



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD  
*Commissioner*

April 21, 2023

Dear Colleague,

This week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its [recommendations](#) to simplify the COVID-19 vaccination schedule. The CDC's recommendations follow [regulatory changes](#) by the US Food and Drug Administration. With these updates:

- **Bivalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are now recommended for all doses administered to people ages 6 months and older.**
- **Monovalent Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized for use.**

Below is a summary of the changes. For full vaccine schedule and administration guidance, please see the [CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations](#), which will be updated in the coming days. CIR's forecasting guidance will also be updated accordingly.

#### **People ages 6 years and older**

- **People who are unvaccinated** (i.e., they have never received a COVID-19 vaccine) should receive a single bivalent mRNA vaccine dose, rather than multiple primary series and booster doses. This means that people six years of age and older who are newly vaccinated will be considered up to date after just one bivalent vaccine dose.
- **People who previously received only monovalent vaccines** should receive one dose of a bivalent mRNA vaccine at least two months after receipt of any monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Most people who completed a monovalent primary series and received one bivalent booster vaccine dose** are not recommended to receive any additional bivalent doses at this time.
- **The following groups may receive additional bivalent doses:**
  - People ages 65 years and older may receive one additional bivalent dose at least four months after their initial bivalent dose (a total of two bivalent vaccine doses).
  - People who are immunocompromised may receive one additional bivalent dose at least two months after their initial bivalent dose, and additional bivalent doses may be administered at the discretion of their healthcare provider, at least two months after their last bivalent dose.

#### **Children younger than 6 years of age**

- **Children who are unvaccinated:** Children 6 months through 4 years of age who are unvaccinated should receive a two-dose series of the Moderna bivalent vaccine or a three-dose series of the Pfizer bivalent vaccine, and children 5 years of age who are unvaccinated should receive two doses of the Moderna bivalent vaccine or a single dose of the Pfizer bivalent vaccine.

- **Children who have received monovalent vaccine:** Children ages 6 months through 5 years of age who have received one, two or three doses of a monovalent COVID-19 vaccine may receive a bivalent vaccine, but the number of doses they receive will depend on the vaccine and their vaccination history.

**Vaccine availability and ordering**

Novavax and Johnson & Johnson monovalent non-mRNA vaccines continue to be authorized for use in very limited circumstances. All Johnson & Johnson vaccine will expire mid-May and will not be replenished in the United States.

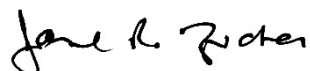
Providers are only able to order bivalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in the [CIR Online Registry](#). Providers requesting Novavax vaccines should email [covidvax@health.nyc.gov](mailto:covidvax@health.nyc.gov). **Providers are reminded to remove monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines from their vaccine inventory. These vaccines should be reported as ‘other wastage’ in the CIR Online Registry Vaccine Inventory Management system.** The vaccines cannot be returned and should be disposed of as medical waste.

Providers who list their COVID-19 vaccination services on the [NYC Vaccine Finder](#) should update their services accordingly by completing [this form](#) online.

We encourage all providers to order and administer COVID-19 vaccines in their practices and facilities. If you are not able to administer COVID-19 vaccine, refer patients to a vaccination site. To find a vaccination site, visit [vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov) or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).

Thank you for continuing to promote and protect the health of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,



Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc  
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