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# **2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccine Formula: Pfizer/BioNTech Clinical and Preclinical Supportive Data**

Vaccines and Related Biological  
Products Advisory Committee

June 15, 2023

# Presentation Outline



**Kena A. Swanson, Ph.D.**

Vice President, Viral Vaccines  
Vaccine Research and Development, Pfizer Inc.

## Epidemiology & Real-World Evidence

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### Omicron-Adapted Vaccine Booster Dose Humoral and Cell-Mediated Immune Responses

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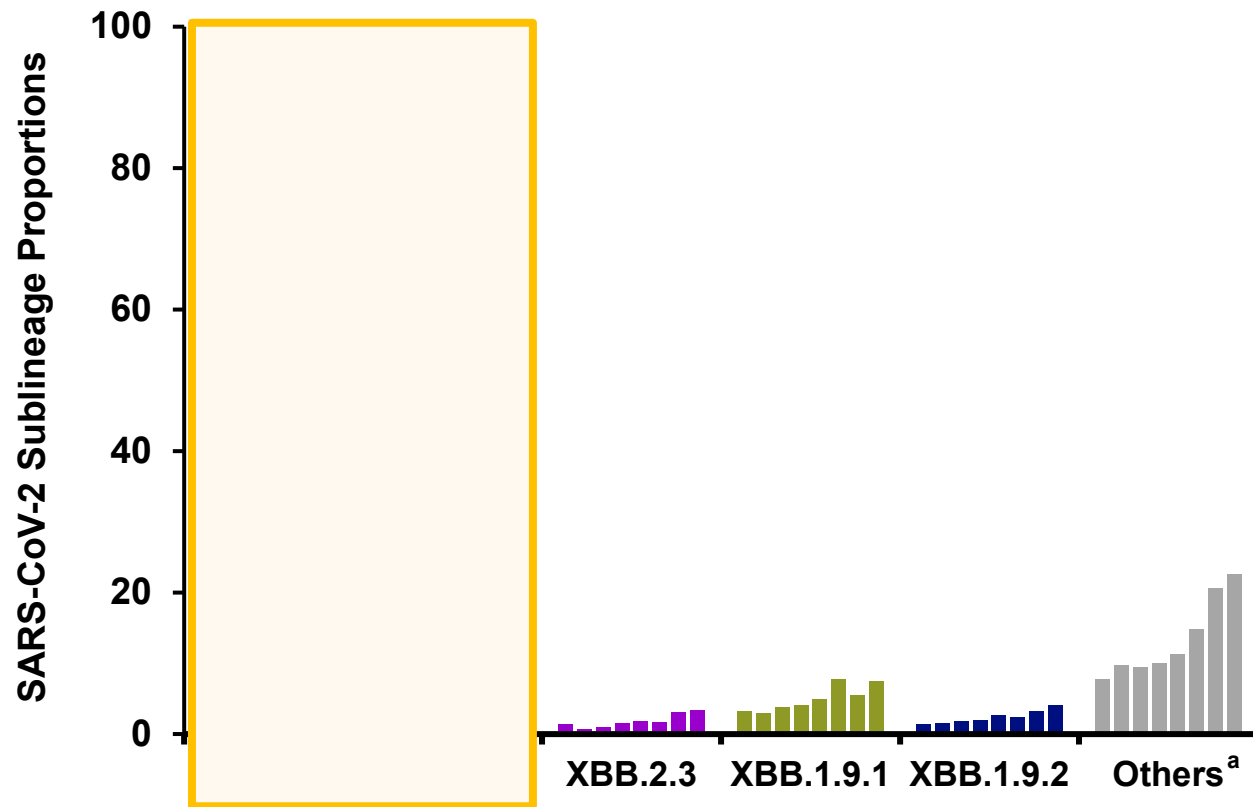
### Preclinical Evaluation Against Contemporary Variant Vaccines

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### Supply of 2023-2024 Formula

# The Current COVID-19 Epidemiologic Landscape in the US is Dominated by XBB.1.5 and Related Sublineages

## Weekly Proportions from 1-Apr to 20-May



## Circulating XBB Sublineages are Similar

- **XBB.1.9.1 and XBB.1.9.2:** same spike amino acid sequence as XBB.1.5
- **XBB.1.16:** differs from XBB.1.5 at two spike amino acid residues
- **XBB.2.3:** differs from XBB.1.5 at three spike amino acid residues

GISAID, data accessed as of June 4, 2023

XBB.1.5, XBB.1.16, XBB.2.3, XBB.1.9.1, XBB.1.9.2 sublineage categories include descendants that have no amino acid differences in spike protein from parental sublineage.

a. Others include: XBB.1.16.1, EU.1.1.1, FL.4, FD.2, XBB.1.5.1 (sublineages that exceed a threshold of 1.8% in any week).







# Waning Effectiveness of Current Bivalent Vaccines Against XBB Sublineages

## Rationale for Fall Vaccine Update





- XBB sublineages dominant globally and antigenically distant from prior Omicron strains<sup>1,2</sup>
- Current bivalent vaccines maintain effectiveness<sup>3-11</sup> but show signs of waning, including against severe COVID-19<sup>3,9-11</sup>
- Immunity likely further reduced by fall
- Better-matched vaccines improve protection<sup>3</sup>

### Absolute VE Against Hospitalization, CDC<sup>11</sup> Immunocompetent Adults, VISION Network, Sep 2022 – Apr 2023

Age 18–64y	Time Since mRNA Vaccination	Adjusted VE (95% CI)
	<b>Monovalent</b> only, ≥7 days*	 <b>17 (7–26)</b>
	<b>Bivalent</b> booster, 7–59 days	 <b>61 (44–72)</b>
	<b>Bivalent</b> booster, 60–119 days	 <b>25 (1–43)</b>
	<b>Bivalent</b> booster, 120–179 days	 <b>16 (–24–43)<sup>†</sup></b>

\* Median (IQR) time since last dose: 403 (306–534) days

<sup>†</sup> These estimates are imprecise and should be interpreted with caution.

