

Individuals using assistive technology may not be able to fully access the information contained in this file. For assistance, please call 800-835-4709 or 240-402-8010, extension 1. CBER Consumer Affairs Branch or send an e-mail to: [ocod@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:ocod@fda.hhs.gov) and include 508 Accommodation and the title of the document in the subject line of your e-mail.

# **Update on Original COVID-19 Vaccine and COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent Effectiveness and Safety**

**Richard Forshee**  
**Deputy Director, FDA/CBER/OBPV**

**VRBPAC, January 26, 2023**

# Outline



- **CDER Active Surveillance Program (BEST Initiative)**
- Bivalent COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines Safety Surveillance
- Real-World Effectiveness of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Among U.S. Nursing Home Residents Aged  $\geq 65$  Years
- Conclusion

# BEST Initiative Data Sources



Data Source*	Database Type	No. Patients Covered (Millions)	Time Period Covered
CMS- Medicare	Claims	105	2005 - present
MarketScan Commercial and Medicare Supplemental	Claims	254	1999 - 2019
MarketScan Medicaid	Claims	48	1999 - 2019
MarketScan Commercial (IBM)	Claims	65	2016 - present
Blue Health Intelligence	Claims	93	2016 - present
Optum - Adjudicated	Claims	66	1993 - present
Optum - Pre adjudicated	Claims	31	2017 - present
HealthCore	Claims	70	2010 - present
CVS Health	Claims	41	2018 - present
OneFlorida Clinical Research Consortium - Medicaid	Claims	6.7	2012 - present
OneFlorida Clinical Research Consortium - EHR	EHR	5.6	2012 – present
Optum EHR	EHR	102	2007 - 2020
MedStar Health Research Institute	EHR	6	2009 - present
PEDSnet	EHR	6.2	2009 - present
IBM CED	Linked EHR Claims	5.4	2000 - present
Optum Integrated Claims - EHR	Linked EHR Claims	25	2007 – 2020

\*Data lag varies based on data source, ranges from a few days to a few months.

# Rapid Cycle Analysis (RCA) Data Sources



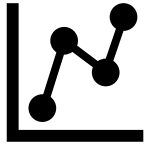
Claims Data Source	Age (years)	Population Enrolled (million)
<b>CMS Medicare</b>	65+	36
<b>DP 1</b>	0-4	1.2
	5-17	3.1
	18-64	14.8
<b>DP 2</b>	0-4	1.0
	5-17	2.6
	18-64	11.6
<b>DP 3</b>	0-4	1.4
	5-17	3.7
	18-64	17.1



# Immunization Information Systems (IIS)

- Confidential, population-based, computerized databases that record immunization doses administered by participating providers to persons in U.S. public health jurisdictions
- Supplements claims-based COVID-19 vaccine administration data
- Undercapture of COVID-19 vaccines in claims databases due to vaccines administered without insurance reimbursement

# Phases of Vaccine Active Surveillance



**Descriptive Monitoring** provides descriptive statistics of vaccine doses and selected adverse events.



**Signal Detection** performs sequential testing, while vaccine doses accumulate, to identify potential safety risks early; does not prove causal relationship.



**Signal Evaluation** uses more robust study designs to evaluate potential safety signals.

# Outline



- CBER Active Surveillance Program (BEST Initiative)
- **Bivalent COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines Safety Surveillance**
- Real-World Effectiveness of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Among U.S. Nursing Home Residents Aged  $\geq 65$  Years
- Conclusion



# COVID-19 Bivalent mRNA Vaccines Rapid Cycle Analyses

## Administered Doses By Age Group



Age Groups (years)	BNT162b2 (# vaccinations)	mRNA-1273 (# vaccinations)	Total (# vaccinations)
5/6-17 <sup>1</sup>	196,992	13,016	210,008
18-35 <sup>1</sup>	442,870	211,694	654,564
36-64 <sup>1</sup>	1,248,430	654,220	1,902,650
65+ <sup>2</sup>	4,265,244	3,042,074	7,307,318

