



## Quick Facts: **Bivalent** COVID-19 Vaccination

The virus that causes COVID-19 changes over time. In September 2022, the Food and Drug Administration approved the use of an updated COVID-19 booster shot.

### **How is this COVID-19 vaccine different than previous COVID-19 vaccines?**

- The booster helps protect you from two different strains of the COVID-19 virus. Bivalent means “two”.
- The vaccine contains protection from the original COVID-19 virus, **and** the Omicron variant of COVID-19.
- The Omicron variant is predicted to circulate and cause most of the COVID-19 disease this fall and winter.

### **Who is recommended to receive the new COVID-19 booster?**

- Adults (aged 12+) who have either:
  - Completed their primary series of vaccination against COVID-19 over two months ago.
  - Received their last COVID-19 booster over two months ago.
  - The ACHCH program uses only the Moderna vaccine, which is approved for use of people aged 18+. People aged 12-17 must seek alternate locations for a Pfizer booster vaccine.

### **Why should anyone get the bivalent COVID-19 booster shot?**

- Being up to date on COVID-19 vaccination, including booster shots, is one of the best ways to prevent severe disease or death from COVID-19.
- COVID-19 virus is still deadly. COVID-19 is the third leading cause of death in the United States.

### **What if I haven't received any COVID-19 vaccinations yet?**

- Primary series (first vaccinations) are given with the original COVID-19 vaccinations. Only those who have received their primary series are eligible for the bi-valent booster.

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Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless program

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