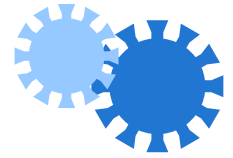


# New COVID-19 Bivalent Boosters:

## What you need to know



**All viruses, including the one that causes COVID-19, change over time. Sometimes these changes form a new version of the virus, like the Omicron variant. Getting the most up-to-date booster can help protect against new versions of the COVID-19 virus and prevent hospitalization and death.**

### **What is a bivalent booster and why is it different than the other boosters?**

Updated (bivalent) boosters were made to fight against the original virus and the Omicron variants. Bivalent just means that the vaccine is directed against two different variants.

### **Why should I get yet another vaccine?**

People who have gotten the bivalent booster vaccine have a lower chance of hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

### **Who should get the updated booster?**

Everyone 6 months and older is eligible for the updated booster. It is especially important for people 65 and older and people with underlying medical conditions. Age and underlying health conditions can place someone at higher risk for severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

### **If I had COVID-19 in the last 90 days, do I need to wait to get my booster?**

If you are young and healthy, you could consider waiting a few months since your last infection or last vaccine. People at higher risk should get their updated boosters as soon as they are eligible to reduce the risk severe problems from COVID-19 disease. You can get COVID-19 more than once so it is important to get a booster even if you had COVID-19 previously.

### **I'm older than 65 with medical conditions. Will the updated booster protect me?**

Studies have shown that even with multiple underlying health conditions, people over 65 who got the updated booster dose were up to 83% more protected from hospitalization than those who have not received the bivalent booster.

### **Can I mix and match the booster and my previous vaccines? Is one booster brand better?**

All FDA-authorized vaccines and boosters are safe and effective. Anyone older than 6 can get any vaccine brand for their booster. You do not need to use the same brand as your primary series or other boosters.

### **For more information visit:**

<https://bit.ly/COVIDboosterPHL>

January 2023



Department of  
**Public Health**

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

