



September 1, 2022

SCPH Media Contact Phone Number: (330) 812-3700

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FDA AUTHORIZES BIVALENT COVID-19 BOOSTERS; CDC SIGN-OFF EXPECTED BY THIS WEEKEND, WITH FIRST DOSES BEING ADMINISTERED AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK

[Akron, OH] – On Aug. 31, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted Emergency Use Authorization to Pfizer and Moderna for their new bivalent boosters, meaning vaccine could start shipping to states that pre-ordered as early as Thursday. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) advisory committee meets Thursday and Friday, Sept. 1 and 2, to discuss specifics regarding who should receive the boosters. The committee is expected to vote during that time, and if approved, a formal sign-off is then required from the CDC director before vaccine administration can begin.

Summit County Public Health pre-ordered both the Moderna and Pfizer bivalent vaccines with delivery expected later this week or early next week with administration potentially beginning soon after Labor Day. For information on upcoming booster clinics please continue to check our website at <https://www.scph.org/covid> . We will announce clinic dates once we have received our vaccine. COVID-19 booster clinics will be by appointment only.

The Moderna and Pfizer bivalent boosters both target two strains of COVID-19 – the original strain of the virus and two of the Omicron variants (BA.4 and BA.5), the current most widespread variants in the world. **Only individuals who have completed their primary vaccination series (two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson) are eligible to receive the bivalent booster.** Those who have recently received Novovax are not yet eligible for any booster at this time.

The Pfizer bivalent booster is currently authorized for ages **12 and older** while Moderna’s is currently authorized for **18 years** of age and older. Individuals may choose to receive either the Pfizer or Moderna bivalent booster, regardless of which primary series vaccine or original booster dose they had previously. Individuals are eligible for the bivalent booster **two months** since their last primary or booster dose of any vaccine. Authorization for administration to those under age 12 is expected in the near future, but the timeline is not yet clear. Parents are encouraged to have their children complete the primary series of the current vaccines so that they will be eligible for the bivalent booster in the future.

SCPH encourages those residents who are both vaccinated and unvaccinated to continue to engage in safe and effective behaviors to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home if you’re sick, even with mild symptoms





- Be mindful in your interactions with others. Limit your chances of exposure by maintaining social distancing of at least six feet from non-household members
- Wear a mask in public
- Follow good hygiene standards:
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitizer frequently
- Avoid touching your face
- Cover coughs and sneezes

If you have questions, please call the COVID-19 Call Line (330) 926-5795. The call line is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. M-F.

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