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**Booster doses to help protect against Omicron strain now available**

**Eau Claire, WI – September 9, 2022** – The new COVID-19 booster doses are now available in Eau Claire County. These “bivalent” vaccines help to protect against the Omicron variant as well as the original COVID virus strain. The CDC recommends that anyone who is age 12 or older and has already received their first doses of Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax, or Johnson & Johnson make a plan to get this booster.

“The Omicron variant is responsible for more than 4 of every 5 COVID-19 cases in Wisconsin,” said Lieske Giese, Health Department Director. “We’re glad to finally have a booster vaccine that will help to protect against this highly contagious variant.”

**People who have already been vaccinated and are age 12 or older are eligible for an Omicron-specific booster dose two months after their final dose of Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax, or Johnson & Johnson vaccine.** Vaccinated children ages 5-11 years old are still eligible for the original booster dose formula. It is anticipated that this age group will be eligible for the updated boosters in the coming months.



People who haven’t gotten their first dose of vaccine are encouraged to make an appointment as soon as possible to start their vaccine series. Unvaccinated individuals continue to experience serious complications from COVID-19 at a much higher rate than people who have received a vaccine according to [WI DHS data](#).

**The Health Department is now accepting appointments for the Omicron booster and first doses of Pfizer or Moderna at [ecvaccine.as.me](https://ecvaccine.as.me).** Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. Other vaccine options are available at [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) and from area healthcare providers.

Additional days and times for booster vaccine appointments will be available as additional vaccine doses are received. Follow the Health Department on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) to learn about new appointments and clinic locations as they become available.

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