



HEALTH ADVISORY #211 CDC Recommends Omicron COVID-19 Booster for Children Ages 6 Months – 4 Years

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and Other Healthcare Facilities

FROM: Matthew Christiansen, MD, MPH - Commissioner and State Health Officer
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: March 30, 2023

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: Please distribute to community health providers, hospital-based physicians, infection control preventionists, laboratory directors and other applicable partners.

OTHER RECIPIENTS: Please distribute to association members, staff, etc.

On March 14, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the emergency use authorization (EUA) of the Omicron (bivalent) Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and on March 16, 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued limited updated recommendations for the use of the Omicron (bivalent) Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

Now children ages 6 months through 4 years who previously completed a 3-dose original (monovalent) Pfizer primary series are recommended to receive one **Pfizer-BioNTech** Omicron (bivalent) **booster** shot at least two months after completion of that all-monovalent primary series.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Omicron (Bivalent) Boosters:

The **Pfizer-BioNTech** COVID-19 **Omicron** (bivalent) **booster** is authorized for use in individuals 6 months through 4 years of age as a single booster dose administered at least two months after completion of that all-monovalent primary series.

- Note children ages 6 months through 4 years who already received an **Omicron** (bivalent) COVID-19 vaccine as the third dose in their 3-dose **Pfizer-BioNTech** primary series, or who are still completing their primary series with **Pfizer-BioNTech**, are not eligible for a booster at this time.
- The **Pfizer-BioNTech** COVID-19 **Omicron** (bivalent) vaccine for ages 6 months through 4 years remains authorized as the third dose of Pfizer's 3-dose primary series.
- The **Pfizer-BioNTech** COVID-19 **Omicron** (bivalent) **booster** for individuals 6 months through 4 years of age is supplied in multiple dose vials with **maroon** caps and labels with maroon borders.
- The volume after dilution of a single dose for ages 6 months through 4 years is 0.2 mL.
- This **Pfizer-BioNTech** product **MUST BE DILUTED** before use (as with the monovalent product for this age group, dilute with 2.2 mL sterile 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, USP prior to use).

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

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Other Considerations:

- “Bivalent” is a term not easily understood or recognized by the general public. Instead, **“Omicron Booster” and “Updated Booster” are commonly used and better understood.** Providers should note that “bivalent,” “Omicron,” and “updated” boosters are referring to the same products. Consider using more common language (i.e., Omicron, updated) when discussing options with patients.
- The [CDC’s Interim Clinical Considerations for the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) and related resources are partially updated. As more official clinical guidance resources become available, state resources such as the WV COVID-19 Vaccination Due Date Calculator and FAQs on vaccinate.wv.gov, and the [WV COVID-19 Messaging Kit](#) will be updated/provided.

Resources:

- Pfizer-BioNTech EUA Fact Sheet: <https://www.fda.gov/media/159312/download>
- FDA Press Release: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-bivalent-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-booster-dose>

For questions about this health alert, contact the Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services, Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) at (304) 558-5358 ext. 2.

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