1. Data cuts: CVS data through 10/2022, HealthCore data through 11/2022, Optum data through 12/2022

2. Data cuts: CMS data through 12/2022

# COVID-19 Bivalent mRNA Vaccines Safety Monitoring



- **FDA Study Design:** Rapid Cycle Analysis (RCA) near real-time surveillance
  - No causal association established
- **Population:** 6 month-4/5 years, 5/6-17 years, 18-64 years\*, ≥65 years
- **Exposure:** mRNA-1273.222 and BNT162b2 COVID-19 vaccines
  - Bivalent booster: original SARS-CoV-2 virus and Omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5.
- **Statistical Method:** MaxSPRT
- **Comparator:** Historical rates

\*For the myocarditis/pericarditis outcome, the study population was additionally split into 18-35 and 36-64 year age groups.

# FDA Adverse Events Monitored



Adverse Events Monitored in Adult and Pediatric Populations	
Acute Myocardial Infarction	Hemorrhagic Stroke
Anaphylaxis	Immune Thrombocytopenia
Appendicitis	Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome
Bell's Palsy	Myocarditis/Pericarditis (Myo-/Pericarditis)*
Common Site Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia	Narcolepsy
Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation	Non-hemorrhagic Stroke
Deep Vein Thrombosis	Pulmonary Embolism
Encephalitis/Encephalomyelitis	Transverse Myelitis
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	Unusual Site Thrombosis (Broad) with Thrombocytopenia

Adverse Events Monitored in Pediatric Populations Only
Seizure/Febrile Seizure
Kawasaki Disease
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children (MIS-C)

\*This includes 4 myo-/pericarditis outcome definitions varying care settings (all settings vs. IP/OP-ED) and risk windows (1-7 vs. 1-21 days) These AEs have not been associated with COVID-19 vaccines based on available pre-licensure evidence.

# Signals Detected



Adverse Event (AE)	Medicare Population <sup>1</sup> (Ages 65+)	Adult Population <sup>2</sup> (Ages 18-64)	Pediatric Population <sup>2</sup> (Ages 5-17/6-17)
Acute Myocardial Infarction	No	No	Descriptive Only
Anaphylaxis	No	No	No
Appendicitis	No	No	No
Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation	No	No	No
Deep Vein Thrombosis	No	No	No
Bell's Palsy	No	No	No
Encephalomyelitis/Encephalitis	No	No	No
Guillain-Barré Syndrome	No	No	Descriptive Only
Hemorrhagic Stroke	No	No	Descriptive Only
Myocarditis/Pericarditis	No	<b>BNT162b2 Bivalent (18-35)</b>	No
Common Site Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia	No	No	No
Uncommon Site Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome	No	No	Descriptive Only
Narcolepsy	No	No	No
<b>Non-Hemorrhagic Stroke</b>	No	No	No
Pulmonary Embolism	No	No	No
Transverse Myelitis	No	No	Descriptive Only
Immune Thrombocytopenia	No	No	No
Febrile Seizures	N/A	N/A	Descriptive Only
Seizures/Convulsions	N/A	N/A	No
Kawasaki disease	N/A	N/A	Descriptive Only
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome	Descriptive Only	Descriptive Only	Descriptive Only

1. Data cuts: CMS 12/2022

2. Data cuts: CVS Health data through 10/2022; HealthCore data through 11/2022, Optum data through 12/2022

AEs and the associated vaccine brand with a safety signal are noted.

