

COVID vaccines – Updated booster dose

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have authorized an updated (bivalent) COVID-19 booster dose of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. This action is a critical step forward to help provide increased protection against COVID-19 disease and death.

Which vaccine series did you complete?	Pfizer	Moderna
You can get a booster if:	Ages 12 and older	Ages 18 and older
You are eligible:	2 months after completing primary vaccination or receiving a booster of an authorized monovalent vaccine	2 months after completing primary vaccination or receiving a booster of an authorized monovalent vaccine

Q: The updated booster dose of Pfizer and Moderna is a bivalent vaccine. What does that mean?

A: Bivalent COVID-19 boosters target the original strain of the virus and add Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 spike protein components to the current vaccine composition. This updated booster better matches the strains of the COVID-19 virus that are currently circulating, targeting variants that are more transmissible and immune-evading.

Q: Can I still get the previous vaccine that doesn't specifically target the Omicron variant for a booster?

A: No. People ages 12 and older may only get the updated (bivalent) Pfizer or Moderna booster. You can no longer get an original (monovalent) booster.

Q: I've already had a booster and wasn't previously eligible to get a second. Can I get this booster?

A: Yes. You may get the updated booster dose as long as it has been at least two months since your last COVID-19 vaccine.

Q: Does my booster have to be the same as my previous vaccines or can I mix them?

A: You may choose which vaccine you receive as a booster dose. People ages 12 to 17 may only get the Pfizer booster. People ages 18 and older may get either the Pfizer or Moderna booster.

Q: Can I get a booster dose of the Novavax vaccine?

A: The FDA has not amended the emergency use authorization to permit a booster dose of the Novavax vaccine at this time.

Q: When will I be able to get my booster dose?

A: LMH Health clinics will begin administering booster doses the week of September 19. It is possible that local pharmacies and Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health may begin booster vaccinations at a different time, so you should check directly with them to determine availability.

Q: Where should I go to get my booster shot?

A: You'll be able to get your booster shot in many of the same places that were available for the first doses. These include your primary care provider, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health and many local pharmacies. A complete list is available at lmh.org/vaccine or at vaccinefinder.org/search.

Q: If I need a booster, does that mean the vaccine isn't working?

A: No. The COVID-19 vaccines are working very well to prevent severe illness, hospitalization and death. A booster dose helps to maximize and prolong your protection.

Q: Can I get my flu shot and a COVID-19 booster at the same time?

A: Yes, you can get a flu shot and the COVID-19 booster at the same time. If you haven't received your currently recommended doses of the COVID vaccine, get that as soon as you can and ideally, get a flu shot by the end of October. Please check with the clinic or pharmacy for availability.