Age ≥65y	Time Since mRNA Vaccination	Adjusted VE (95% CI)
	<b>Monovalent</b> only, ≥7 days*	 <b>24 (18–29)</b>
	<b>Bivalent</b> booster, 7–59 days	 <b>64 (58–68)</b>
	<b>Bivalent</b> booster, 60–119 days	 <b>51 (45–57)</b>
	<b>Bivalent</b> booster, 120–179 days	 <b>27 (15–37)</b>

\* Median (IQR) time since last dose: 362 (245–484) days

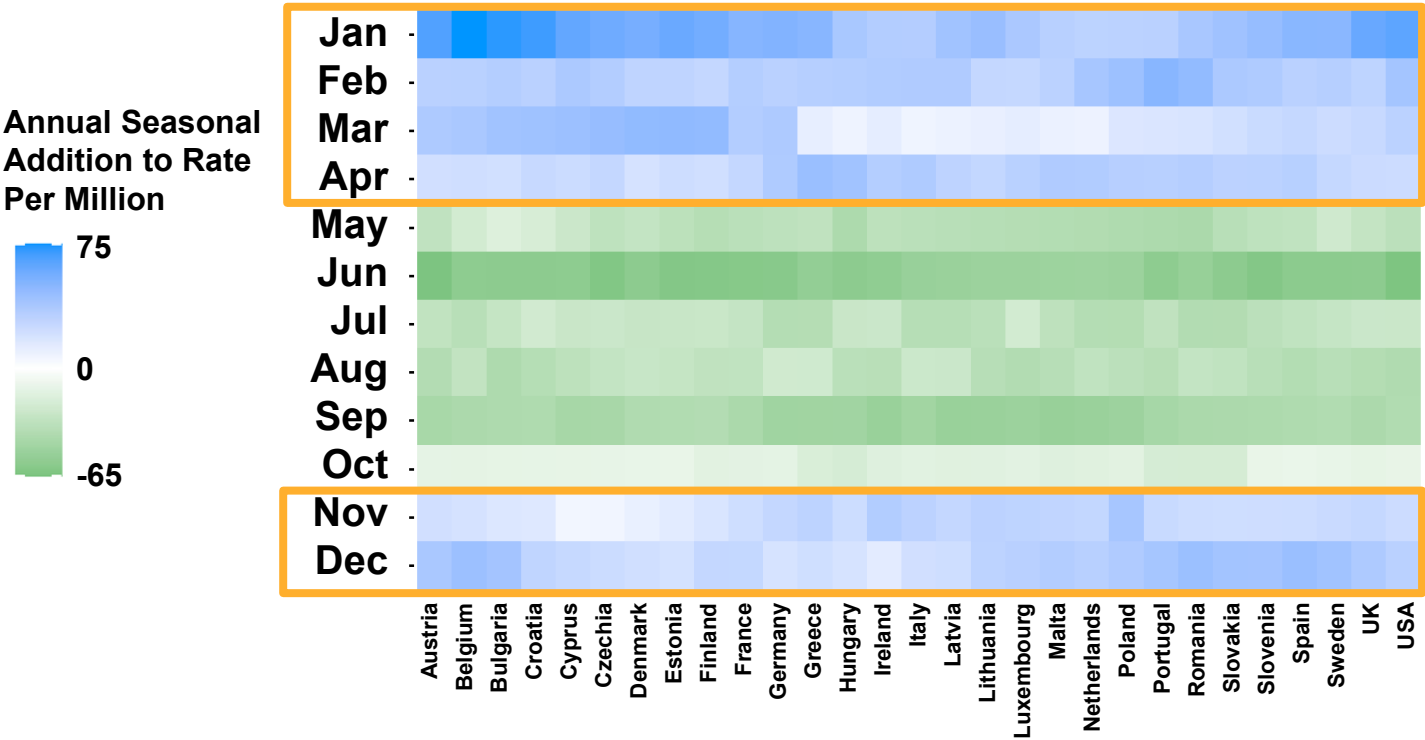
1. World Health Organization. Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 6 April 2023. Available at: Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 6 April 2023 (who.int)  
2. covSPECTRUM dashboard. Available at: <https://cov-spectrum.org/explore/World/AllSamples/Past6M>  
3. Lin et al. N Engl J Med. 2023 Feb 23;388(8):764–766. doi: 10.1056/NEJMc2215471  
4. Link-Gelles et al. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2023;72:119–124. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm7205e1  
5. Surie et al. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2022;71:1625–1630. DOI: 10.15585/mmwr.mm715152e2

6. Tenforde et al. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2023;71:1637–1646. DOI: 10.15585/mmwr.mm7153a1  
7. Fabiani et al. Euro Surveill. 2023 Feb;28(8):2300105. doi: 10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2023.28.8.2300105  
8. Tartof et al. Unpublished analysis, under review.  
9. Poukka et al. medRxiv 2023. doi: 10.1101/2023.03.02.23286561  
10. Link-Gelles R. CDC. Data presented at the ACIP meeting (April 19, 2023). Available at: ACIP meeting (CDC.gov)  
11. Link-Gelles R. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2023;72:579–588. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7221a3>

