

Dear valued member of the Tufts Medical Center Community:

Recently the [US Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) authorized and recommended updated COVID-19 booster vaccines from both Moderna and Pfizer. You can check the [CDC website](#) for more details.

Starting Monday, September 12, Tufts Medical Center will begin administering the new updated COVID-19 booster vaccines at our clinic listed below:

Tufts Medical Center COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing Clinic

276 Tremont Street

Boston, MA

Hours: Monday through Friday from 8 am-5 pm.

Walk-ins are welcome. No appointment is needed.

Below are some frequently asked questions about the new boosters.

What is different about the updated COVID-19 boosters?

The updated boosters are “bivalent.” Bivalent vaccines protect against two different viruses or two strains of the same virus. The updated boosters contain the original vaccine formulation plus components that target the newer omicron subvariants of BA.4 and BA.5. These subvariants make up over 99% of circulating strains.

Who is eligible to get an updated booster?

You are eligible for the updated booster if:

- You completed a [primary vaccination series](#) of the COVID-19 vaccine, **AND**
- At least 2 months have passed since the last dose of your primary vaccine series or any booster dose.

Individuals are eligible for the updated booster regardless of the number of previous booster shots they have received.

Are the updated boosters approved for all age groups?

- The Pfizer bivalent COVID-19 booster is approved for anyone **age 12 and older**.
- The Moderna bivalent COVID-19 booster is approved for anyone **age 18 and older**.

What about for children ages 5-11 years?

The original Pfizer booster is recommended for children ages 5-11 years.

Are the previous boosters still available?

With the FDA approval of the updated boosters, the original COVID-19 vaccines [are no longer approved](#) as boosters for people ages 12 years and older. The FDA made this decision because the updated booster is designed to offer more protection from the circulating omicron variant. Tufts Medical Center's Vaccine Clinic is still providing the original booster to children ages 5-11.

What if I have not yet received the primary COVID-19 vaccine series?

You can get the original vaccines for your primary vaccine series at Tufts Medical Center's Vaccine Clinic. For more information about COVID-19 primary vaccination series, visit the [CDC website](#).

Where can I get an updated booster other than Tufts Medical Center?

To find a location near you, go to vaxfinder.mass.gov. You can also text your zip code to 438829 or call 1-800-232-0233.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, please visit our website [here](#).
You can also find answers to additional questions [here](#).

Thank you for being a valued patient of Tufts Medical Center.

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