

VACCINE INFORMATION AND AFTER CARE

Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine for Adults Aged 18 and Older

Please read this carefully and ensure a health care provider answers your questions before getting the vaccine.

How does the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine protect against COVID-19?

The vaccine causes our body to produce protection (such as antibodies) to help us from becoming sick if we are exposed to the COVID-19 virus. You cannot get COVID-19 infection from the vaccine.

The Novavax vaccine is a protein-based vaccine which uses small pieces taken from the surface of the virus, called the spike protein which triggers a response to help our body protect itself against the virus. It also uses an adjuvant, which helps create a stronger immune response than other protein-based vaccines. Clinical trials show the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is efficacious and has a good safety profile.

It takes approximately 14 days after receiving a dose of Novavax for your immune system to respond. Completing your primary series and receiving any further doses when you are eligible helps prevent severe disease.

When to cancel and rebook your vaccine appointment

Cancel and rebook your vaccine appointment using the link on your emailed vaccine appointment confirmation if you tested positive or have symptoms that could be COVID-19.

Who can get the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine?

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has recommended that mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are preferred because there is now a large amount of real-world evidence showing that they work well and are safe. However, Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is an effective and safe option for adults aged 18 years and older who are unable or who would prefer not to receive mRNA vaccines.

The safety and efficacy of Novavax has not been established in persons who are immunocompromised. A complete mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series is the preferred vaccine for people who are immunocompromised or who have an autoimmune disorder.

The safety and efficacy of Novavax has not been established in persons who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Evidence is now available from real-world use of mRNA vaccines, which have not indicated any unique safety concerns for people who are pregnant and/or breastfeeding.

For information visit:
novascotia.ca/vaccine-plan

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How many doses of Novavax COVID-19 vaccine should I get?

Most people require two doses of COVID-19 vaccine to complete their primary series. People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should receive three doses to complete their primary series.

Doses given after the completion of the primary series

Doses of COVID-19 vaccine given after the primary series is complete can increase your immune response and provide better protection against COVID-19 infection and severe disease compared to a primary series alone. Eligibility and timing for receiving for these doses is listed on [Nova Scotia's Coronavirus vaccine webpage](#).

NACI recommends that Novavax can be offered for doses after the primary series has been completed to persons who are unable or prefer not to receive mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

Myocarditis and Pericarditis

There have been reports of myocarditis and pericarditis following vaccination with the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine which occurred during the clinical trial. It is currently unclear whether these cases have been caused by the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine. Ongoing safety monitoring will occur to assist in determining whether myocarditis/pericarditis is associated with the use of Novavax COVID-19 vaccine.

Symptoms of Myocarditis/Pericarditis can include:

- shortness of breath
- chest pain or pressure
- unexplained sweating
- cough
- the feeling of a rapid or an abnormal heart rhythm
- swelling in the ankles and feet

If you develop any of these symptoms, please seek immediate medical attention and make sure you mention you have received the vaccine.

There are many potential causes for myocarditis and pericarditis. Myocarditis can also occur as a complication in people who are infected with COVID-19.

The benefits of receiving COVID-19 vaccine outweigh the very small risk of myocarditis/pericarditis in people of all ages.

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Who can get the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine?

If you identify with any of the situations in the ★ MAY BE ABLE TO GET ★ column, you should discuss your personal risks of COVID-19 and potential benefits and risks of getting the vaccine with your doctor, nurse practitioner, specialist, clinic nurse or pharmacist familiar with your medical history before deciding whether getting the vaccine is right for you.