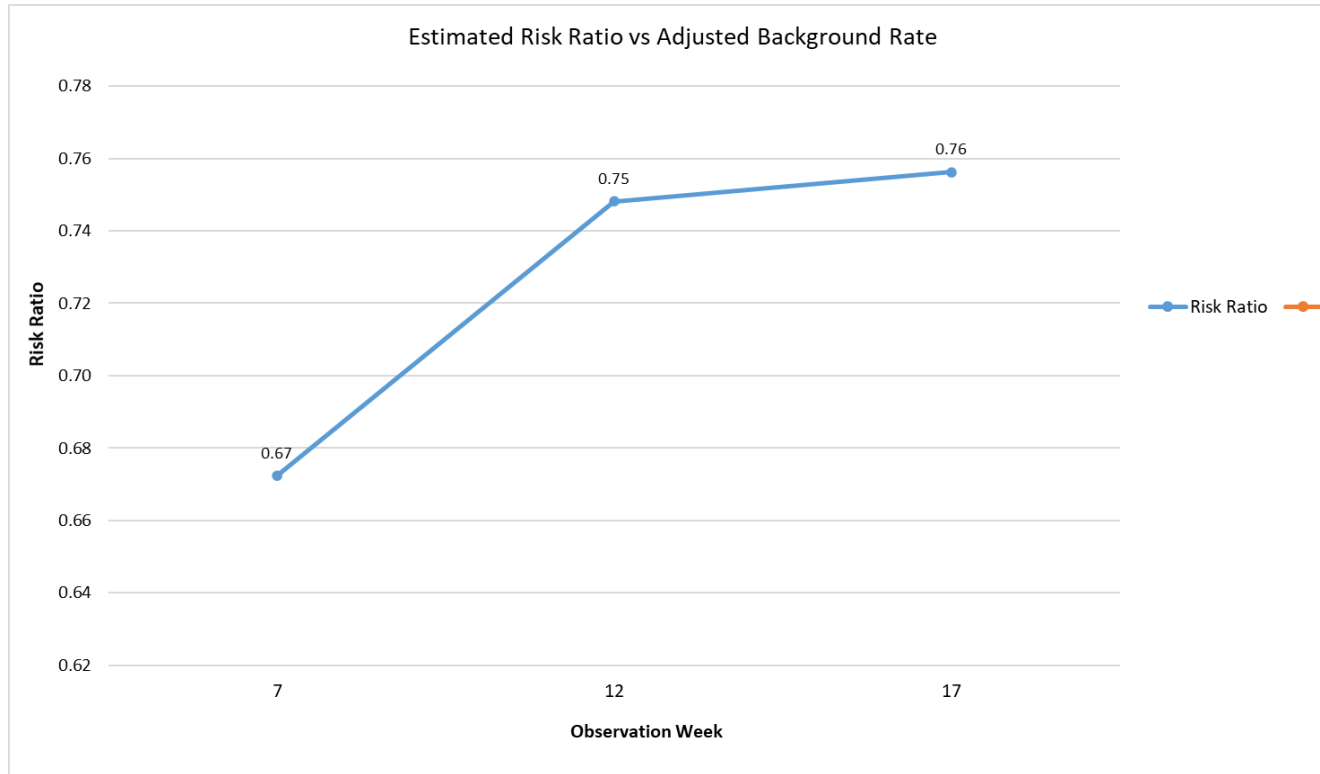
N/A indicates neither descriptive monitoring nor sequential testing is being conducted in the indicated age group for a given AE. NO indicates that a safety signal has not been detected. Descriptive Only indicates sequential testing is not being conducted in the indicated age group for a given AE.

# Adverse Events that Completed Surveillance Period



<b>Adverse Event (AE)</b>	<b>Ages 65+ years</b>
<b>Acute Myocardial Infarction</b>	BNT162b2, mRNA-1273
<b>Deep Vein Thrombosis</b>	BNT162b2, mRNA-1273
<b>Bell's Palsy</b>	BNT162b2
<b>Common Site Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia</b>	BNT162b2
<b>Non-Hemorrhagic Stroke</b>	BNT162b2, mRNA-1273
<b>Pulmonary Embolism</b>	BNT162b2

# Risk Ratio Non-hemorrhagic Stroke for Pfizer Bivalent Compared to Historical Rates (2019)



We reached the maximum length of surveillance without a signal

# Concomitant Influenza Vaccination



- Approximately 4.25 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent vaccine have been administered in the CMS database in individuals 65 years and older
- 38% of the Medicare recipients who received a Pfizer bivalent COVID-19 booster received a seasonal influenza vaccination on the same day
- 78% received a seasonal influenza vaccination within +/- 42 days
- Further work to be done to segment out the different influenza vaccine types administered with the COVID-19 vaccines
- No signal seen at this time for non-hemorrhagic stroke

# COVID-19 Bivalent mRNA Vaccines RCA

## Summary

- This is a large-scale signal detection study of two COVID-19 mRNA bivalent vaccines conducted in multiple claims databases.
- RCA surveillance detected a signal for myocarditis/pericarditis following BNT162b2 bivalent vaccine doses among 18-35 year olds.
- Among adults 65 years and older, several AEs have completed the surveillance period.
- Signal detection studies do not establish a causal relationship and further evaluation of signals is required in more robust studies.
- Surveillance is ongoing and expanded to < 5 year olds.



