

UNMASK THE FACTS

August 15 - 31

August 22, 2022

CDC recommends Novavax COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents

The CDC announced that Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine can be used as another primary series option for adolescents ages 12 through 17. Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine provides a more familiar type of COVID-19 vaccine technology for adolescents. Having multiple types of vaccines offers more options and flexibility for the public and vaccine providers. No one who receives the Novavax vaccine in the U.S. is recommended to get a booster shot at this time, and it [can't be used as a booster shot](#) for any age group.

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August 29, 2022

U.S. government to end free at-home COVID-19 test program this week

The federal government is ending its free at-home COVID-19 test program on Friday, September 2. All households in the U.S. can order up to 3 sets of free tests. The first and second orders include 4 tests, and the third order contains 8 (for a total of 16 tests). Those who have not ordered all 3 packages will have until Friday to place their order [online](#) or by calling (800) 232-0233. The program is ending due to a lack of funding and an effort to save tests for an anticipated fall surge in cases.

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August 24, 2022

Paxlovid offers older adults impressive protection against serious cases of COVID-19

In a recent [study](#), people who were 65 or older and took Paxlovid had a 73% lower chance of being hospitalized from COVID-19 and about a 79% lower chance of dying from COVID-19 than those who did not take these pills. But people ages 40 to 64 experienced no real drop in the risk of hospitalization or death. This research though did not separate out young people with very weak immune systems, who might be more likely than other young people to benefit from Paxlovid.

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August 22, 2022

Study suggests that mRNA vaccines are safe for patients with a history of heart failure

A new study found that COVID-19 mRNA vaccines did not worsen the heart problems of patients with heart failure. The vaccines didn't increase these patients' chances of blood clots or heart inflammation either. In fact, patients with heart failure who did get an mRNA vaccine had a lower overall death rate than those who didn't get a vaccine. Patients with heart failure should get a COVID-19 vaccine because they are at increased risk of hospitalization and death from the virus.

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August 31, 2022

FDA authorizes Omicron-specific formulas for COVID-19 booster shots

The FDA [authorized](#) two new updated booster formulas that specifically target the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron variants. The formula made by Pfizer-BioNTech was authorized for use in people as young as 12, and the other made by Moderna, for those 18 and older. A CDC advisory committee is scheduled to meet later this week to decide who should get these boosters and when. The updated boosters are not currently available to the public, but pending CDC review, they should be available in the next week or two.

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