

## Media Inquiries:

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September 2, 2022

## For Immediate Release

### Individuals Now Eligible for New Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccination

**DuPage County** - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) endorsed the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice's (ACIP) recommendation for use of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, Bivalent, for use as a single booster dose at least two months after completing primary or booster vaccination. The [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, Bivalent](#) is authorized for use as a single booster dose in **individuals 18 years of age and older**. The [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, Bivalent](#) is authorized for use as a single booster dose in **individuals 12 years of age and older**.

This follows the U.S Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) authorization of the emergency use of Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 bivalent vaccines, for the prevention of COVID-19, especially the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants.

Individuals seeking an appointment can visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) to identify a pharmacy that is administering a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine or should contact their primary healthcare provider. It is expected some healthcare providers will begin offering the boosters next week.

DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) anticipates opening registration for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent, next week for appointments at our Central Public Health Center in Wheaton.

Eligible individuals that have been previously vaccinated by DCHD will receive an email with further instructions related to scheduling an appointment. Individuals may call (630) 682-7400 next week, starting Tuesday, for assistance with scheduling. Once available, DCHD will begin providing the updated Pfizer booster at mobile vaccination events in the community.

"The bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is yet another step in the right direction, helping to keep individuals protected against severe illness, hospitalization, and death related to COVID-19," said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of the DuPage County Health Department. "DCHD will continue to make COVID-19 vaccines available to our residents. Vaccines reduce the risk of COVID-19, including the risk of severe illness and death among people who are fully vaccinated and up to date with recommended boosters."

Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.



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According to the FDA, the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated for their immune response and safety in a clinical study. The authorized bivalent COVID-19 vaccines, or updated boosters, include an mRNA component of the original strain and an mRNA component in common between the omicron BA.4 and BA.5 variants. Additionally, data pertaining to the safety and effectiveness of the current mRNA COVID-19 vaccines contributed to the agency's evaluation.

The FDA also states, the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine will provide better protection against COVID-19 caused by the omicron variant as the BA.4 and BA.5 variants are responsible for most of the COVID-19 cases in the U.S and are predicted to circulate this fall and winter.

More information about the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine can be found by visiting the FDA's [website](#).

For more information on COVID-19 in DuPage County, visit [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19). Anyone age 5 years or older is also eligible for the monovalent COVID-19 booster shot and can find an appointment by going to [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov).

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