PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS TO RECEIVE AN UPDATED BOOSTER

People 12 and older are now eligible for updated COVID-19 boosters that target the original virus and newest Omicron subvariants

MILWAUKEE COUNTY – The Public Health Departments in Milwaukee County encourage individuals to be vaccinated and stay up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccines as we head into fall. People 12 and older are now eligible to receive updated COVID-19 boosters (also known as bivalent boosters). Doses of the updated boosters are available at locations throughout the community including local health departments, pharmacies, and health care clinics.

The updated boosters are recommended as a single dose for people 12 and older who have received their primary COVID-19 vaccine series and have not received a COVID-19 vaccine dose in the last two months. The Pfizer and Moderna updated boosters can be administered after any primary series, including Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, or Novavax. These updated boosters replace the original boosters for the following age groups:

- People 12 and older are eligible to receive the updated Pfizer COVID-19 booster
- People 18 and older are eligible to receive the updated Moderna COVID-19

Children ages 5-11 continue to be eligible for the original COVID-19 booster, which provides protection against the original strain of COVID-19. It is anticipated that this age group will be eligible for updated boosters in the coming months.

Everyone 6 months and older is recommended to get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. If you have not yet received your primary series of COVID-19 vaccines, supply is readily available.

People can safely get their COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines at the same time, including the annual flu vaccine. As we head into the fall and winter respiratory virus season, we encourage everyone to make a plan to boost their protection against COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines remain available at no cost regardless of immigration or health insurance status. Anyone can schedule an appointment for the vaccine using a variety of options, including with their health care provider, local and tribal health departments, or pharmacies. People are encouraged to check with their <u>local health department</u> or visit <u>vaccines.gov</u> to find vaccination site locations.