

COVID-19 Bivalent Boosters

A Toolkit for TCU Partners



Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted communities across the world when it began in 2019. Causing over 6 million hospitalizations and 1 million deaths, COVID-19 was declared a Public Health Emergency by the World Health Organization on January 30, 2020.

The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines were authorized in the US in December 2020. Vaccines have helped prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and deaths related to COVID-19. However, the virus will likely never go away, new strains will emerge as the virus mutates. Developing updated bivalent boosters, that are designed to target multiple strains, and making them easily accessible to our communities, is key to protecting us from the evolving variants.

Public health experts say that COVID-19 will become a more manageable disease like the flu and people should expect updated booster shots that target new strains to be made available each year in conjunction with the updated flu shot.

While 81% of the US Population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, only 17% of the US Population has received an updated bivalent booster dose (CDC). In Utah, 15% of the population have received an updated bivalent booster (Utah Department of Health).

At Least One Dose

Vaccinated People	Count	Percent of US Population
Total	270,227,181	81.4%
Population ≥ 5 Years of Age	268,021,871	85.8%
Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	256,511,884	90.5%

Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	238,239,640	92.3%
Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	58,758,542	95.0%

Updated (Bivalent) Booster Dose

People with an Updated (Bivalent) Booster Dose*	Count	Percent of US Population
Total	56,478,510	17.0%
Population ≥ 5 Years of Age	56,352,709	18.0%
Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	54,974,636	19.4%
Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	52,996,306	20.5%
Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	23,699,191	43.3%

Bivalent booster shots play an important role in developing and maintaining long-term immunity in communities. Staying up to date on booster shots helps to protect our families, neighbors, classmates, coworkers, and friends. Community-based organizations (CBOs) can make a significant impact on vaccine uptake by acting as trusted and informed messengers. Trusted messengers play an important role in empowering community members to make their own informed healthcare decisions.

The following resources were developed to guide conversations between CBOs and the public around COVID-19 vaccines. Specifically, this tool kit seeks to help CBOs empower individuals and their families in making informed healthcare decisions that lead to healthier communities overall.

Current Recommendations:

- [Up-to-Date COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations \(English and Spanish, All Age Groups\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Immunization Schedule](#)

Talking About Boosters:

- [COVID-19 Boosters Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [What is a Bivalent Booster?](#)
- [Booster Shots Are Common](#)

- [Talking to People About Vaccinations - Dos and Don'ts](#)
- [How to Start a Conversation & How to Disengage](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Myth Busters](#)

Find Vaccines in Your Area:

- [Visit Vaccines.gov](#)
- [Look for Community Health Clinics in Your Area](#)
- [Call or Visit Your Local Health Department](#)
- [Call the COVID-19 Hotline: 1-800-232-0233](#)
 - [Help is available in English, Spanish, and many other languages](#)

Relevant Studies

- [Trusted messengers and trusted messages: The role for community-based organizations in promoting COVID-19 and routine immunizations](#)
 - "The relationship between public health and the community, modulated by trusted CBOs can be powerful in improving the lives and experiences of residents while strengthening the trust between public health and communities that may have suffered because of the fragmented and challenging response to the pandemic" (Shen et al., 2023).
- [Acceptability of COVID-19 vaccines among Black immigrants living in the United States](#)
 - "Actively engaging religious institutions, CBOs, cultural organizations, and key opinion leaders is pivotal to ensure optimal uptake of the COVID-19 vaccines" (Ogunbajo and Bisola, 2022).

Citations

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "COVID-19 Vaccines: Frequently Asked Questions." CDC, <www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "COVID-19 Vaccination Data Tracker: Vaccinations in the United States." CDC, <covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations_vacc-people-booster-percent-pop5>.

Ogunbajo, Adedotun, and Bisola O. Ojikutu. "Acceptability of COVID-19 vaccines among Black immigrants living in the United States." *Vaccine: X*, vol. 12, 2022, 100196. ISSN 2590-1362. doi:10.1016/j.jvacx.2022.100196

Shen, Angela K., et al. "Trusted messengers and trusted messages: The role for community-based organizations in promoting COVID-19 and routine immunizations." *Vaccine*, vol. 41, no. 12, 2023, pp. 1994-2002. ISSN 0264-410X. doi:10.1016/j.vaccine.2023.02.045.

Utah Department of Health. "COVID-19 Vaccination Information." Utah Department of Health, <coronavirus-dashboard.utah.gov/vaccines.html>.