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— TENNESSEE —

**The new COVID-19 vaccine is now available or soon will be at most local pharmacies, public health departments, and community health centers for everyone six months of age and older.**  
*(Updated 9/25/2023)*

**The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended everyone six months or older should get the updated COVID-19 booster shot as of September 12, 2023.**

The FDA approved mRNA vaccines made by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech that target the XBB.1.5 variant for everyone 12 years or older and issued an emergency use authorization for mRNA vaccines for children six months to 11 years old.

The FDA's actions mean the updated vaccine is the only one authorized or approved against COVID-19; the previous booster against BA.4/5 is no longer authorized. Barring the emergence of a markedly more virulent variant, the FDA anticipates the composition of COVID-19 vaccines may need to be updated annually as is done for the seasonal influenza vaccine.

The updated vaccine will be the first COVID-19 shot distributed on the commercial market for approximately \$120-\$130 per dose. This means pharmacies and doctors' offices will purchase the vaccines at their own cost then get reimbursed.

Most insurers, including Medicare and private companies, will continue to cover the vaccine, without co-pays, since it is recommended by the CDC.

The Vaccines for Children program will provide shots for uninsured and underinsured young children. For older children and adults without adequate insurance coverage, the CDC announced it will purchase shots and make them available at state and local health departments as well as through retail pharmacies that participate in the Bridge Access Program until 2024.

