



## St. Lawrence County Public Health Department

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### Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **CDC Recommends Updated (Bivalent) COVID-19 Vaccines for Children under 5 years old**

**Canton NY** – On December 23rd, 2022 the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) accepted new guidance from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for bivalent COVID-19 booster doses for eligible children under 5 years old.

More children now have the opportunity to update their protection against COVID-19. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to consider doing so, especially as we head into the winter months ahead. Talk with your child's health care provider to ensure they are up to date on all immunizations including COVID-19.

#### **Is My Child Eligible for a Booster?**

##### **Moderna Eligibility:**

- Children 6 months through 5 years of age who received the Moderna COVID-19 as their primary series are now eligible to receive a single booster dose of the updated (bivalent) Moderna COVID-19 vaccine **at least 2 months** after completing a primary series with Moderna.

##### **Pfizer Eligibility:**

- Children 6 months through 4 years of age who have not yet begun their three-dose primary series of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine **or** have not yet received their third dose of the series **will now receive the updated (bivalent) Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as their third dose.**
- Children 6 months through 4 years of age who have already completed their three-dose primary series **are not eligible** for a booster dose of an updated bivalent vaccine at this time.
- Children in this age group who already completed their three-dose primary series are still expected to have protection against the most serious outcomes from the omicron variant.

It is **not** recommended to mix booster doses for this age group. A child who started a Moderna primary series should follow up with a Moderna bivalent booster dose. A child who has started their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series should finish their series with the Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent third dose.

St. Lawrence County Public Health offers vaccination clinics for this age group every Thursday from 8:30AM - 3:30PM. Our process for registration has changed; to make an appointment please call 315-386-2325. Walk-ins are also welcome from 8:30AM-3:30PM. For questions and/or more information, 315-386-2325.

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