The MMS will continue to monitor developments related to public health emergencies and share timely and important information as it becomes available.

Public Health

**CDC recommends the first updated COVID-19 booster**

Updated Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 boosters are now authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The new boosters are designed to generate immune responses to the original version of the coronavirus and to BA.5, the Omicron subvariant that is now dominant. Pfizer and BioNTech’s shot was authorized for people as young as 12, and Moderna’s for those 18 and older. People can receive the updated shots if it has been at least two months since they completed their primary vaccine series or their most recent booster. For people ages 12 years and older, the **only authorized mRNA booster is the updated (bivalent) booster**. People ages 12 years and older can no longer get the original (monovalent) mRNA booster. The new booster is free. You do not need to have health insurance to get a booster. These updated boosters are available in Massachusetts beginning this week.

CDC resources:

• Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters including CDC’s find out when to get a booster tool
• Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States Interim Clinical Considerations

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DP) resources:

• Massachusetts Vaccine Finder
• COVID-19 booster FAQs

Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine ordering

Ordering for the new bivalent COVID-19 vaccine formulations are now open in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). All providers enrolled Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Program (MCVP) are able to place routine orders for all of the following COVID-19 vaccine formulations through the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). The new vaccines will have the same storage and handling parameters as the original vaccine products. Physicians can email questions to the MIIS helpdesk for providers.

Upcoming CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call/webinars

2022-2023 Influenza Vaccination Recommendations and Guidance on Coadministration with COVID-19 Vaccines

Presenters will provide updates on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for the 2022-2023 influenza vaccination season, including information on a new preferential vaccine recommendation for adults ages 65 and older. In addition, presenters will outline guidance for the coadministration of the influenza and COVID-19 vaccines.

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2022
**Time:** 2:00–3:00 PM ET

Click [here](#) for webinar/call details.

### Recommendations for Bivalent COVID-19 Booster Doses in People Ages 12 Years and Older

Presenters will discuss CDC’s new guidance on bivalent COVID-19 booster doses for people ages 12 years and older, including those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised. Updated COVID-19 vaccines add an Omicron BA.4/5 spike protein component to the previous monovalent composition. These bivalent booster doses help restore protection that has waned since previous vaccination by targeting more transmissible and immune-evading variants.

**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022

**Time:** 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Click [here](#) for webinar/call details.

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### Seasonal influenza recommendations for adults and children

Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone six months and older. Influenza vaccine [recommendations for the 2022-2023 season](#) include two updates compared with last season’s recommended vaccines: the influenza A(H3N2) and the influenza B(Victoria lineage) vaccine virus components. New this season is a preferential recommendation for the use of higher dose and adjuvanted flu vaccines in people 65 and older over standard dose, unadjuvanted flu vaccines. More information on this new recommendation can be found [here](#). The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) want as many children as possible to get a flu vaccine every year. The AAP does not prefer any product over another for children and adolescents with no contraindications. **Children and adults who are eligible for both a flu and COVID-19 vaccine/booster can receive them at the same time as COVID-19 vaccines/boosters.** Providers should offer influenza and COVID-19 vaccines at the same visit, if eligible. Getting both vaccines at the same visit increases the chance that a person will be up to date with their vaccinations.
Reminder: Mass. DPH infectious disease reporting for moneypox requires demographic information

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is reminding physicians and other providers to report monkeypox patient demographic data to DPH as required by Regulation 105 CMR 300.000: Reportable diseases, surveillance, and isolation and quarantine requirements with complete demographic information within 24 hours. The understanding of and response to this outbreak are only as effective as the data reported to DPH, the agency noted in a recent communication to health care providers, local boards of health, and laboratories.

DPH relies on timely and complete reporting of demographic case data — including age, gender, race, ethnicity, and other case data defined by the Department. Currently, the required data that is submitted on monkeypox vaccinations is incomplete for race and ethnicity. State health leaders emphasize that accurate and complete data are critical for an equitable and culturally relevant response to monkeypox. DPH's understanding of impacted individuals and communities allows the Commonwealth to better target interventions and resources.

Read the guidance document that outlines infectious disease reporting requirements and how to report these data.