



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Ageing and Long-Term Support Administration*  
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

September 13, 2022

AL TSA: AFH #2022-038  
AL TSA: ALF #2022-033  
AL TSA: CCRSS #2022-022  
AL TSA: ESF #2022-029  
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2022-019  
AL TSA: NH #2022-051

**UP TO DATE DEFINITION – BIVALENT COVID-19 VACCINE**

Dear Administrator/Provider/Superintendent:

This letter is to inform you that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [up to date](#) guidance was revised September 2, 2022 to include recommendations that anyone 12 years of age or older receive one updated Pfizer or Moderna (bivalent) booster.

**Background:** Primary vaccines and booster vaccines protect against the original SARS-CoV-2 virus. The term for this is monovalent. The Fall 2022 COVID-19 booster vaccine is a bivalent vaccine that protects against the original SARS-CoV-2 virus and the Omicron COVID-19 variant. The updated CDC guidance recommends that all booster doses be bivalent (protects against the original SARS-CoV-2 virus AND the Omicron variant). The bivalent booster vaccine is the only recommended booster vaccine. Monovalent booster vaccine doses are no longer approved.

The bivalent vaccine should be available to long-term care (LTC) settings over the next 3 months. Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and Residential Care Services (RCS), Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) recognize the need for clarification of up-to-date definition related to bivalent vaccine access timeline.

**Until Bivalent Vaccine is Available:** A person is up to date on all COVID-19 vaccines when they have received all eligible vaccine doses in the primary series and all recommended monovalent booster doses. Once the bivalent vaccine is widely available, up to date will mean boosted with a bivalent vaccine.

| Examples:  | Up to Date | Not Up to Date |
|--|------------|----------------|
| A person has received the primary vaccine series and monovalent boosters as recommended by CDC and the bivalent vaccine is not accessible through the vaccine provider | x          |                |
| A person has received the primary vaccine series, monovalent boosters, and the bivalent vaccine once it is available   | x          |                |
| A person has received the primary vaccine series and monovalent boosters <u>but not the bivalent vaccine once it is available</u>                                      |            | x              |

**What Long-term Care Settings Must Do:**

- **Actively monitor and document** bivalent dose availability through your vaccine provider.
- Once the bivalent booster vaccine is available, **offer the bivalent booster to residents.**
- **Follow DOH Guidance** <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/420-391-HealthcareIPCCOVID.pdf>
- **Contact DOH** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DQ5K9WV> **to request vaccine assistance, if needed.** DOH can assist coordinating with LTC pharmacies, local health, or other resources to get assistance for vaccinations onsite at facilities of all sizes.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to DOH or DSHS (RCS) at:

DOH: [DOH-HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov](mailto:DOH-HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov)

DSHS (RCS): [RCSpolicy@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:RCSpolicy@dshs.wa.gov)

Sincerely,



Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

*DSHS: "Transforming Lives"*