

COVID-19 BIVALENT BOOSTERS FAQ

What is different about the bivalent booster?

The new booster is a bivalent vaccine, which means it has two parts, the original vaccine plus a new vaccine that provides coverage against the new omicron variant, BA.4 and BA.5 strains.

Why do I need the bivalent booster?

The virus that causes COVID-19 changes over time. The updated bivalent boosters are designed to give you broad protection against COVID-19, including better protection against the Omicron variant.

Which vaccine brands have the bivalent booster?

Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech are authorized for the bivalent vaccine.

Can I mix and match vaccine brands?

Yes, you can receive either booster dose regardless of which brand you received your primary booster for.

When am I eligible for the bivalent booster?

At least two months after completing primary or booster vaccination.

What ages are approved for the bivalent booster?

The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent is authorized for use as single booster dose in individuals 18+. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 12+.

Can I get the booster at the same time as a flu shot?

Yes, you can receive the booster dose on the same day or even at the same appointment as your regular flu shot.



Montgomery Township Health Department
Also serving the Boroughs of Hopewell, Pennington, & Rocky Hill
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Is the bivalent booster safe?

The new boosters contain the original BA.1 vaccine formula that has already been given to millions of people. It also contains the BA.5 variant which uses the same mRNA technology that gets the body to make antibodies against the spike protein. People who get infected with the BA.5 variant of COVID produce the same antibodies as the vaccine, but it will wear out over time.



Large clinical trials have already been conducted for the original COVID-19 vaccine. Clinical trials take time, and by the time the results are finalized, a new variant will emerge. In order to keep up against the ever-changing virus, small tweaks must be made to maximize immunity, just like the flu shot each year.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, contact the New Jersey Department of Health at 855-568-0545 or visit the website at covid19.nj.gov/vaccine



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