



Why get vaccinated against COVID-19?

Getting vaccinated is an important tool for reducing the risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Public Health recommends getting all doses you are eligible for so you can be better protected against the virus.

COVID-19 vaccines are **free**. You can get them even if you do not have a health card.

Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Everyone aged **6 months and older** is eligible to be vaccinated in Nova Scotia. Available vaccines and intervals for doses can be found at nshealth.ca/coronavirusvaccine.

The vaccine is proven to be safe in scientific studies with thousands of people, and in real-world reporting. While people may experience mild short-term side effects (such as a sore arm, tiredness or aches), serious side effects are rare.

Why should I get my next dose?

- ✓ With a **complete primary series** of the vaccine, protection against severe illness is built but this may decrease over time.
- ✓ **Booster doses** can increase the immune response and offer better protection against infection and severe disease.



Does the vaccine still work?

Yes, the vaccine continues to do its job. Although it is still possible to get a COVID-19 infection after vaccination, the vaccine reduces the risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death, and helps prevent spread in our communities.

Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines?

Yes, it is safe to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time, or at any time before or after other vaccines.

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Learn more at nshealth.ca/coronavirusvaccine

Does it matter what type of vaccine I get for each dose?

Mixing doses of mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) is completely safe for those who are eligible to receive both types of vaccine. You should feel comfortable booking either one for your next dose.

As the number of primary series doses differs for Pfizer Infant and Moderna Infant, children aged **6 months to 4 years** should complete their primary series with the same type of vaccine.

Public Health recommends that Nova Scotians **aged 5 years and older** who have completed their primary series receive a bivalent vaccine for their booster doses, rather than an original mRNA vaccine. While all vaccines provide good protection, a bivalent is more likely to protect against the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

I've had COVID-19, can I get my next dose?

Yes, you can! You may have some short-term post-infection immunity, however your immunity decreases as time goes on. Those who have had COVID-19 and have been vaccinated (also known as hybrid immunity) may have stronger, longer lasting protection against COVID-19.

- ✓ If you had COVID-19 and **require your primary series doses**, you should wait at least 8 weeks to get the vaccine.
- ✓ If you had COVID-19 and have **completed your primary series**, you should wait 6 months to get your next booster dose.

How do I get the vaccine?

- Visit a Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia walk-in vaccine clinic: pans.ns.ca/walk-covid-19-vaccine-clinics
- Book your vaccine online: novascotia.ca/vaccination
- Visit a Public Health vaccine outreach clinic: nshealth.ca/drop-in-vaccine-clinics
- Call **1-833-797-7772**.
Interpretation services are available.

Need a drive to your vaccine appointment?

Rural Rides can help for \$5 per round-trip. Visit ruralrides.ca/find-a-ride.

