

New Omicron COVID-19 boosters offer enhanced protection

Written by Staff Reports

Friday, 23 September 2022 02:11



The New Mexico Department of Health recommends the use of the first booster vaccine designed specifically to protect against the original COVID-19 and the most common form of COVID-19 in New Mexico, the BA.5 Omicron subvariant. Doses were expected to begin shipping and arriving at health care providers across New Mexico during the week of Sept. 5

“We’ve added another tool to help safeguard us against severe illness against COVID-19,” David R. Scrase, M.D., acting DOH secretary, said. “The new booster was specifically designed to address Omicron subvariants.”

According to DOH data, the BA.5 subvariant accounts for an estimated 80% of the COVID-19 cases in New Mexico. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued Emergency Use Authorization for the Omicron COVID-19 booster Aug. 31.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and DOH recommend the Omicron booster manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech for people age 12 and older. They recommend the Omicron booster by Moderna for adults age 18 and older.

The new vaccines are to be administered as a single booster dose to those who previously completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccines and those who have had one or two booster doses. Omicron boosters can only be administered if it has been at least two months since a person’s most recent vaccination.

The new vaccines replace previously authorized monovalent mRNA boosters (Pfizer and Moderna) for people age 12 and older.

New Omicron COVID-19 boosters offer enhanced protection

Written by Staff Reports

Friday, 23 September 2022 02:11

Following CDC guidance, DOH is no longer scheduling appointments for the Monovalent mRNA COVID-19 as a booster and individuals have been asked to wait until the new Omicron booster is available.

The federal government allotted DOH initial orders totaling 54,400 doses of bivalent boosters.

Staff Reports