



# Health Advisory:

## Updated 2023–24 COVID-19 Vaccine

October 26, 2023

### Situational Update

[FDA has updated its authorizations](#) for COVID-19 vaccination to protect against severe COVID-19 illness due to the currently circulating variants, and [CDC has recommended that an updated vaccine is received by everyone age 6 months and older](#). Pfizer, Moderna, and Novavax vaccines now consist of a single strain corresponding to the Omicron variant XBB.1.5 of SARS-CoV-2. Bivalent mRNA vaccines and the prior Novavax formulation have been de-authorized and are no longer available.

**Administer an updated monovalent 2023–24 formulation of COVID-19 vaccines to all individuals aged 6 months and older.**

Updated fact sheets for healthcare providers and vaccine recipients have been published in several languages for the [Pfizer](#), [Moderna](#) and [Novavax](#) products.

Manufacturers are distributing the updated 2023–24 COVID-19 vaccines to pharmacies, clinics, medical offices, health systems, and local health departments; some initial deliveries were delayed but the supply has been stabilizing.

COVID-19 vaccine has been “commercialized” this fall, such that pharmacies and healthcare providers must purchase doses of updated 2023–24 COVID-19 vaccine for their **insured patients** from an authorized distributor. Doses and administration will then be reimbursable by insurers with zero or minimal patient share of cost in most cases.

For **uninsured patients**, the federal Bridge Access Program (BAP) is providing no-cost doses to retail pharmacies to administer; the BAP is also supplying SFDPH with a small number of no-cost doses for distribution to federally qualified health centers and other entities directly serving the city’s uninsured populations.

### Actions Requested of SF Providers

1. **Purchase updated 2023–24 COVID-19 vaccine** for use with insured patients or refer them to pharmacies where they can access the vaccine. As budget allows, purchase updated 2023–24 COVID-19 vaccine for administration to your uninsured patients as well or refer them to pharmacies where they can receive a free BAP dose.



2. **Order updated 2023–24 COVID-19 vaccine from the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program** for all your VFC-eligible patients ages 18 years and under.
3. **Educate and strongly recommend** your patients aged 6 months and older this fall to be vaccinated with the updated 2023–24 COVID-19 vaccine.
4. **Protect your patients against RSV and influenza:**
  - a. **Educate and strongly recommend** your patients age 6 months and older to receive the [2023–24 influenza vaccine](#). Those age 65 years and up should receive one of three flu vaccine formulations (Fluad, Flublok, or Fluzone High-Dose) if available.
  - b. **Implement [CDC RSV vaccination recommendations](#)** for infants ages 0–19 months, pregnant people at 32–36 weeks gestation, and older adults ages 60 years and up. SFPDH will publish a separate advisory to detail recommendations for active and passive RSV immunization among these groups.

### **Clinical Guidance for Use of Updated 2023–24 COVID-19 Vaccines**

CDC has updated its [COVID-19 vaccination guidance](#) as follows.

CDC recommends that ***everyone age 6 months and older should receive the updated 2023–24 formula COVID-19 vaccine.***

- **Individuals 6 months through 4 years of age who have previously been vaccinated** are recommended to receive 1 or 2 doses of a homologous (same brand) updated mRNA vaccine, depending on history and timing of previous COVID-19 vaccine doses. Those who received all doses in the initial vaccination series should receive 1 dose of a homologous updated 2023–24 mRNA vaccine.
- **Unvaccinated individuals 6 months through 4 years of age** are recommended to receive 3 homologous doses of the 2023–24 Pfizer vaccine or 2 homologous doses of the 2023–24 Moderna vaccine.
- **Individuals 5 through 11 years of age**, regardless of previous vaccination, are recommended to receive 1 dose of a 2023–24 Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccine.
- **Individuals 12 years of age and older who have previously been vaccinated** are recommended to receive 1 dose of a 2023–24 Pfizer, Moderna, or Novavax vaccine.
- **Unvaccinated individuals 12 years of age and older** are recommended to receive 1 dose of a 2023–24 Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or a 2-dose series of the 2023–24 Novavax vaccine separated by a 3- to 8-week interval.
- An updated COVID-19 vaccine dose can be given **at least 2 months after the last dose** of any formulation of COVID-19 vaccine.



- **Individuals 6 months of age and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised:**
  - If unvaccinated, should receive a 2- or 3-dose primary series of age-appropriate updated 2023–24 Moderna, Pfizer, or Novavax COVID-19 vaccine.
  - If previously vaccinated, the number of recommended doses 2023–24 COVID-19 vaccine needed depends on the individual's age and the number and brand of any previous doses. See the infographics from [CDC](#) or [CDPH](#).
  - Have the option to receive 1 additional dose of an age-appropriate 2023–24 COVID-19 vaccine at least 2 months following the last 2023–24 vaccine dose or series. Beyond that, further additional doses may be administered based on shared clinical decision-making with a healthcare provider at least 2 months after the last updated 2023–24 vaccine dose.
- **Persons 65 years of age and older**, unless moderately or severely immune compromised, do not yet have the option to receive more than 1 dose of updated 2023–24 COVID-19 mRNA vaccine; CDC may reconsider this option later in the season.
- Most presentations of the updated 2023–24 COVID-19 vaccines are single-dose and require no dilution. Exceptions are the Pfizer formulation for ages 6 months through 4 years (single-dose vial, dilution required), and the Novavax formulation (5-dose vial, no dilution required).
- Any updated 2023–24 vaccine formulation may be administered [concomitantly](#) with influenza and RSV vaccines to eligible individuals.

### **Additional Resources**

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) offers helpful job aids at [EZIZ.org/covid](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Imz.aspx).

- [IMM-1396](#) summarizes vaccine timing and dose presentation guidance, by age bracket, for persons with and without moderate-to-severe immunocompromise.
- [IMM-1399](#) details all available dose presentations and storage and handling guidance for COVID-19 vaccine products.

CDC offers helpful [vaccine schedules and infographics](#) as well as [standing orders, labels, and by-use-dates \(BUD\)](#) for updated COVID-19 vaccine products.

See the SFDPH page for [COVID-19 vaccination resources](#) in San Francisco.