

mRNA Bivalent vaccines

Ages 18+ and immunocompromised ages 12 to 17

Please read this information sheet carefully and ensure all your questions have been answered by a healthcare provider before receiving this vaccine.

About the bivalent vaccine

- The COVID-19 bivalent vaccines are booster doses, offered to individuals who have already completed their primary-series of COVID-19 vaccines. Bivalent vaccine products are not administered as part of the primary-series.
- COVID-19 cases have continued to rise, largely due to the Omicron variant. Omicron is now the dominant variant of COVID-19 in Canada.
- The bivalent vaccines target both the original COVID-19 strain and Omicron variants and are authorized for use in Canada.
- Data suggests that the bivalent vaccine may provide increased protection against variants, including the dominant Omicron subvariants.

Who can get the bivalent booster

- The bivalent vaccine is available as a booster dose for adults 18 years of age and older who have completed a primary series.
- It is also indicated for clients 12 to 17 years of age who have certain moderate to severe immunocompromising conditions.
- The bivalent booster dose is recommended for all individuals 6 months after receiving any COVID-19 vaccine or 3 months after having a COVID-19 infection. Note: the number of booster doses that you have received does not impact your eligibility for receiving a bivalent booster, as long as you meet the minimum time between doses.

Benefits of the bivalent booster

- The bivalent booster provides broad protection against several COVID-19 Omicron variants.
- Clinical trials suggest that the bivalent booster dose stimulates a strong immune response to both the original COVID-19 strain and the Omicron variant (and related subtypes), compared to the original COVID-19 vaccine.



Who should NOT get the bivalent booster

- Anyone with symptoms that could be due to COVID-19 should wait to be vaccinated so that they do not spread infection to others at the vaccine clinic. Talk with a healthcare provider, call 811, or arrange to get tested for COVID-19.
- Anyone with a known allergy to polyethylene glycol (PEG) or Tromethamine (Tris, Trometamol) or who has had an allergic reaction from an unknown cause should speak with their healthcare provider.
- People who had a serious or allergic reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine should talk to their healthcare provider before getting their next dose.

