



BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

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Berrien County Health Department Distributing Bivalent COVID-19 Boosters for Ages 12 and Older

Benton Harbor, Sept. 14, 2022 – The Berrien County Health Department is now distributing booster doses of the bivalent Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

The bivalent vaccines provide greater protection against the predominant strain of COVID-19, the Omicron variant and its subvariants, which are currently responsible for most COVID-19 cases in Michigan.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued Emergency Use Authorization for bivalent COVID-19 booster doses on Sept. 7. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended the Pfizer bivalent booster vaccine for ages 12 and older and the Moderna bivalent vaccine for ages 18 and older. Monovalent vaccines are no longer recommended for booster doses and will not be available through BCHD. Monovalent vaccines will still be used for primary vaccine doses.

Individuals aged 12 and older who completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series or have completed their primary vaccine series and received a monovalent booster are eligible to receive one bivalent booster vaccine if it has been at least two months since their last dose. Individuals may choose either the Pfizer or Moderna bivalent booster, regardless of what primary vaccine series or monovalent booster they previously received.

“We are pleased to be able to offer the new COVID-19 boosters, which provide better protection against the Omicron variant and subvariants, helping us keep our

communities healthy and safe,” Health Officer Guy Miller said. “Vaccinations are proven to be the most effective way to protect ourselves and others from getting seriously ill from COVID-19.

“We strongly encourage community members to connect with their primary care provider or the Berrien County Health Department to learn more and schedule their vaccines and boosters.”

Bivalent booster doses will be available at BCHD’s regular COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Clinics are held for ages 12 and older every Tuesday at the Benton Harbor office, 2139 E. Napier Ave., and every Thursday in the Niles office, 1205 Front St. These clinics run 3-4 p.m. in Benton Harbor and 3-5 p.m. in Niles. Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment in Benton Harbor, visit bchdmi.org/covid19. To schedule an appointment in Niles, call 269.684.2800.

If you need help finding a clinic or making an appointment or have questions about vaccines and boosters, visit bchdmi.org/covid19 or call 1.800.815.5485.

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