



Get the Updated (*Bivalent*) COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Fact Sheet for Dialysis Patients October 2022

What is the updated *bivalent* booster vaccine?

- The updated COVID-19 vaccine includes a part of the original virus strain to provide broad protection against COVID-19 and a part of the Omicron variant to provide better protection against COVID-19 caused by the Omicron variant.
- These are called *bivalent* COVID-19 vaccines because they contain these two parts.

Why should I get the updated booster?

- Vaccines are used to help teach our body's immune system to fight off specific infection.
- Dialysis patients who develop COVID-19 infection are at higher risk of severe illness and death than non-dialysis patients.
- Several COVID-19 vaccines available in the US have been shown to provide protection against severe infection in over 90% of dialysis patients!
- Being protected against COVID-19 not only protects you, but also your friends and loved ones by preventing the spread of this dangerous infection.
- COVID-19 vaccines do not cause COVID-19 infection.

Which one should I get?

- You can get either the Pfizer or Moderna updated booster vaccine. Mixing and matching is okay.

Can I receive the updated booster vaccine at the same time I receive my yearly influenza (flu) vaccine?

- Yes. It is safe to receive the flu vaccine and updated COVID-19 booster at the same time. If you have had issues with vaccines in the past or have recently had COVID-19, talk with your doctor.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine give me side effects?

- The most common side effects are injection site pain, muscle aches, and fever. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building up your defenses against infection.

References:

Kooman JP, van der Sande FM. COVID-19 in ESRD and Acute Kidney Injury. *Blood Purif.* 2020; DOI: 10.1159/000513214.

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-bivalent-vaccine-boosters>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/treatments-for-severe-illness.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/images/COVID19-vaccination-schedule-immunocompromised.png>

Disclaimer: These guidelines are not medical advice. Please talk to your doctor if you have questions about COVID-19 or COVID-19 vaccination.

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