	CAN GET	MAY BE ABLE TO GET	SHOULD NOT GET
Age: Novavax – age 18 years and older	✓		
Have you received any COVID-19 vaccines while living in another province/country? If yes, please provide information to immunization provider.		★	
Feeling unwell with symptoms that could be COVID-19			✗
Have had a COVID-19 infection but:			
Could spread COVID-19 to others or still feel unwell from a recent infection			✗
Are recovered from infection and have not yet completed your primary series: It is advised to wait 8 weeks (or between 4 to 8 weeks if you are immunocompromised) before receiving your next primary series dose.			
Are recovered from infection and have already completed your primary series: For most people it is recommended to wait 168 days since infection before receiving a dose after your primary series is complete. For individuals who are eligible for a shortened interval of 120 days since last vaccine, it is also recommended to wait 120 days since infection before receiving your next dose. Waiting this period after infection may lead to a better immune response from the next COVID-19 dose. Some people may choose to receive their next dose sooner; it is advised to wait at least 3 months since infection, and these individuals must still wait the minimum interval since last vaccine.	✓		
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Adults (MIS-A) People who have a history MIS-A (regardless of immunocompromised status) should wait to receive their next dose of COVID-19 vaccine for at least 90 days since the onset of MIS-A or until they are clinically recovered, whichever is longer. These individuals should also follow the intervals after infection as listed above.	✓		
Have received anti-SARS-COV-2 monoclonal antibodies Need to provide date when received to health care provider. Each situation will be decided on a case-by-case basis to ensure you receive protection from the vaccine.		★	
Did you experience myocarditis or pericarditis after a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine? Please see the Important Information about Myocarditis and Pericarditis fact sheet for more information.		★	
You should follow up with your healthcare provider before receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, if you have a history of myocarditis or pericarditis and are still followed by a physician for related heart issues.		★	
Breastfeeding or pregnant: Currently or planning to become pregnant before getting your COVID-19 vaccine. If you answered "YES" to this question, please review the Pregnancy and Breastfeeding video.	✓		
Allergies:	Polysorbate 80 can rarely cause allergic reactions. It is found in medical preparations (e.g. vitamin oils, tablets and anticancer agents), cosmetics. Tell the health care provider if you are allergic to anything that may contain Polysorbate 80. Consultation with an allergist is recommended before you receive Novavax vaccine.	★	
	Had a severe reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine, including allergic reaction. Consultation with an allergist is recommended before you receive Novavax vaccine.		★
Problems with immune system:	Problems with your immune system from disease or treatment.	✓	
	Autoimmune conditions	✓	
Was vaccinated in the past 14 days (not a COVID-19 vaccine)	✓		

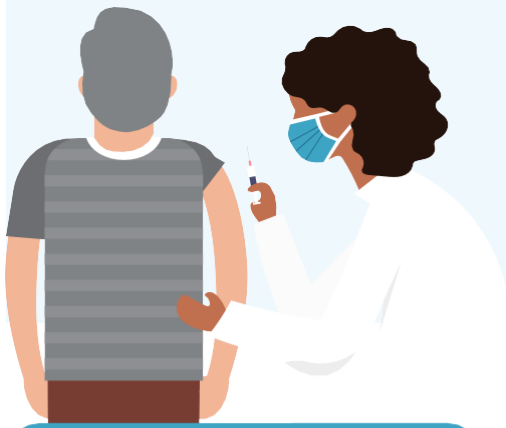
In addition to the above information, tell the health care provider if:

- You have fainted or felt faint after getting past vaccines or medical procedures. Your health care provider may recommend that you get the vaccine lying down to prevent fainting.
- You have a bleeding disorder or are taking medication that could affect blood clotting. This information will help the health care provider prevent bleeding or bruising from the needle.
- You have had an anaphylactic reaction to another vaccine or to an injectable medication or product. You can get the vaccine but will be observed in the clinic for 30 minutes after vaccination in case of an unexpected allergic reaction.

Updated November 24, 2022

For information visit: novascotia.ca/vaccine-plan





Novavax Vaccine

Everything you need to know before getting the COVID-19 vaccine

What should I do before coming to the clinic for my appointment?

Wear a short-sleeve shirt or top with sleeves that are easy to roll up.

Have something to eat before coming to the clinic to prevent feeling faint while being vaccinated. It is also important to drink water and stay hydrated.

