



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 21, 2023

FROM: Leslie A. Stewart -S Digitally signed by Leslie A. Stewart -S
Date: 2023.04.21 14:36:08 -06'00'
Leslie Stewart, MD, Internal MedicineCONCURRENCE: Perry Francis -S Digitally signed by Perry Francis -S
Date: 2023.04.21 14:43:21 -06'00'
Perry Francis, Chinle Service Unit Acting CEO

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccine Update

TO: CSU Staff

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated their COVID-19 vaccination guidelines. It is recommended that all individuals will receive the updated vaccine introduced with the Omicron variant, which is the bivalent COVID-19 mRNA vaccine. The (original) monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines will no longer be recommended for use in the United States.

All individuals six years and older will receive a bivalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine if not given already. No matter how many vaccine doses have been given before (or none), once the bivalent dose is given, the COVID-19 vaccination is considered complete. The exception to this are people who are 65 years or older or immunocompromised; these people may receive an additional bivalent vaccine dose.

For young children, multiple doses continue to be recommended and will vary by age, vaccine, and which vaccines were previously received.

Specific recommendations include:

- **Ages six months to five years old:** At least one bivalent vaccine is recommended, depending on past COVID vaccine history. We recommend child is brought in for an updated vaccine if the bivalent vaccine has not been given yet.
- **Ages 6-64 with no immune system problems:** One bivalent vaccine dose is recommended, regardless of past vaccine history. If this has been given, then no further vaccines are recommended at this time.
- **Age 65 and older:** Can get an additional bivalent vaccine four months after the first bivalent vaccine.
- **Ages 6 and older with weakened immune systems:** can get an additional bivalent vaccine two months after the first bivalent vaccine and possibly again after another two months, based on recommendations from their primary healthcare provider.