

The most common type of COVID-19 virus circulating has changed since the original vaccine was formulated. A newly formulated COVID-19 booster vaccine that covers a wider range of strains is set to hit the market soon. Consonus will keep you updated as we closely await approval of this new vaccine booster that could prevent potential fall and winter surges of COVID-19.



**Q:** When will the new bivalent COVID-19 vaccine be available?

**A:** The FDA is currently reviewing manufacturer application submitted for an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for bivalent COVID-19 vaccine. There are strong indicators that distribution could start in **early to mid-September** if the FDA authorizes and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) approves.

**Q:** What is the "bivalent" COVID-19 booster?

**A:** The new COVID-19 vaccine booster awaiting FDA approval is a bivalent vaccine, meaning it will target the two most common strains of COVID-19 that are currently circulating. The original coronavirus strain, as well as the BA.4 and BA.5 omicron subvariants are targeted as part of the new formulation. The bivalent vaccine is expected to generate a strong neutralizing antibody response to all strains to provide increased protection.

**Q:** Who will be eligible for the bivalent booster?

**A:** We anticipate bivalent booster dose may be initially authorized for anyone ages 12 and older (for Pfizer-BioNTech) who has **completed a primary vaccination series, regardless of number or type of prior booster doses received**. It will be administered as a single booster dose. Unvaccinated individuals won't be eligible for the updated formula until a primary series with the existing COVID vaccines is complete.

**Q:** If I am eligible for a booster now, should I get it or wait for the bivalent booster?

**A:** The CDC recommends getting a booster dose now with current available formulation. The CDC also anticipates a window between when a person received their last booster of the current formulation and when he/she would be eligible for the bivalent booster vaccine.

**Q:** What are the next steps if our facility would like to receive the bivalent booster from Consonus?

**A:** If you participated in the COVID-19 Vaccine that Consonus offered as part of the vaccine continuity program, you will receive further direction on pre-orders and next steps from our Vaccination Coordinator team. If you have previously received vaccine from other sources, we recommend you contact your previous vaccine provider and work with your state DHS. Please let us know how we can assist as you plan for vaccinations in the fall.



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