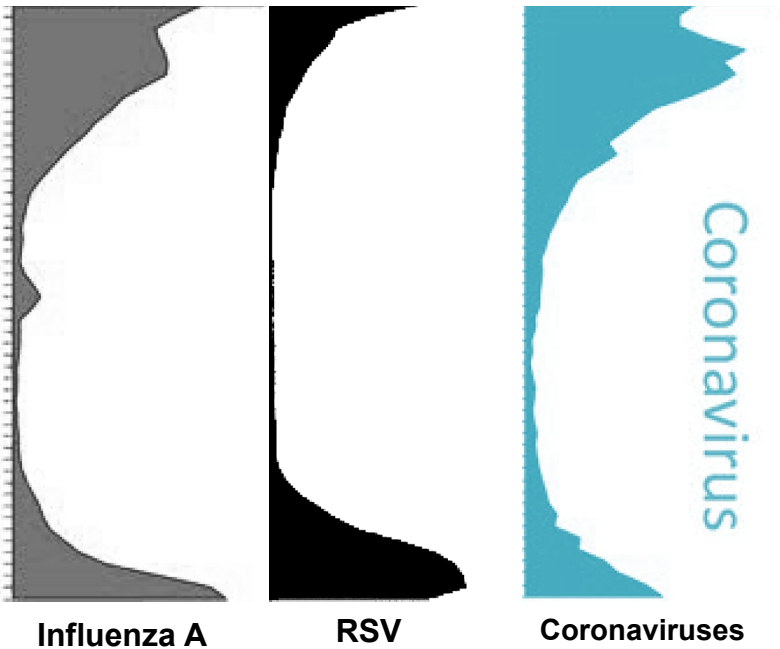
# SARS-CoV-2 Activity is Expected to Increase this Autumn/Winter

- **Disease activity has peaked between November and April<sup>1</sup>**
  - Similar to patterns seen for influenza, RSV, and other coronaviruses<sup>2</sup>

Heatmap of Monthly Median COVID-19-Related Hospitalizations Per Million Population, Northern Hemisphere, Mar 2020 – Dec 2022<sup>1</sup>



Weekly Seasonality of Confirmed Viral Infections, England and Wales, 1989 – 2019<sup>2</sup>



1. Wiemken et al. Sci Rep. 2023 Mar 8;13(1):3886. doi: 10.1038/s41598-023-31057-1  
2. Nichols et al. BMC Infect Dis. 2021 Oct 26;21(1):1101. doi: 10.1186/s12879-021-06785-2.



# **Omicron-Adapted Vaccine Booster Dose Humoral and Cell-mediated Immune Responses**

















# Immunogenicity Data From Omicron BA.1 and BA.4/5-adapted Vaccine Clinical Studies Support Real World Evidence Observations

- **Omicron-adapted boosters:**
  - Result in superior variant neutralization titers (NTs) compared to the original vaccine
  - Recall spike-specific memory B cells that recognize shared epitopes; Omicron-specific B cells are also induced
  - Expand spike-specific CD4 and CD8 T cell responses