# Data Suggesting Absence of Safety Risk for the Bivalent Boosters in Age 65y+



- 1) No excess reports of stroke from VAERS
- 2) CMS database with about 4.25 million doses shows no increase in stroke
- 3) VA database run shows no increase in stroke on preliminary query
- 4) Various countries in Europe as well as Israel indicate no increased risk of stroke in their surveillance systems
- 5) Pfizer notes no increase in signal in their global safety database or when comparing the monovalent to bivalent vaccines

***In any case, a formal epidemiologic study is being initiated by FDA to prepare for potential vaccine coadministration in 2023-2024***

# Outline



- CBER Active Surveillance Program (BEST Initiative)
- COVID-19 Bivalent mRNA Vaccines Near Real-Time Safety Surveillance (Rapid Cycle Analyses [RCA])
- **Real-World Effectiveness of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Among U.S. Nursing Home Residents Aged  $\geq 65$  Years**
- Conclusion

# **Real-World Effectiveness of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Among U.S. Nursing Home Residents Aged $\geq 65$ Years**

The COVID-19 pandemic caused substantial morbidity and mortality, especially among older adults residing in nursing homes (NH).

Understanding the effectiveness of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines among this population and across time is crucial for effective policy making and vaccine development.

## OBSERVATION PERIOD

December 13, 2020 to  
November 20, 2021

## EXPOSURES

Time-varying mRNA  
COVID-19 vaccination  
status

## POPULATION

Medicare Fee-for-Service  
beneficiaries aged  $\geq 65$   
years residing in U.S. NHs

## OUTCOMES

Primary: COVID-19  
related deaths, COVID-19  
hospitalizations, and  
combined COVID-19  
hospitalization or death

# Addressing Underreporting of Vaccination



- Quantitative Bias Analysis was conducted to evaluate the impact of potential exposure misclassification
- Beneficiaries were excluded if they:
  - (1) resided in a NH with less than 10% of residents vaccinated with one dose on or before March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021; or
  - (2) if a second or third dose was observed without the preceding dose

