Time Trainings will be updated/provided.

For questions about this advisory, contact the Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services (OEPS) at 1-800-423-1271, ext. 1 and/or 304-558-5358, ext. 1.