

8-26-24 Weekly Clinical Update

Important information from AHCA, The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has [approved](#) updated COVID-19 vaccines for the 2024-2025 respiratory virus season. These vaccines are specifically formulated to target currently circulating variants, which have led to a recent surge in COVID-19 infections nationwide.

Residents of long term care facilities are strongly encouraged to receive a COVID-19 vaccine this fall. The FDA states that individuals 12 years and older are eligible to receive a single dose of the updated Comirnaty (Pfizer) or Spikevax (Moderna) vaccines. If previously vaccinated, the dose should be administered at least two months after the last dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.

With the approval of these COVID-19 vaccines, alongside the already approved influenza and RSV vaccines, **long term care providers should contact their pharmacy or vaccine supplier to arrange ordering for administration this fall.**

For additional support and information, providers can access [#GetVaccinated](#) resources, designed to help ensure smooth vaccine distribution and communication efforts.

For Full Summary Please Visit [New COVID Vaccine Approved for the 2024-2025 Respiratory Virus Season \(ahcancal.org\)](#)

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-and-authorizes-updated-mrna-covid-19-vaccines-better-protect-against-currently>. Per the FDA News Release, “Individuals who receive an updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccine may experience similar side effects as those reported by individuals who previously received mRNA COVID-19 vaccines and as described in the respective prescribing information or fact sheets. The updated vaccines are expected to provide protection against COVID-19 caused by the currently circulating variants. Barring the emergence of a markedly more infectious variant of SARS-CoV-2, the FDA anticipates that the composition of COVID-19 vaccines will need to be assessed annually, as occurs for seasonal influenza vaccines.”

“On an ongoing basis, the FDA will review any additional COVID-19 vaccine applications submitted to the agency and take appropriate regulatory action.”

“The approval of Comirnaty (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) (2024-2025 Formula) was granted to BioNTech Manufacturing GmbH. The EUA amendment for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (2024-2025 Formula) was issued to Pfizer Inc.

The approval of Spikevax (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) (2024-2025 Formula) was granted to ModernaTX Inc. and the EUA amendment for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2024-2025 Formula) was issued to ModernaTX Inc.”

So facility Infection Preventionists/designee should check vaccination status at admission and “educate and offer”: Influenza (not yet released for current season), Prevnar **20** and all other pneumonia vaccines, RSV and COVID-19. Many facilities are also reporting checking for DPT and shingles vaccines.