# FDA Final Study Populations



**NH Residents  $\geq 65$  years of age: N= 348,310**

**By the end of the study period November 20, 2021**

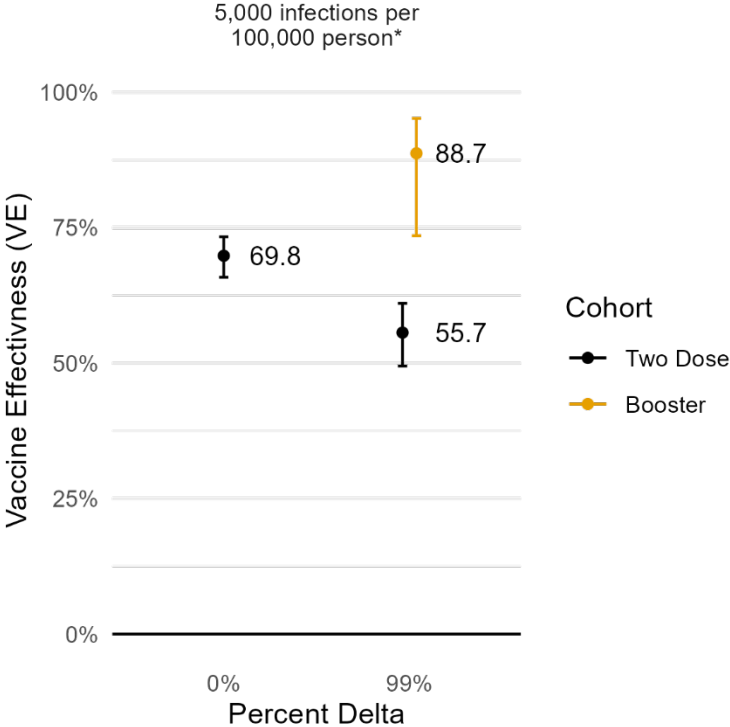
**Unvaccinated Cohort : N= 14%**

**One-Dose Cohort: N= 4%**

**Two-Dose Cohort: N= 61%**

**Booster Cohort: N= 21%**

# Adjusted VE for COVID-19-associated Death in pre-Delta and Delta Periods (high circulation)

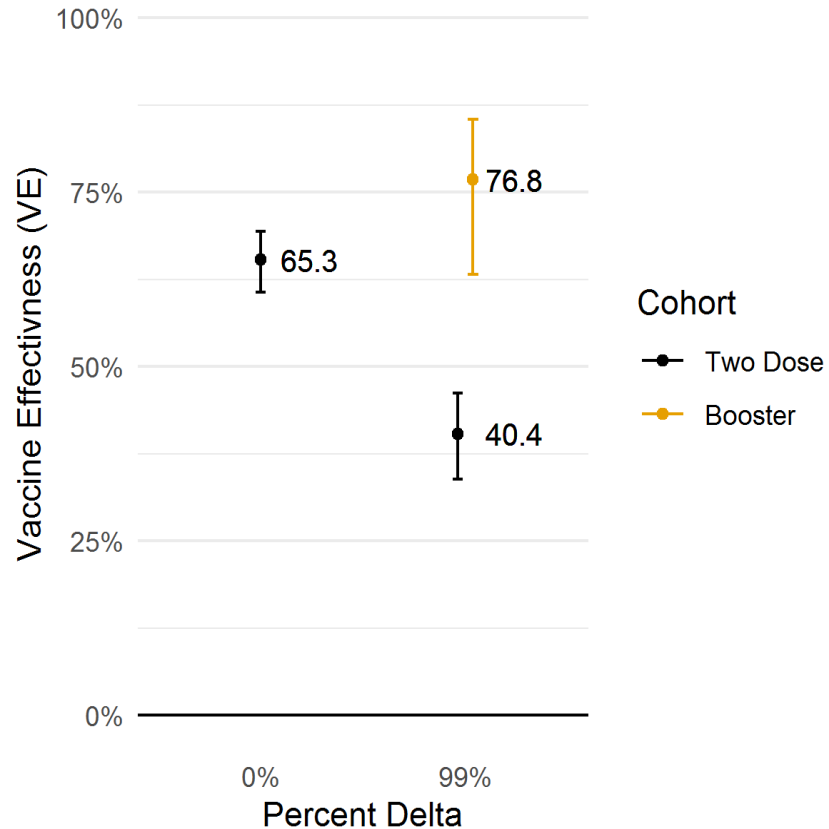


The 0% Delta share period corresponds to pre-Delta, a period generally closer in time to vaccination date. Reference Group was unvaccinated.

\* Infection rate over a 28-day period



# Adjusted VE for COVID-19-associated Hospitalization in pre-Delta and Delta Periods



The selected model did not include interaction term of COVID-19 circulation rate

# Limitations

- The effects of the increase in the Delta share and potential waning immunity from the vaccine over time could not be separated; both likely contributed to the observed decrease in effectiveness in the higher Delta periods.
- The study period does not extend far into the booster dose administration phase. As such, conclusions about effectiveness over time could not be drawn for the boosted population.

# Conclusion



- BEST Initiative leverages its infrastructure and capacity to
  - Generate data for evidence-based regulatory decisions
  - Rapidly respond to emerging public health concerns
  - Expand the scientific evidence base
  - Inform and promote public health

# Acknowledgements

The logo for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), consisting of the letters "FDA" in white on a blue square background.

- Steven A. Anderson
- CBER Surveillance Team: Azadeh Shoaibi, Hui-Lee Wong, Tainya C. Clarke, Joyce Obidi, Joann F. Gruber, Patricia C. Lloyd, Sylvia Cho
- CBER OBPV
- Federal Partners: CMS, VA, CDC
- FDA Partners: Acumen, Blue Health Intelligence, CVS Health, HealthCore, IBM, IQVIA, OHDSI, Optum, RTI Health Solutions



[www.bestinitiative.org](http://www.bestinitiative.org)