



Maryland  
Hospital Association

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MHA ENCOURAGES MARYLANDERS TO GET BOOSTED FOR FALL**

**Elkridge, Md.** – Marylanders now have access to an updated COVID-19 booster vaccine that is designed to better protect against symptoms of subvariants Omicron BA.4 and BA.5. The BA.5 subvariant makes up almost 90% of all COVID-19 strains now in circulation.

The new boosters are available in time for fall, typically a time of year when cases of the coronavirus, as well as hospitalizations, rise.

“We all want the pandemic to be over, but COVID-19 is still very much with us,” says Bob Atlas, President & CEO of the Maryland Hospital Association. “All Marylanders who are eligible should get boosted as soon as possible to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.”

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Aug. 31 amended the emergency use authorization (EUA) for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines for individuals 12 years and older and Moderna COVID - 19 vaccines doses for individuals 18 years and older to recommend the two new bivalent boosters. With the amendment of the EUA for these populations, the monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized as booster doses for individuals 12 and older.

To receive one of the bivalent boosters, you must have already received a primary COVID-19 vaccine series.

“If you’ve had your primary series and a monovalent booster, and it’s been two months or more since your last boost, you can get the bivalent booster,” Atlas says. “If you are eligible, there is no reason to wait to get your booster.”

More information is available in the FDA’s [EUA](#) and from the [CDC](#).

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### **About the Maryland Hospital Association**

*The Maryland Hospital Association serves Maryland’s 60 nonprofit hospitals and health systems through collective action to shape policies, practices, financing and performance to advance health care and the health of all Marylanders. For more information, visit [www.mhaonline.org](http://www.mhaonline.org).*