



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: October 27, 2022

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory Update #57: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Bivalent Boosters Extended Down to 5 Years of Age

Key Messages

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have authorized the bivalent Pfizer COVID-19 booster for 5- to 11-year-olds and the bivalent Moderna booster for 6- to 17-year-olds.
- FDA deauthorized the use of monovalent COVID-19 boosters for the same age groups.
- A single bivalent booster can be administered when appropriate to all eligible persons.
- Bivalent boosters should not be denied based on the total number of doses an individual has previously received.
- COVID-19 vaccines may be co-administered with other recommended childhood and adolescent immunizations.

Situation

Following scientific evaluation and discussion, federal agencies granted bivalent mRNA COVID-19 boosters Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and issued recommendations for use in persons down to 5 years of age. FDA has deauthorized the use of monovalent mRNA boosters in this age group.

Background

Vaccines

Compared with monovalent boosters, both the Pfizer and Moderna bivalent boosters demonstrated a superior immune response to the Omicron variant.

Administration

- A single dose of a bivalent booster is authorized in place of or in addition to monovalent boosters as follows:
 - The Pfizer COVID-19 bivalent booster can be used in persons \geq 5 years of age.
 - The Moderna COVID-19 bivalent booster can be used in persons \geq 6 years of age.
- Single doses of bivalent booster can be administered at least 2 months after either:
 - Completion of the primary vaccination series with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine; or
 - Receipt of any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 booster.
- Mixing or matching of the bivalent booster is allowed based on the preference of eligible persons.
- **If eligible, a bivalent booster should not be denied based on the total number of doses.**
- Following recent COVID-19 infection, [consider delaying the booster by 3 months](#) from symptom onset (or positive test for asymptomatic infections). Recent infection, however, is not a contraindication.
- Administration of a monovalent booster to a person eligible for a bivalent booster is considered a **vaccine administration error** and are [required to be reported](#) to [VAERS](#).

- The bivalent boosters can be administered with other approved vaccines, including influenza vaccines, and routine childhood and adolescent immunizations. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [supports the co-administration of COVID-19](#) vaccine with routine childhood and adolescent immunizations.
- Monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines should continue to be used to complete primary series, including third doses for [persons with moderate to severe immune compromise](#).

Approval Process

On October 12, 2022, the [FDA amended the Emergency Use Authorizations \(EUA\)](#) of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines authorizing administration of the updated bivalent boosters in children down to 5 years of age. In addition, the amendment removed the authorization of the monovalent versions of these boosters for the eligible age groups.

On October 13, 2022, the CDC expanded eligibility for the updated bivalent boosters down to 5 years of age and updated its [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#). That same day, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup met and issued a statement concurring with the CDC decision. The statement is available [here](#).

Scheduling

Appointments for bivalent boosters can be scheduled using MyTurn.ca.gov down to 5 years of age.

Actions Requested

1. Remain up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccines with CDC's [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) page.
 - a. **Cease administering monovalent COVID-19 boosters to persons \geq 5 years of age.**
 - b. Administer either Pfizer or Moderna bivalent COVID-19 boosters to eligible persons \geq 6 years of age.
 - c. Administer only Pfizer bivalent COVID-19 boosters to eligible 5-year-olds.
 - d. Submit a report to [VAERS](#) when a monovalent booster is inadvertently administered to a person eligible for a bivalent booster.
2. Report vaccine-related adverse events and deaths, as well as vaccine administration errors, to [VAERS](#) and the County Immunization Program at IZINFO.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov or Fax: (619) 692-5677.

Resources

- FDA Fact Sheets on Pfizer COVID-19 Bivalent Booster for [Healthcare Providers](#) and [Recipients/Caregivers](#)
- FDA Fact Sheets on Moderna COVID-19 Bivalent Booster for [Healthcare Providers](#) and [Recipients/Caregivers](#)
- [Getting Your COVID-19 Vaccine After Having COVID | CDC](#)
- [Health Advisory Update #56: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Vaccine Update: Bivalent Boosters | CoSD](#)

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

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