VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Differences in Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Packaging

The packaging for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna's bivalent COVID-19 boosters are similar to other vaccines previously issued by each manufacturer. Due to the similarities in vaccine packaging and labels, the Virginia Department of Health is providing this tool to assist with proper administration of these vaccines.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Packaging

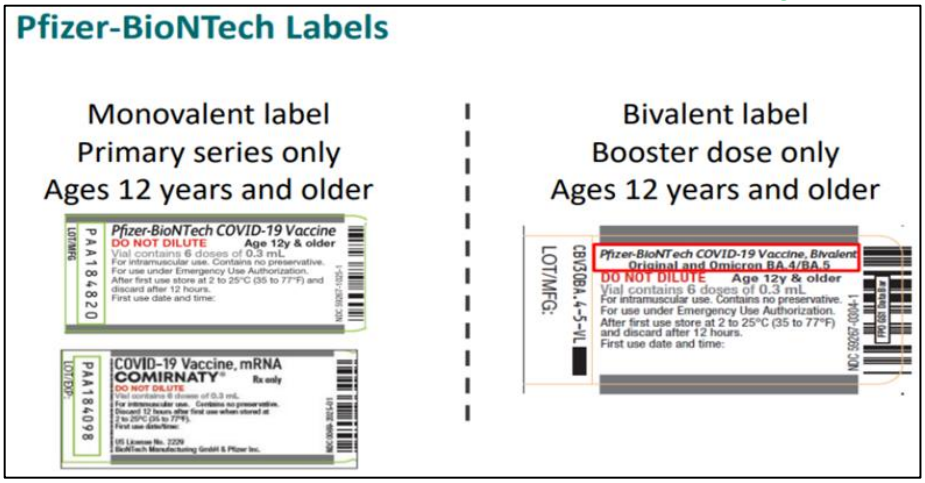
Gray cap (12 years and older)

Similarities:

- **Caps on both products (monovalent and bivalent) are gray**, as are the borders of the packaging and the vials themselves
- Both applicable to persons 12 and older
- They are the same dosage

Differences:

- The text on the bivalent booster label says "Bivalent Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5"
- The Lot Number of the left side of the monovalent vaccine label are outlined in **green**



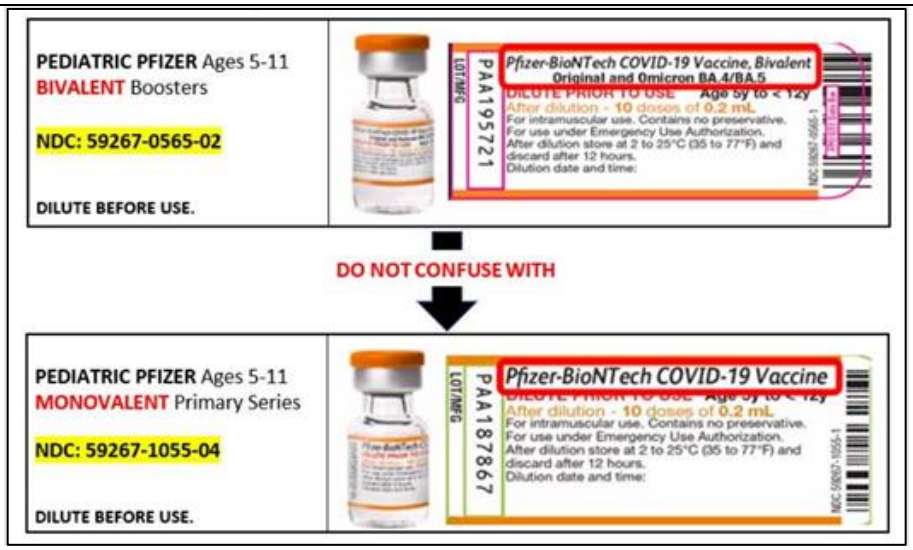
Orange cap (5 years through 11 years)

Similarities:

- **Caps on both products (monovalent and bivalent) are orange**, as are the borders of the packaging and the vials themselves
- Both applicable for persons 5 years through 11 years of age
- They are the same dosage

Differences:

- Bivalent: states Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent (Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5)



