

# Moderna booster shot prompts strong immune response against Omicron subvariants

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Moderna announced Monday that its updated booster shot triggers strong antibody responses against three omicron subvariants.

"We are pleased to see that both of our bivalent [booster vaccine candidates](#) offer superior protection against omicron BA.4/BA.5 variants compared to our original booster, which is encouraging given COVID-19 remains a leading cause of hospitalization and death globally. In addition, the superior response against omicron persisted for at least three months," Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel said in a news release.

"Our bivalent boosters also show... neutralizing activity against BQ.1.1, an increasingly dominant emerging variant, confirming that updated vaccines have the potential to offer protection as the virus continues to evolve rapidly to escape our immunity."

Taken together, about 45 percent of all new COVID-19 cases were one of these subvariants, [according](#) to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Moderna tested the blood of 511 adult volunteers who had received the booster, comparing their results to others who had a booster of the original vaccine. The investigators found antibodies that were about fivefold higher in those who had a booster and a previous COVID-19 infection and sixfold higher in those without a documented infection. The [company](#) also assessed 40 volunteers for antibodies against the subvariant BQ.1.1. They found "robust neutralizing activity," though less so than against the other variants.

The results on BA.4 and BA.5 immunity have not been published in a peer-reviewed journal, but they are similar to those [announced](#) earlier this month by Pfizer on its updated booster shot.

**More information:** [More Information](#)

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