



Regence

Group Administrators

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Serving Select Counties in Washington

November 11, 2022

To Our Valued Clients and Partners,

Bivalent boosters are here! The FDA has authorized two COVID-19 bivalent vaccines available in a single dose. Pharmacies and health systems across the U.S. are stocked and ready to administer these latest boosters:

- The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent is authorized for use as single booster dose in individuals 6 years of age and older.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 5 years of age and older.

Eligibility for these bivalent boosters is recommended for those whose last monovalent booster was at least two months prior.

The CDC's reported U.S. weekly new COVID-19 case count as of November 9th is at 289K new cases per week, which is up 8.6% from 266K new cases per week one month ago and is just over half of the 540K new cases reported per week one year ago. For more details, please visit the [CDC COVID Data Tracker: Compare Trends Across States and Regions](#)

As we have seen over the last year, new COVID-19 variants are again emerging and increasing in proportion each week. The latest variants to rise over the last month are BF.7, BQ.1, and BQ.1.1. Collectively, these three variants have grown from less than 1% of reported cases from the week ending September 9th to 9.7% cases reported for the week ending October 8th, to 44.3% of cases for the week ending November 5th.

When in doubt, test. It's up to all of us to stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other virus. Home COVID-19 tests kits are readily available through most major pharmacies and in Washington State residents may order additional free COVID-19 home test kits from the WA Department of Health's "[Say Yes, COVID Test](#)" program. Additionally, throughout the national COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, health plans must continue to cover up to eight COVID-19 home tests each month for each plan member.

We're Here for You

Thank you for reading our newsletter and thank you for your continued trust in our organization.

Our focus, dedication, and support remain steadfast as we navigate these unique times with you. Thank you for healthy. Please reach out to your Account Manager if you have any questions or if there is anything we can do to help. We would also love to hear your feedback on future content and story ideas for this newsletter. Drop us your ideas and feedback at TPAMarketing@accesstpa.com. [Are you following us on LinkedIn?](#) This is a great way to keep a pulse on what is happening between our monthly newsletters.

Best Regards,

Lindsay Harris, MPP *President and CEO*

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