

Quick Facts: Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine

- “Bivalent” means a [two-component vaccine](#) — it includes a component of the *original virus strain* to provide broad protection against COVID-19, and a component of the *omicron variant* to provide better protection against the omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5.
- The bivalent vaccine is for individuals who have already received a primary COVID-19 vaccination series, whether or not they have already received a previous “booster.”
- Because the bivalent vaccine has been updated to fight recent mutations in the COVID-19 virus, it provides [significant additional protection](#) against symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection in persons who had previously received two, three or four monovalent vaccine doses.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [requires](#) nursing homes to educate their residents on the benefits of lifesaving COVID-19 vaccinations and to offer them to their residents to achieve compliance.