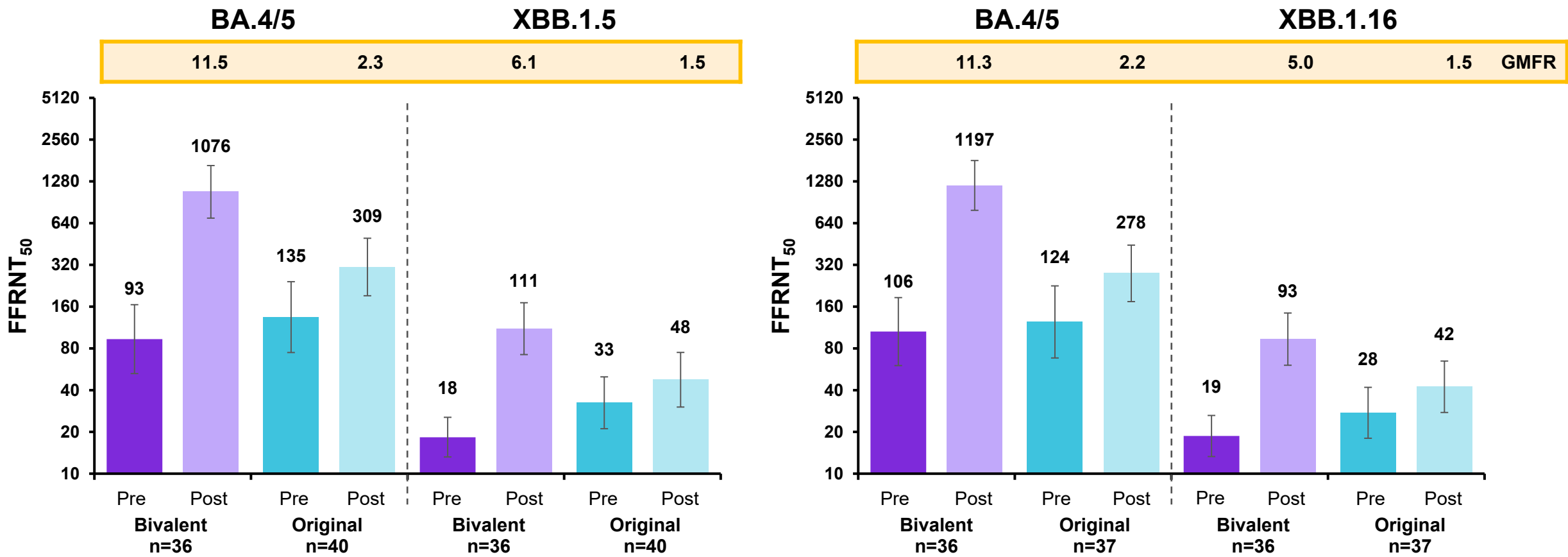


# Clinical and Preclinical Experience with Variant-modified Vaccines – Supported Bivalent BA.4/5 Vaccine Authorization

Modified Vaccine	Age Group	Vaccine Regimen	Clinical Data	Preclinical Data
Beta monovalent	18 to 55 years		✓	✓
			✓	✓
		 	✓	✓
Omicron BA.1 monovalent	18 to 55 years		✓	✓
			✓	✓
		 	✓	✓
		 	✓	✓
Omicron BA.1 bivalent	18 to 55 years >55 years	 	✓	✓
Omicron BA.4/5 bivalent	6 months to 11 years 12 to 55 years >55 years	 	✓	✓

# Bivalent BA.4/5 Boosts Neutralization Activity Against XBB.1.5 and XBB.1.16

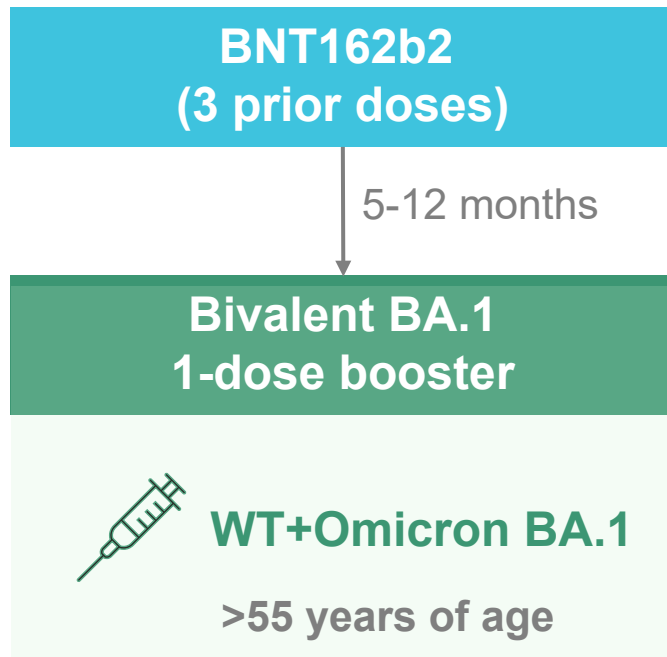
Participants >55 years With or Without Prior SARS-CoV-2 Infection at Baseline



Pre = Pre-dose 4; Post = 1-month post dose 4; FFRNT<sub>50</sub> = 50% fluorescent focus reduction neutralization titers; GMFR = geometric mean fold rises; GMT = geometric means of neutralization titers  
The whiskers indicate 95% CI.

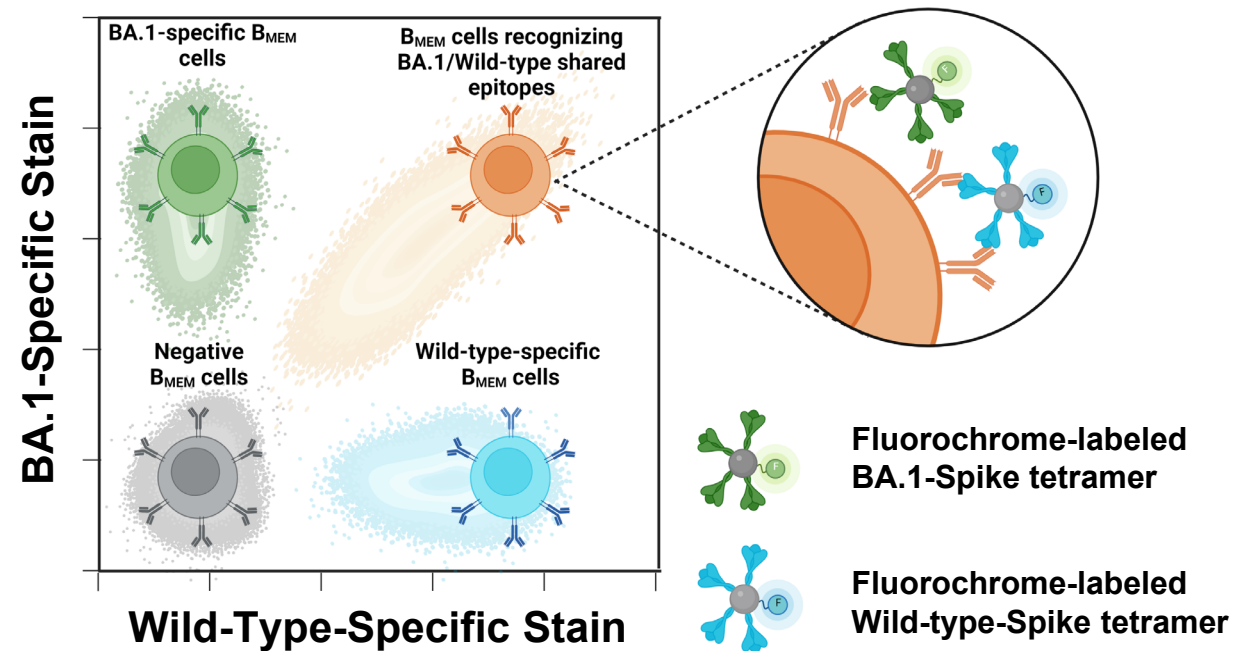
Omicron XBB.1.16 and concurrent Omicron BA.4/5 analyses shown on the right of this slide run after Omicron XBB.1.5 and concurrent Omicron BA.4/5 analyses on the left.

# Spike-Specific Memory B cell ( $B_{mem}$ ) Assessment After Bivalent Omicron BA.1 Booster Vaccination



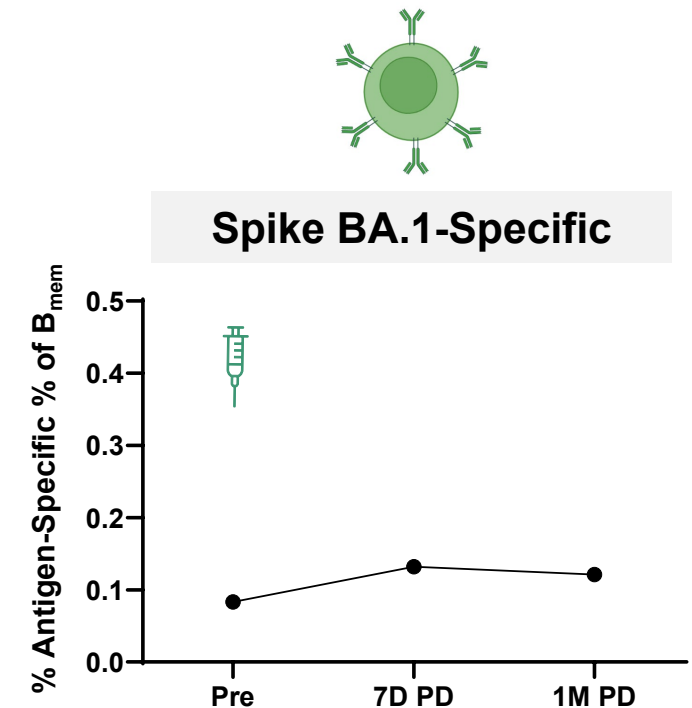
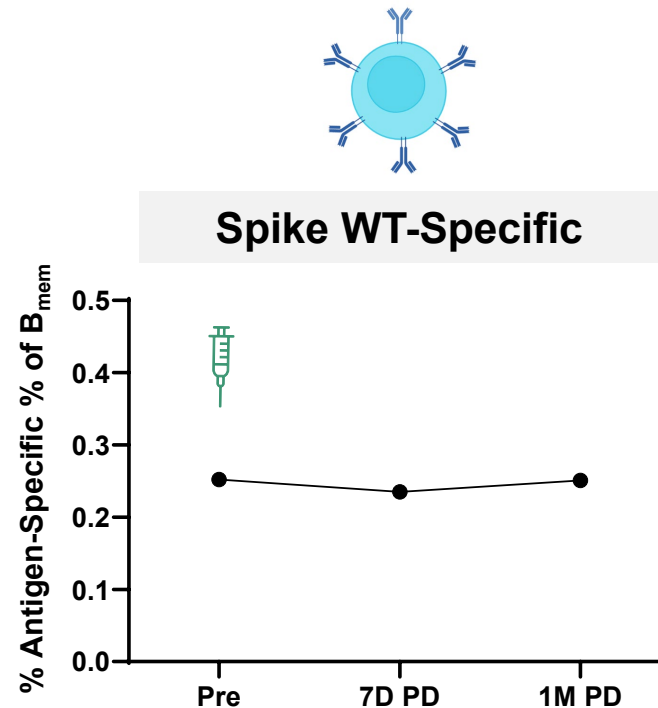
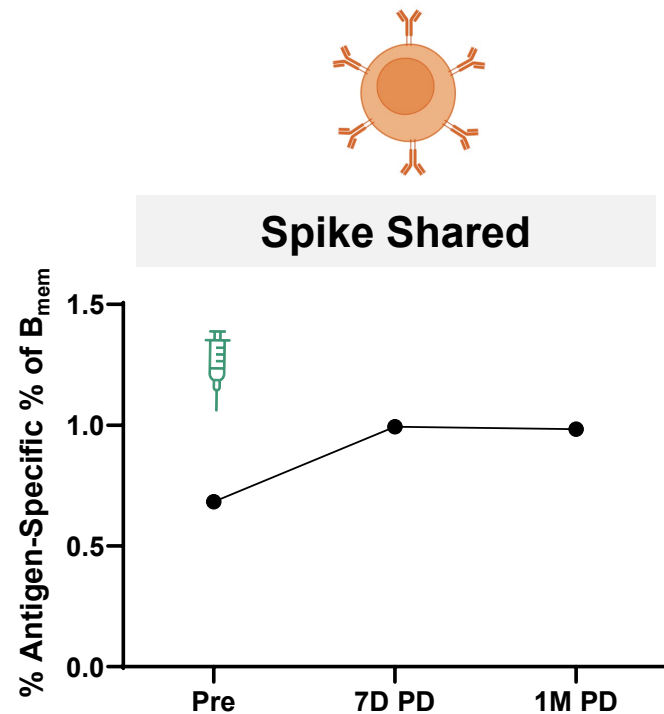
## Assessment of Spike-specific Memory B cells

Wild-type strain and Omicron BA.1 Spike protein are used to measure memory B cells recognizing wild-type or Omicron BA.1 exclusive and wild-type/Omicron BA.1 shared epitopes



# Bivalent Omicron BA.1 Booster Increases the Frequencies of Memory B Cells Recognizing Shared and BA.1-Specific Epitopes

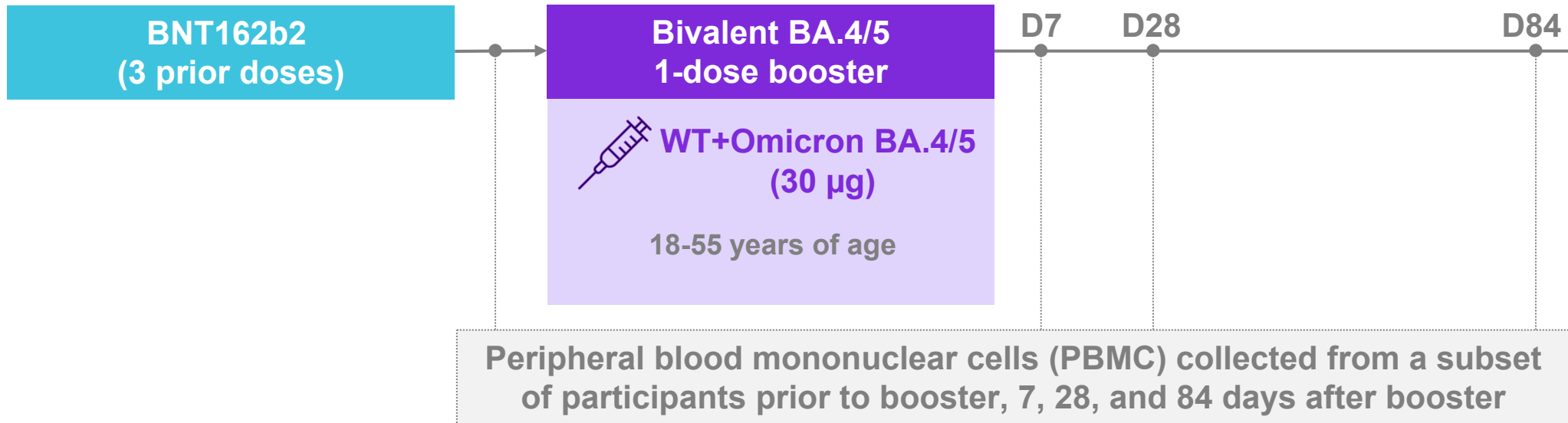
Omicron BA.1 Booster in BNT162b2-experienced Individuals >55 years of Age



Similar trends were observed with a monovalent Omicron BA.1 booster



# Clinical Study Evaluated CD4 and CD8 T Cell Responses Elicited by Bivalent Omicron BA.4/5-Adapted Booster



Spike peptide pools included those:

- Covering both **WT** and **BA.4/5**
- Unique to **BA.4/5**

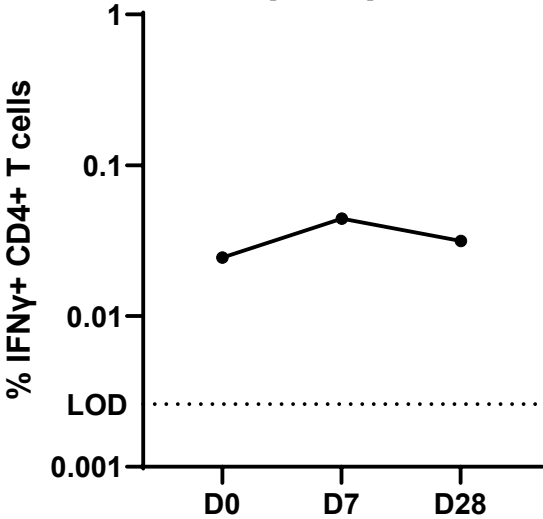


# Bivalent WT+BA.4/5 Vaccine Boosts CD4 and CD8 T cell Responses

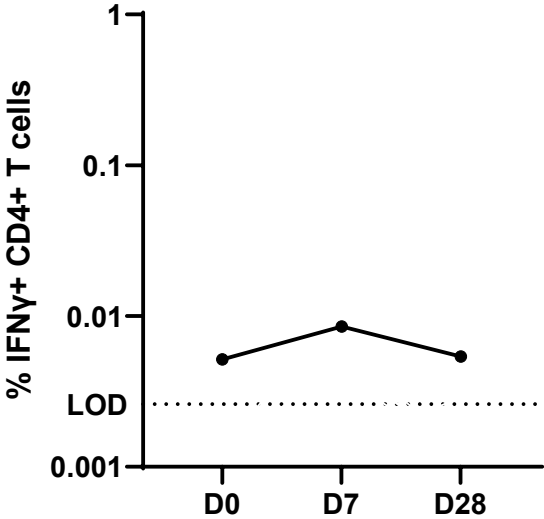
Omicron BA.4/5 Booster in BNT162b2-experienced Individuals 18-55 Years of Age

CD4 T cells

WT/BA.4/5  
Spike pool 1



BA.4/5 Unique

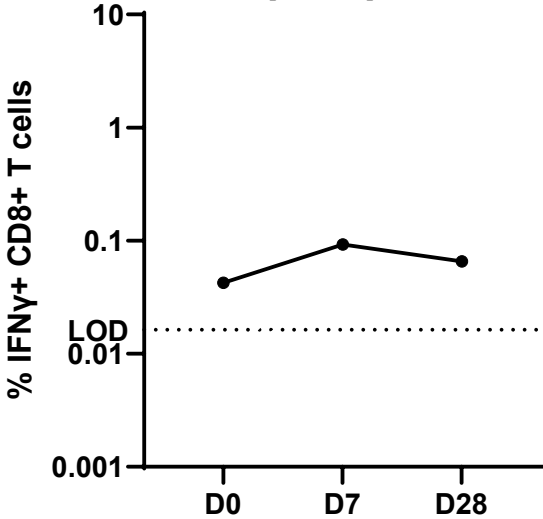


GMFR (n=20)	1.8	1.3
Pos (n=14)	1.8	1.1
Neg (n=6)	1.9	1.7

1.4	1.0
1.5	1.0
1.3	1.2

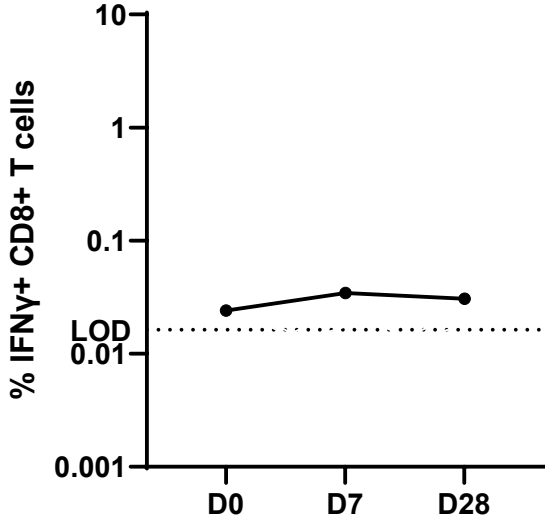
CD8 T cells

WT/BA.4/5  
Spike pool 1



1.9	1.4
1.7	1.2
2.6	1.9

BA.4/5 Unique



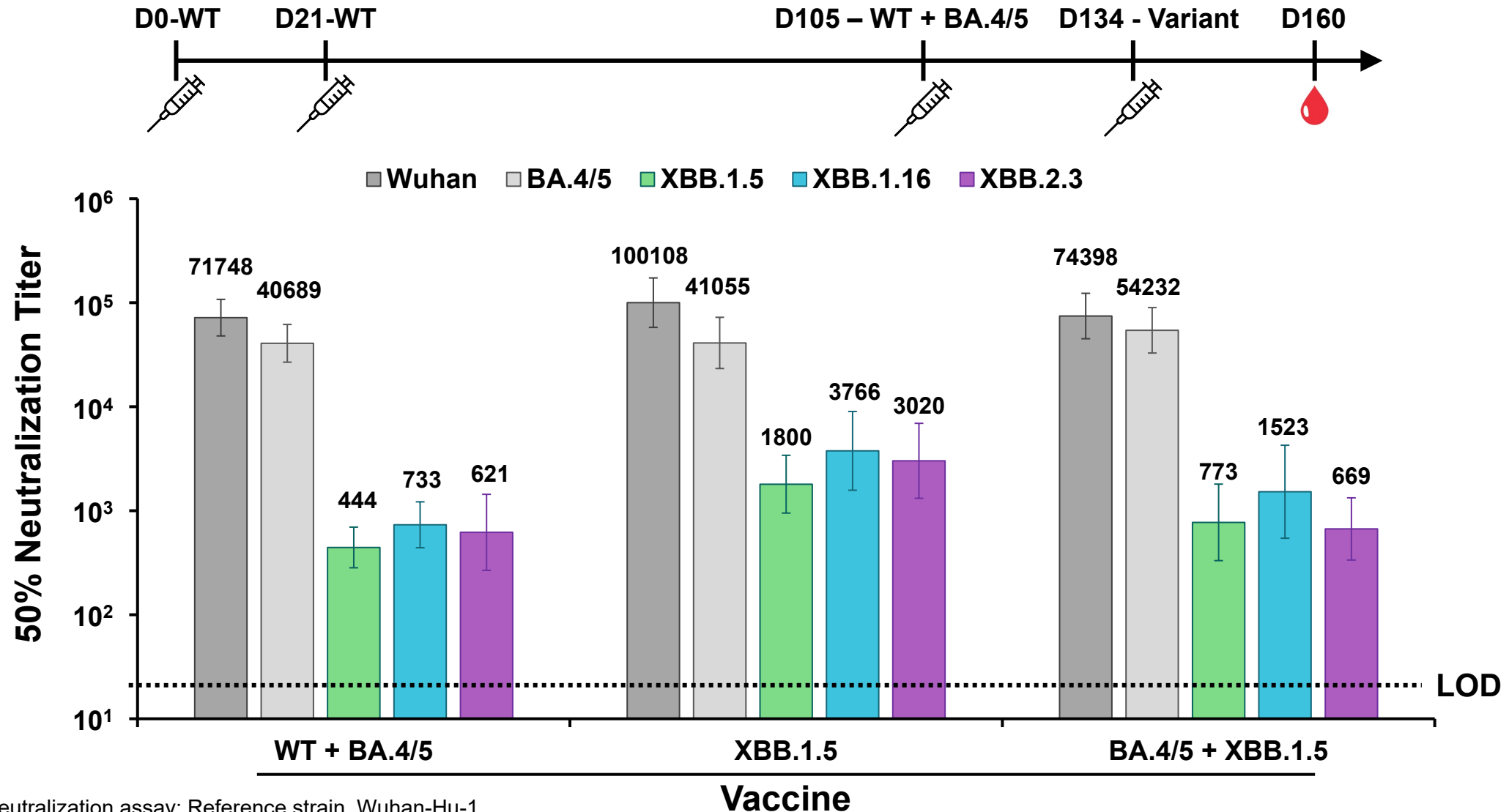
1.4	1.2
1.4	1.3
1.5	1.2

WT/BA.4/5 Spike pool 1: Pool of peptides representing aa 1-643 of WT and BA.4/5  
BA.4/5 Unique: Pool of peptides representing mutations unique to BA.4/5



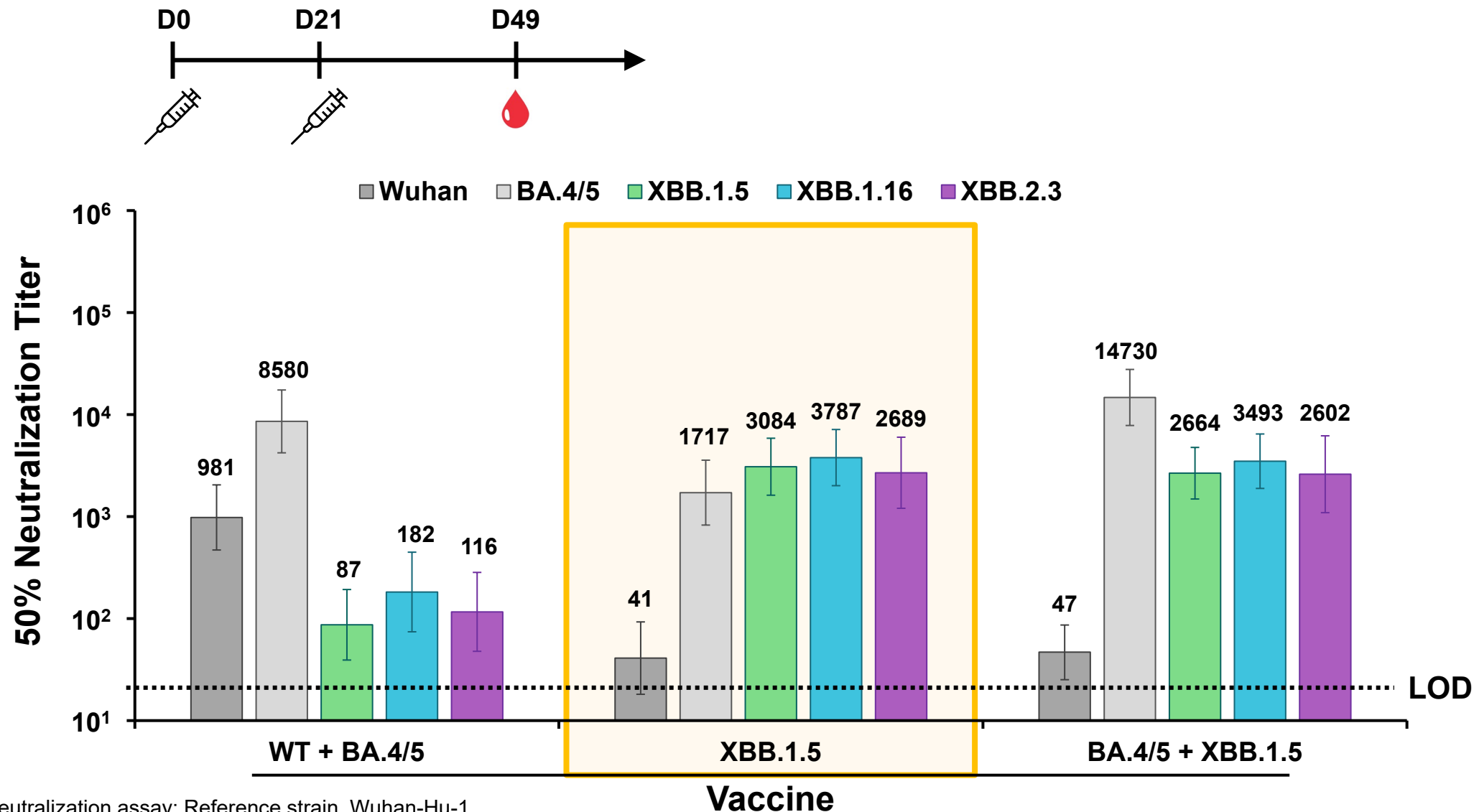
# Preclinical Evaluation of Contemporary Variant Vaccines

# Monovalent XBB.1.5 Booster Elicits Highest XBB Sublineage Neutralization Response





# Monovalent XBB.1.5 Vaccine, as a Primary Series, Elicits Highest XBB Sublineage Neutralization Response



Pseudovirus neutralization assay; Reference strain, Wuhan-Hu-1  
LOD = Limit of detection; the lowest serum dilution of 1:20. N = 10 mice per vaccine group

# Supply Readiness

# Readiness to Supply Updated COVID-19 Vaccine

- **Dose distribution can begin as follows, subject to regulatory approval**
  - XBB.1.5 monovalent: end July
  - XBB.1.16 monovalent: August
  - Any other formulation: October
- **Note: ~60% of flu doses are distributed by end of September**
  - Above timelines for both XBB monovalent formulations enable parallel distribution of flu and COVID-19 vaccines
- **Primary presentation will be single dose units – enabling greater access and efficiency**

Should the need arise Pfizer/BioNTech can support an off-cycle strain selection at a later date

# Conclusions

## **Preclinical and Clinical Data Support a Monovalent XBB-adapted Vaccine for the 2023-2024 Formula**

- **XBB.1.5 and XBB.1.16 are most predominant in the US**
- **Improved humoral and cell-mediated immunity with Omicron-adapted vaccines**
- **Preclinical data show XBB-adapted vaccines offer improved responses against circulating strains**
  - Higher responses with monovalent than bivalent vaccines



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