It is recommended that you bring a clean well fitted mask to wear while you are in the building.

Bring your Nova Scotia Health card if you have one.



When should I return for my next dose?

Completing your primary series and receiving any further doses for which you are eligible helps protect you against severe disease. NACI recommends that mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) are preferred for both the primary series and any further doses, because there is now a large amount of real-world evidence showing that they work well and are safe. However, Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is an effective and safe option for adults aged 18 years and older who are unable or who would prefer not to receive mRNA vaccines.

Primary Series

Most individuals need two doses to complete their primary series. You should get your second dose 8 weeks after you received your first dose.

Individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised are recommended to receive 3 doses to complete their primary series. If you are moderately to severely immunocompromised, you should receive your second dose 28 days after your first and receive your third dose 56 days after your second.

Doses given after completion of the primary series

All individuals aged 12 and older in Nova Scotia are eligible for a fall dose. Individuals 18 and older can receive Novavax for their fall dose if they are unable or prefer not to receive an mRNA vaccine. For more information about when you are eligible, see the [Fall Dose Fact Sheet](#).

Tell the person providing the next dose if you experienced any side effects after previous doses.

Updated November 24, 2022

For information visit: novascotia.ca/vaccine-plan



Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine

Everything you need to know after getting the COVID-19 vaccine



What should I do right after getting the vaccine?

- Stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine. You may be asked to wait for 30 minutes if there is concern about a possible vaccine allergy or allergy to another injectable medication.
- If you are asked to wait outside, let the health care provider at the clinic know if you do not have a warm, dry place to wait.
- Tell a health care provider at the clinic if you feel unwell while waiting. If waiting in your vehicle, honk your horn to get their attention.
- It is recommended that you leave your mask on while inside the clinic.
- Use the hand sanitizer (alcohol-based hand rub) to clean your hands before leaving the clinic.

In rare cases, people can faint or have an allergic reaction after getting a vaccine.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction include:

hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy)

swelling of your face, tongue or throat

or difficulty breathing

Clinic staff are prepared to manage these events if they happen.

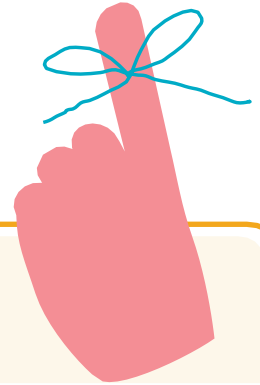
Tell a health care provider at the clinic right away if you have any of these symptoms.

Serious side effects after getting the vaccine are rare. However, should you develop any serious symptoms that could be related to an allergic reaction, **CALL 911 RIGHT AWAY.**

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Things to remember

Even after your COVID-19 vaccine(s), it is strongly recommended that you continue following public health measures to keep yourself and others safe.

- ✓ clean your hands regularly
- ✓ stay home when you feel unwell

COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time as, or any time before or after other vaccines. A health care professional can help to determine the timing of COVID-19 vaccines.

What are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine? What can I expect over the next few days?

People can have side effects in the two weeks after getting the vaccine with most of the common side effects occurring in the first few days.

Although these side effects are not serious, they may make you feel unwell for about one to three days. They will go away on their own.

Side effects are expected and can show the vaccine is working. Side effects include:

- Pain, swelling or redness where the needle was given. Place a cool, damp cloth or wrapped ice pack over where the vaccine was given.
- Tiredness, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, nausea, vomiting, chills, fever or enlarged lymph nodes (swollen glands) in your underarm. Pain or fever medication (acetaminophen or ibuprofen) may relieve the pain or fever. Check with your healthcare provider if you need advice about medication.

If you have concerns about the symptoms you develop after getting the vaccine, including symptoms of myocarditis/pericarditis, contact your healthcare provider for advice. Tell the person providing the next dose about any side effects you experienced after any previous doses.

Keep this sheet or other immunization record in a safe place.

If you have questions, call your health care provider or visit novascotia.ca/vaccine-plan.