New COVID-19 Bivalent Vaccines: Reducing Potential Administration Errors

Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Bivalent Booster Packaging Similarities

The packaging for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna's bivalent COVID-19 boosters are similar to other vaccines previously issued by each company. Images below show labels and charts for each bivalent booster vial and package with accompanying details.

Due to the similarities in vaccine packaging and labels, we are urging providers to institute extra safeguards to ensure correct administration. Consumers are being encouraged to confirm with the vaccine provider that they are receiving the correct product by asking to see the vial from which the dose was drawn. This is good health education practice, and providers are encouraged to work with consumers in reducing administration errors.

Additionally, we encourage you to review the Interim Clinical Considerations Guidance from the CDC. For updated vaccination schedules, please review the CDC's Vaccination Schedules At-a-Glance.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Packaging Similarities

There are similarities in packaging between the original primary series (monovalent) vaccine for those 12 and older and the new bivalent vaccine that could lead to inadvertently administering the wrong vaccine if the provider and consumer are not extra cautious.

- The caps on both products are both grey, as are the borders of the package the vials are delivered in
- They are both applicable to persons 12 and older
- They are the same dosage

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Packaging Differences

- The text on the bivalent booster label says “Bivalent Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5”
- The Lot Number of the left side of the monovalent vaccine label are outlined in green

Pfizer-BioNTech Labels

![Monovalent label](image1)

Monovalent label
Primary series only
Ages 12 years and older

![Bivalent label](image2)

Bivalent label
Booster dose only
Ages 12 years and older
Modern COVID-19 Vaccine Packaging Similarities
For Moderna, the similarities are between the primary series (monovalent) vaccine for ages 6 – 11 and the bivalent booster (for 18 and older only).

- The caps on both products are dark blue
- The dosage on both products is the same
- Both vaccines say “for booster doses only” (although the monovalent vaccine for youth should not be used as a booster)

Modern COVID-19 Vaccine Packaging Differences
- The label border on the bivalent booster is grey while the label border on the monovalent vaccine is purple
- The bar saying “for booster use only” on the vial of the bivalent vaccine is grey, while the bar on the monovalent youth vaccine is purple

Moderna Labels

Despite label, do NOT use for booster doses
## Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines Formulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Monovalent Product</strong></th>
<th><strong>Bivalent Product</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorized for ages</strong></td>
<td>6–11 years</td>
<td>18 years and older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vial cap color</strong></td>
<td>Dark blue</td>
<td>Dark blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Label border color</strong></td>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dose (mRNA concentration)</strong></td>
<td>50 mcg (primary dose)</td>
<td>50 mcg (booster dose) (25 mcg original, 25 mcg Omicron BA.4/BA.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Injection volume</strong></td>
<td>0.5 mL</td>
<td>0.5 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dilution required</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beyond-use date</strong></td>
<td>12 hours</td>
<td>12 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Storage</strong></td>
<td>Freezer (-15°C to -50°C) until expiration; Refrigerator (2°C to 8°C) up to 30 days</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>