



## Children ages 5-11 eligible for bivalent COVID vaccine boosters

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**Editor's note:** For the latest news on COVID-19, visit <http://bit.ly/AAPNewsCOVID19>.

Children ages 5-11 years are now eligible for a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster.

Leaders of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) signed off on the updated boosters for children today. The [AAP supports administration](#) of all COVID vaccine primary series and booster doses recommended by the CDC.

The [Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent booster](#) emergency use authorization that includes people 12 years and older has been expanded to include children ages 5-11 years. The [Moderna bivalent booster authorization](#) for those 18 and older has been expanded to include children and adolescents ages 6-17 years.

“Since children have gone back to school in person and people are resuming pre-pandemic behaviors and activities, there is the potential for increased risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19,” FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research Director Peter Marks, M.D., Ph.D., said in a [press release](#).

“Vaccination remains the most effective measure to prevent the severe consequences of COVID-19, including hospitalization and death.”

He noted even mild COVID cases in children have the potential to cause long-term effects.

The bivalent boosters were created to combat a possible fall/winter virus surge and contain both the original SARS-CoV-2 strain and the omicron BA.4/5 spike protein. About 79% of the circulating strains are BA.5, and the rest are other omicron variants, [according to the CDC](#).

Children as young as 5 years who have completed a primary series are eligible for a single bivalent booster two months after previous doses. About 61% of adolescents ages 12-17 years and 32% of children 5-11 years [have completed a primary series](#). Children can receive a bivalent booster with a different brand than their primary series.

The Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent booster dose for children ages 5-11 years is 10 micrograms (µg). Moderna's bivalent booster dose is 50 µg for adolescents ages 12-17 years and 25 µg for children ages 6-11 years.

FDA authorization was based on immune response and safety data from clinical studies in adults of a bivalent booster containing the original SARS-CoV-2 strain and an omicron BA.1 strain. Officials also considered data from clinical studies on monovalent boosters in children.

As with people ages 12 and older, [monovalent boosters no longer are allowed](#) for children ages 5-11 years now that a bivalent booster has been authorized.

## Resources

- [FDA fact sheet for health care providers administering Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent boosters](#)
- [FDA fact sheet for health care providers administering Moderna bivalent boosters](#)
- [CDC planning guide for bivalent COVID vaccine boosters](#)
- [CDC information on COVID-19 vaccine boosters](#)
- [CDC clinical considerations for administering COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [AAP COVID vaccination resources](#)
- [AAP pediatric COVID-19 vaccine dosing quick reference guide](#)
- [AAP/Health and Human Services COVID vaccine toolkit](#)
- [Information from HealthyChildren.org on preparing children for a COVID-19 vaccine](#)