

New COVID-19 Bivalent Vaccines: Reducing Potential Administration Errors



DELAWARE HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health

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.

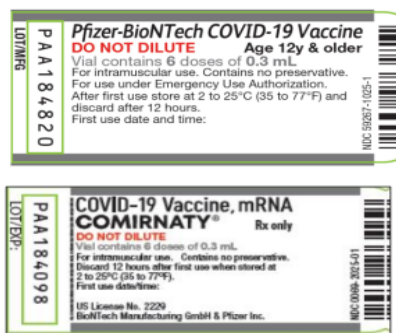
- The caps on both products are both grey, as are the borders of the package the vials are delivered in
- They are both applicable to persons 12 and older
- They are the same dosage

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Packaging Differences

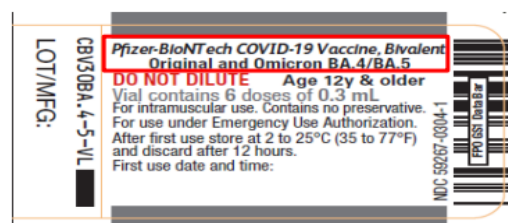
- The text on the bivalent booster label says "Bivalent Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5"
- The Lot Number of the left side of the monovalent vaccine label are outlined in green

Pfizer-BioNTech Labels

Monovalent label
Primary series only
Ages 12 years and older



Bivalent label
Booster dose only
Ages 12 years and older



Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines



Monovalent Product



Bivalent Product

Authorized for ages	12 years and older	12 years and older
Authorized for doses	Primary series doses	Booster doses
Vial cap color	Gray	Gray
Dose (mRNA concentration)	30 mcg	30 mcg (15 mcg original, 15 mcg Omicron BA.4/BA.5)
Vaccine composition	Monovalent—Original	Bivalent—Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5
Injection volume	0.3 mL	0.3 mL
Dilution required	No	No
Beyond-use date	12 hours after puncture	12 hours after puncture
Storage	Ultra-cold freezer until expiration; Refrigerator (2°C-8°C) up to 10 weeks	Ultra-cold freezer until expiration; Refrigerator (2°C-8°C) up to 10 weeks

Moderna 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)

Moderna 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

Monovalent label
Primary series only
Ages 6–11 years



Despite label, do NOT use for booster doses

Bivalent label
Booster dose only
Ages 18 years and older



Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines Formulations



**Monovalent
Product**



**Bivalent
Product**

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