

Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine boosters available for younger age groups

- Children 6 years and older may get the bivalent Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at least two months following their completion of primary or booster doses.
- Children 5 years and older may receive the bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at least two months following their completion of primary or booster doses.

Pontiac, Mich., Oct. 21, 2022 – The updated bivalent COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 years and older will be available at Oakland County Health Division clinics in Pontiac and Southfield beginning Monday, Oct. 24. Bivalent means the vaccine contains two strains of the virus. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. To make an appointment, visit oakgov.com/health/register or call the Oakland County Nurse on Call hotline at 800-848-5533.

"As we enter the colder months, and children are back to school in person, we will see more respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19," Oakland County Health Officer Calandra Green said. "The COVID-19 primary and booster vaccines are one of the best tools we have to protect against serious illness and hospitalization from the disease."

The Omicron bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine targets the most recent and more contagious Omicron variants (BA.4 and BA.5). While COVID-19 tends to be less severe in children than adults, more children have gotten sick and hospitalized as waves of COVID-19 have occurred. Parents are encouraged to consider primary vaccination for their children and follow-up with an updated booster dose when eligible. The updated bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are currently available at vaccine providers throughout the county. Contact your doctor or local pharmacy prior to visiting to determine vaccine availability.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone ages 5 years and older get an updated bivalent COVID-19 booster if it has been at least 2 months since your last booster or final primary. Doses for all ages are available at the North Oakland Health Center, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Building 34E, in Pontiac and the South Oakland Health Center, 27725 Greenfield Rd., in Southfield 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Mondays and 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

For more information or to register for an appointment, visit oakgov.com/covid/vaccine or call Nurse on Call at 1-800-848-5533. Nurse on Call is available to answer health-related questions or schedule an appointment from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For up-to-date public health information, visit www.oakgov.com/health and follow @publichealthOC on Facebook and Twitter.

For media inquiries only, contact Bill Mullan, Oakland County public information officer, at 248-858-1048.