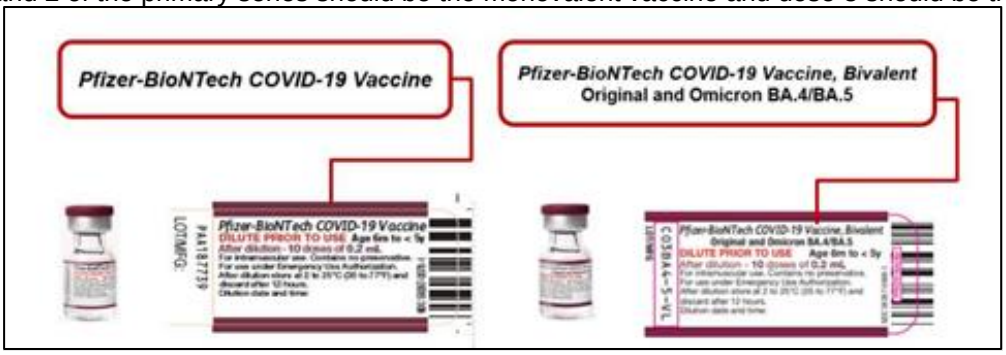
Maroon cap (6 months through 4 years of age)

Similarities:

- **Caps on both products (monovalent and bivalent) are maroon**, as are the borders of the packaging and the vials themselves
- Both applicable for ages 6 months through 4 years of age
- They are the same dosage
- Both vaccines are indicated for use as primary series and should follow this recommendation:
  - Dose 1: Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (monovalent)
  - Dose 2: Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (monovalent)
  - Dose 3: Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent

Differences:

- Monovalent: label and carton states Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine; may state “Age 2y to < 5y” or “Age 6m to < 5y” **(Vials with either printed age range can be used in individuals 6 months through 4 years of age)**
- Bivalent: states Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent (Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5)
- Doses 1 and 2 of the primary series should be the monovalent vaccine and dose 3 should be the bivalent



Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Packaging

Dark blue cap

There are three Moderna products that have a **dark blue cap**, however the label borders are a different color for each.

- Dark blue cap with **gray border** (bivalent): booster dose only for **6 years of age and older**
- Dark blue cap with **purple border** (monovalent): primary series only for **6 years through 11 years of age**
- Dark blue cap with **magenta border** (monovalent): primary series only for **6 months through 5 years of age**

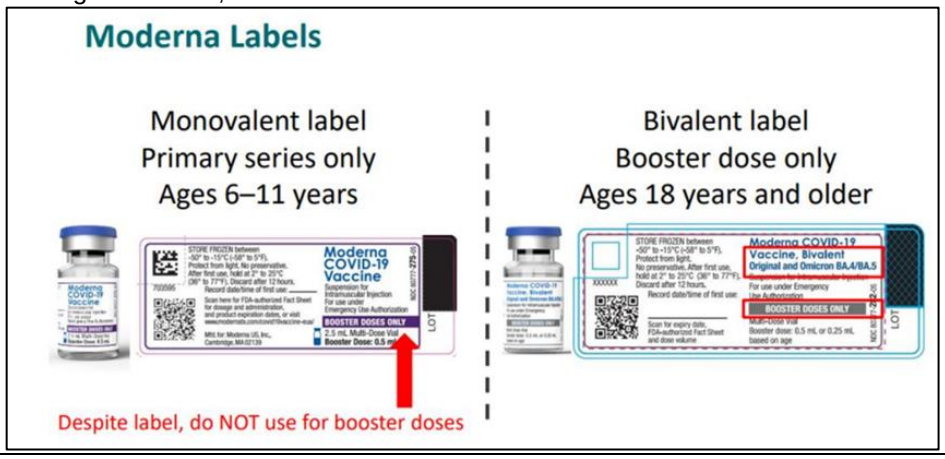
Similarities:

- The **caps on these products are dark blue**

- Some of the dosing is the same; be cautious
- The **gray border** (bivalent) and **purple border** (monovalent) both say “for booster doses only” on the label (although the monovalent vaccine for youth **should not** be used as a booster)

Differences:

- The label border
- Some of the dosing is different; be cautious



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend the following best practices for avoiding administration errors:

- Separate vaccines into different bins based on their formulation
- Use color-coded identification labels on vaccine storage containers for any look-alike vaccine products
- Keep look-alike vaccines in different areas of a storage unit
- Circle any important information on packaging that highlights differences between vaccines
- Use look-alike stickers on packaging and in areas where the vaccines are stored
- Establish a "Do Not Disturb" period when vaccines are being prepared or administered
- Prepare vaccine for one patient at a time
- Label the syringe with the vaccine name
- Never administer a vaccine prepared by another person
- Always triple-check your work, and when possible, ask another staff member to check for you

If a vaccine administration error does occur, the next action depends on the type of error that occurred. We encourage you to visit the CDC site for vaccine errors for additional guidance.

For any vaccine administration errors, clinicians should inform the patient, consult with the state program, and report error to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS).