

CDC recommends first updated COVID-19 booster

Press release from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

On Sept. 1, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC advisory committee on immunization practices' (ACIP) recommendations for use of updated coronavirus boosters from Pfizer-BioNTech for people ages 12 years and older, and from Moderna for

people ages 18 years and older.

Updated COVID-19 boosters add omicron BA.4 and BA.5 spike protein components to the current vaccine composition, helping to restore protection that has waned since previous vaccination by targeting variants that are more transmissible and immune-evading.

In the coming weeks, CDC also expects to recommend updated

COVID-19 boosters for other pediatric groups, per the discussion and evaluation of the data by ACIP on Sept. 1. When data are available and FDA authorizes these other types of COVID-19 boosters, CDC will quickly move to help make them available in the United States.

The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) authorization of updated COVID-19 boosters, and

CDC's recommendation for use, are critical next steps forward in our country's vaccination program – a program that has helped provide increased protection against COVID-19 disease and death.

Walensky said, "The updated COVID-19 boosters are formulated to better protect against the most recently circulating COVID-19 variant. They can help

restore protection that has waned since previous vaccination, and were designed to provide broader protection against newer variants. This recommendation followed a comprehensive scientific evaluation and robust scientific discussion. If you are eligible, there is no bad time to get your COVID-19 booster, and I strongly encourage you to receive it."

Hochul: New Yorkers can now receive new COVID-19 vaccine boosters designed to strengthen defenses against omicron subvariants

√ *Masking now optional where previously required in settings including public transportation, for-hire vehicles, airports, homeless shelters, correctional facilities & detention centers*

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Wednesday announced the availability of bivalent coronavirus vaccine boosters, which are designed to add omicron BA.4 and BA.5 variants and bolster previous vaccination protection.

The announcement follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation to use updated boosters from Pfizer-BioNTech for anyone age 12 or older and from Moderna for those 18 or older.

Hochul made the announcement shortly before getting her booster shot at the Boriken Neighborhood Health Center in East Harlem.

To schedule an appointment for the updated COVID-19 booster, New Yorkers can contact their regular health care provider, local pharmacy, or local county health department. People can also visit vaccines.gov, text their ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find nearby locations.

"As we continue to contend with the effects of this pandemic on all our lives, we need to ensure

•The Niagara County Department of Health will offer the bivalent COVID-19 boosters from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Niagara County Peach Festival (Academy Park in Lewiston)

we're using every tool available to us," Hochul said. "Throughout the pandemic, New Yorkers have been smart, looked out for one another, and taken steps to protect themselves and their neighbors. Getting vaccinated and boosted remains our best shot at protecting ourselves and fellow New Yorkers, and I encourage everyone eligible to sign up and get the updated bivalent COVID-19 booster."

Providers in New York were able to preorder these new boosters until Aug. 30, with shipping of pre-ordered doses beginning late last week and already arriving at some locations. To be eligible to receive the updated bivalent booster, individuals must have completed their original vaccine series or received a booster at least two months before.

State Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett said, "The novel

coronavirus has changed over time, with many new variants, including omicron. These bivalent boosters for the first time are tailored to a circulating variant. I encourage all eligible New Yorkers to take advantage of this advance and contact their health provider, visit the local pharmacy, or call their county health department to get this booster as soon as possible."

In the coming days, the state Department of Health will be issuing updated clinical guidance on the administration of bivalent booster doses to all providers enrolled in the New York state vaccination program. Providers that preordered and received the bivalent booster doses are now authorized to begin administering them in accordance with the Federal Food and Drug Administration's emergency use authorization for these boosters and the updated CDC recommendations.

Hochul's team wrote, "Providers should also note that monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized for use as boosters for people ages 12 years or older, according to the updated federal guidance. Scheduled appointments to administer monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna boosters to people 12 years of age

or older must be rescheduled for when locations have the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines available."

In the weeks ahead, the CDC also indicated that it expects to recommend updated COVID-19 boosters for younger pediatric groups, as well. Until then, the monovalent mRNA Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine remains authorized for use as boosters in children ages 5 through 11, and for all primary series vaccinations.

Hochul's team added, "The state Department of Health continues to share CDC's recommendation that all eligible adults, adolescents, and children 5 years and older get fully vaccinated and receive the COVID-19 booster when eligible."

Masking Update

In addition, Hochul announced masking will now be optional in multiple settings where it was previously required, including on public transportation, in for-hire vehicles, at airports, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, and detention centers.

Masks will continue to be required at adult care and health care facilities regulated by the state Department of Health, and in clinical settings regulated by the Office of Mental Health, Office of Addiction Services and Supports, and Office for People With Developmental Disabilities.

September is Baby Safety Month

Niagara County Department of Health, Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association educate parents on importance of properly choosing & the best baby products each and every time

Submitted by the Niagara County Department of Health

Keeping baby safe and well is the No. 1 goal as a parent – so it goes without saying that every precaution is taken when creating a safe environment for baby. The fact is, most injuries can be prevented. Choosing the right baby products for your family can be overwhelming, but safety should never be compromised.

The Niagara County Department of Health has joined the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA) of Mount Laurel, New Jersey, in an awareness campaign to alert parents and caregivers on the importance of properly choosing and using the best products according to a child's age and developmental stage as outlined by the manufacturer.

Baby Safety Month is a month-long awareness campaign via www.babysafetymonth.org, a website dedicated to baby safety education. Through this portal, parents and caregivers can learn how to create

the safest environment for their children, and the safety concerns associated with leaving children unattended or not properly using juvenile products as intended.

"At the Niagara County Department of Health, child safety is a top priority. By joining this campaign, we are educating the public while keeping infants and toddlers out of harm's way," Public Health Director Daniel Stapleton said. "Knowing how important it is to use juvenile products properly can be lifesaving."

Whether it's in the home or on the go, the NCDOH and the JPMA urge parents to follow these guidelines to keep baby safe:

√ Direct supervision is a sure-fire way to prevent injury – watch, listen and stay near your child.

√ Choose and use age and developmentally appropriate products.

√ Read and follow all manufacturer's instructions, recommendations for use, and warning labels.

√ Register your products and establish a direct line of communication with the manufacturer.

√ Frequently inspect products for missing hardware, loose threads, screws and strings, holes and tears.

√ Monitor your child's growth

and development and discontinue product use when needed.

Baby Safety Month started in 1983 when JPMA initiated "Expectant Mother's Day." In 1986, it was extended to a weeklong celebration. In 1991, JPMA sponsored the first "Baby Safety Awareness Month." Since then, every September has been designated as Baby Safety Month.

JPMA is the voice of the industry on quality and safety for baby and children's products in North America. This is accomplished by:

√ Advocating for safety through product certification programs and legislative and regulatory involvement;

√ Supporting a broad and diverse membership through member-only programming and industry promotion;

√ And by acting as a comprehensive source for baby product information and education.

JPMA members represent 95% of the prenatal to preschool products sold in North America. To find out more about JPMA, the certification program and products certified, or for a complete listing of JPMA members, visit <http://www.jpma.org>.



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