

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

April 21, 2023, Friday

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced some major changes this week for COVID-19 vaccines. Here's what you need to know:

First and most importantly, the old "monovalent" vaccines are going away and should no longer be used. If you have any of these vaccines at your site or practice, please sequester them. As of today, only the "bivalent" Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines should be used. These are "bivalent" because they protect against Omicron variants as well as the original version of SARS-CoV-2.

Second, the dosing schedule has been changed and simplified. People between 6 and 64 years old who have received one dose of a bivalent vaccine are now considered fully vaccinated. If you're 65 or older, a second dose of bivalent vaccine is recommended, at least four months after your first dose.

An additional dose of bivalent vaccine is also authorized for people who are immunocompromised, at the provider's discretion, at least two months after the first dose.

For children between six months and six years of age, the recommendation is for one to three doses of bivalent vaccine as an initial series, depending on the child's age and whether they are receiving Pfizer or Moderna. Children who have previously received the monovalent vaccine should receive one dose of bivalent vaccine as a booster.

I'm sure many of you will have questions about how these recommendations apply to specific patients of yours; if so, please consult the [FDA website](#) and the appropriate health care provider fact sheet for [Pfizer](#) or [Moderna](#). For patients, we have also updated our [vaccine page](#) on the web.

As of this morning, we had 29 inpatients with COVID-19 across the system, 1 of whom was in critical care.

These numbers have been low and stable for more than a month now, but I know many of you are working as hard as ever to take care of our patients. I want you to know that my respect and gratitude for the work you do is as strong now as ever. Thank you for helping make our city and region a healthier place.

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