

Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, and Novavax COVID-19 vaccines (Omicron variant XBB.1.5) – CDC recommends an additional vaccine dose in 65 years and older

- On February 28, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) voted unanimously that another dose of one of the 2023-2024 (monovalent, XBB containing) COVID-19 vaccines should be given to individuals 65 years of age and older.
 - BLA approved XBB.1.5 vaccines include [Moderna's Spikevax[®] \(2023-2024 formula\)](#) and [Pfizer's Comirnaty[®] \(2023-2024 formula\)](#) in individuals 12 years and older.
 - EUA authorized XBB.1.5 vaccines include Novavax's [Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, adjuvanted \(2023-2024 formula\)](#) in individuals 12 years and older.
 - ACIP members voted 11-1 with one abstention in favor of recommending an additional vaccine dose in individuals 65 years or older.
- The additional dose is administered at least 4 months following the previous dose of updated (2023–2024 formula) COVID-19 vaccine.
- The current recommendations for additional doses for immunocompromised individuals do not change with this latest recommendation.
- Support for an additional vaccine dose in individuals 65 years of age and older was [presented](#) at the meeting and includes:
 - Hospitalizations, critical illness and death from COVID-19 are highest in individuals who are 65 years of age and older.
 - Immunosenescence and higher prevalence of vaccine-only immunity in older adults compared to younger adults suggest that more frequent doses may be needed to maintain protection in this population.
 - While there are increases in COVID-19 during respiratory virus season, COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths continue throughout the year due to ongoing circulation of SARS-CoV-2.
 - COVID-19 vaccines have a favorable safety profile.

What's next:

- The CDC Director will need to review and endorse ACIP's recommendations before they can be adopted. Once approved, individuals 65 years and older are eligible to receive an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine (2023-2024 formula).
- For future vaccines in the fall, the [Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee \(VRBPAC\)](#) will meet on May 16, 2024 to discuss and make recommendations on the selection of strain(s) to be included in the 2024-2025 formula for COVID-19 vaccines.
- The [ACIP](#) will meet June 2024 to make recommendations for 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine administration.