

## September 12, 2022

On September 1, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a [new statement](#) about the importance of receiving updated versions of COVID-19 boosters. These updated boosters have added components that protect against Omicron BA.4 and BA.5, helping to boost waning protection from previous COVID-19 booster doses. The FDA and CDC refer to these as bivalent boosters and the earlier version as a monovalent booster. The monovalent booster [is no longer authorized by the FDA](#) nor [recommended by CDC](#) for persons age 12 and older. These persons are recommended to receive the updated bivalent boosters as soon as possible and according to details in the [CDC Stay Up to Date Guidance](#).

Updates to the [CDC Stay Up to Date Guidance](#) website now say that to be considered **Up to Date**, one must have received an *updated* (bivalent) booster dose, if eligible. An individual is eligible if it has been more than 2 months since completing a primary COVID-19 vaccination series or receiving a COVID-19 booster. However, this change in recommendations comes at a time when the bivalent booster doses are not yet as widely available as we would like.

The Department anticipates updated guidance may be released from CMS, CDC, or both regarding the implications of this change for long-term care facilities, hospitals, and other healthcare settings. In the interim, COVID-19 prevention activities (e.g., weekly testing; quarantine on admission) based on the Up to Date vaccination status of an individual can be conducted based on previous standards for booster doses for Pennsylvania facilities. As a temporary measure, an individual who has received either monovalent booster(s) as previously recommended or a bivalent booster dose can be treated as Up to Date, at this time. This can be thought of as a “grace period” until more of the long-term care population can receive a bivalent booster dose.

Recommendations in [PA-HAN-627](#) for long-term care facilities and in [PA-HAN-624](#) for all healthcare facilities still apply. As bivalent vaccine doses become more widely available, this guidance is expected to change; more information will be forthcoming. For questions, please contact your local health department or call 1-877-PA-HEALTH.