

## NEW YORK STATE COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM PFIZER BIVALENT: AVOIDING ADMINISTRATION ERRORS

- Pfizer bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is now available for adults (ages 12+) and children (ages 5-11 years).
- Use this **bivalent** presentation for **booster** doses only. Use **monovalent** presentations for **primary series** doses only.
- **Pfizer and Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are heterologous.** This means that eligible individuals may receive a bivalent booster dose from either manufacturer regardless of the manufacturer used for their primary series.

### STORAGE AND HANDLING

- All Pfizer vaccine presentations have the same storage and handling requirements:

<p><b>Ultra-Low Temperature (ULT)</b> -90 °C to -60 °C (-130 °F to -76 °F)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Store ultra-cold until <a href="#">expiration date</a>.</li> <li>• NEVER STORE IN A STANDARD FREEZER.</li> <li>• NEVER REFREEZE THAWED VACCINE.</li> </ul>	OR	<p><b>Refrigerated</b> 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Store refrigerated for up to 10 weeks.</li> <li>• Count 10 weeks from the date vaccine was <i>first</i> placed in refrigerated storage. Label vaccine with this 10-week “beyond use” date.</li> <li>• Vaccine must be discarded after 10-week “beyond use” date <i>or</i> after expiration date, <i>whichever comes first</i>.</li> </ul>
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- All Pfizer vaccine presentations can be held for a maximum of 12 hours after vial is first punctured. Any vaccine remaining after that time must be discarded.

### ERROR PREVENTION

- The labels for monovalent and bivalent presentations are nearly identical.
  - For **adult Pfizer (12+)**, the caps and labels on both the monovalent and bivalent presentations are **gray**, and nearly all label text is the same. However, the bivalent formulation includes additional words: **Bivalent Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5**.

<p><b>ADULT PFIZER</b> Ages 12+ <b>BIVALENT</b> Booster Doses</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">NDC: 59267-0304-02</p> <p><b>DO NOT DILUTE.</b></p>		
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DO NOT CONFUSE WITH



<p><b>ADULT PFIZER</b> Ages 12+ <b>MONOVALENT</b> Primary Series</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">NDC: 59267-1025-04</p> <p><b>DO NOT DILUTE.</b></p>		
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- For **pediatric Pfizer (5-11)**, the caps and labels on both the monovalent and bivalent presentations are **orange**, and nearly all label text is the same. However, the bivalent formulation includes additional words: **Bivalent Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5**.



**DO NOT CONFUSE WITH**



- When placing vaccine in cold storage units**, clearly label and physically separate monovalent/bivalent and adult/pediatric presentations on different sides or shelves.
  - CDC offers [printable storage and handling labels](#). For surfaces that are too small for CDC labels, consider using color-coded “dot” stickers to distinguish between monovalent and bivalent presentations.
  - Labels and stickers are unlikely to stay on vaccine in ULT storage. Consider placing vaccine in color-coded bins within the storage unit.\*

*\*Keep vaccine vials in original outer packaging if possible. Choose bins that allow adequate airflow around vaccine.*
- After drawing up vaccine**, clearly label syringes. Include product name, intended age group (adult or pediatric), intended use (booster or primary), and dose volume.
- Prior to administering vaccine, verify:**
  - Recipient’s age and COVID-19 vaccination history, including date of last dose.
  - Vaccine presentation, including color of cap/label **and** text on label.
  - Volume of dose.
  - Preparation; **only pediatric presentations** of Pfizer vaccine must be diluted before use.

## CDC RESOURCES

Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Beyond-Use Date Tracking Labels

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/storage-handling-label.pdf>

Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine At-A-Glance

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/vaccine-at-a-glance.pdf>

Interim COVID-19 Immunization Schedule for Persons 6 Months of Age and Older

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/COVID-19-immunization-schedule-ages-6months-older.pdf>