



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

September 26, 2022

Dear COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

In anticipation of the potential age-expansion to the Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) by the Food and Drug Administration of new pediatric bivalent COVID-19 vaccine boosters, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is requesting all providers place a pre-order for the **new pediatric bivalent Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine booster** (ages 5-11 years old) in the Vaccine Allocation and Ordering System (VAOS). The first phase of pre-ordering is open effective immediately through October 5, 2022.

The current bivalent Moderna COVID-19 vaccine booster product for individuals ≥ 18 years of age (dark blue cap with grey border) will also be used for individuals 6 years through 17 years of age, pending EUA. Thus, there is no need to place pre-orders. Note, administration to children aged 6 years– 17 years cannot begin until issuance of the EUA and CDC recommendation.

Vaccine orders will begin shipping only **after** the issuance of the EUAs which is unknown at this time. DSHS will provide a shipping update once EUAs are issued.

Pediatric Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine Booster

- Similar to the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine boosters for 12 years and older, the new pediatric vaccines will contain the **current COVID-19 vaccine plus an Omicron BA.4/BA.5 variant specific vaccine** in equal parts (bivalent).
- Pfizer pediatric bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster will be for individuals 5 years through 11 years of age (pending EUA). The vaccine product **must** be diluted prior to administration.
- Moderna pediatric bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster will be for individuals 6 years through 17 years of age (pending EUA). This

will be the same vaccine product as the current bivalent Moderna COVID-19 vaccine booster for ≥ 18 years. Consistent with other Moderna COVID-19 vaccine products, there is no dilution needed prior to administration.

- Additional clinical considerations will follow after the issuance of the EUAS and CDC makes its recommendations.
- The new bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster products will have the same storage and handling requirements as the current vaccine products from the respective manufacturers.
- Ancillary supplies will be provided, including a variety of 1-inch and 1.5-inch needles and syringes. An ancillary opt-out continues to be available for all non-diluent kits.

DSHS greatly appreciates your continued partnership with COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

Texas Department of State Health Services