

UNMASK THE FACTS

March 2023

March 14, 2023

More young kids can now get a bivalent COVID-19 booster shot

Young kids from 6 months to 4 years old can now get a bivalent booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine if they finished their 3-dose monovalent primary series at least 2 months ago. This fourth shot is only for kids whose first three shots were monovalent. Since December 2022, kids in this age group could get a bivalent third dose. If they got Pfizer's bivalent vaccine as their third dose, then they can't get a booster dose of the bivalent vaccine at this time.

[READ MORE >](#)

March 16, 2023

Paxlovid comes closer to getting full FDA approval

Advisers to the FDA recently voted for Paxlovid, the oral COVID-19 treatment, to gain full FDA approval. The 16-1 vote came after the agency released a new review. Here, Paxlovid reduced hospitalization and death by 86% in unvaccinated, high-risk patients, and by 58% in those who were vaccinated. People who gained immunity from a previous infection also saw a reduced risk after taking Paxlovid. The FDA plans to decide about its approval in May.

[READ MORE >](#)

March 11, 2023

Three years have passed since the WHO first declared COVID-19 a pandemic

In those three years, trust in public health experts has gone down, misinformation about COVID-19 has gone up, and more than 1.1 million Americans have died from COVID-19. Polls from the Kaiser Family Foundation show that many public health behaviors and beliefs have fallen along political lines. For example, only half as many polled Republicans had taken a bivalent booster shot by January 2023 compared to Democrats.

[READ MORE >](#)

March 29, 2023

Senate votes to end the COVID-19 public health emergency early

Last week, the U.S. Senate passed a bill that would quickly end the public health emergency. If President Biden signs the bill, it would give the U.S. government one less month to roll back extended deadlines for filing claims for COBRA health plans and flexible spending accounts. It would also put an early end to relaxed requirements for Medicare and Medicaid programs. The public health emergency was originally scheduled to end on May 11.

[READ MORE >](#)

March 21, 2023

Researchers look for new ways to give COVID-19 vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. today must be given as a shot in the arm or leg, but some researchers are now looking for other options. A few teams are trying to make a pill-version of the vaccine. A recent study out of UCLA found that their oral COVID-19 vaccine worked just as well as vaccines given through needles. However, this oral vaccine route has not been tested in humans yet. This vaccine still has to pass more tests before it's ready to use, but they say the results look promising.

[READ MORE >](#)



Americares is a health-focused relief and development organization that responds to people affected by poverty or disaster with life-changing health programs, medicine, medical supplies and emergency aid.

Disclaimer: This project was funded in whole by a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant number 5 NU50CK000588-03-00. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this resource center do not necessarily represent the policy of CDC or HHS and should not be considered an endorsement by the Federal Government.