

# COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet Novavax Nuvaxovid



Be sure to read this whole sheet carefully and ask a healthcare provider any questions you have before receiving the vaccine.

## HOW DOES NOVAVAX'S NUVAXOVID VACCINE PROTECT AGAINST COVID-19?

- The Novavax vaccine is a protein-based vaccine. It contains part of the coronavirus, the spike protein that is on the surface of the virus, which helps create a stronger immune response.
- Our body recognises the spike protein as a threat and produces protection against it, called antibodies, which help keep us from becoming sick if we are exposed to the COVID-19 virus.
- Novavax Nuvaxovid vaccine lowers the chance of getting sick by 90%, including helping to prevent people from getting seriously ill, beginning 7 days after the second dose.

## WHO SHOULD GET THE NOVAVAX NUVAXOVID VACCINE?

- Individuals 18 years of age and older without contraindications can receive Novavax vaccine.
- This vaccine can be used as part of a mixed vaccine series.
- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that people under 30 receive the Pfizer vaccine due to a rare but increased risk of myocarditis and pericarditis following the use of Moderna vaccine in those aged between 12-29 years old.
- Anyone who has received their flu shot or other non-COVID vaccine can now safely get a COVID-19 vaccine without any waiting period.
- If you are wondering if the vaccine is right for you, talk to your healthcare provider.

## YOU SHOULD NOT GET THE VACCINE IF:

- If you have had a serious or allergic reaction to the first dose of Novavax Nuvaxovid® vaccine, you should not receive the same shot until it is determined to be safe by a health care provider.
- A confirmed anaphylactic hypersensitivity to the vaccine or one of the ingredients in the vaccine.
- If you were diagnosed with inflammation of the heart or lining of the outside of the heart (myocarditis/pericarditis) after a previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, you should not receive Novavax Nuvaxovid vaccine at this time until more information becomes available.

## HOW IS THE VACCINE GIVEN?

- The vaccine is given using a needle, usually in the muscle in the upper arm, and will require **two doses** in the primary series.
- The recommended interval between the first and second dose is 8 weeks to improve the immune response.
- Novavax Nuvaxovid is not currently authorized as a booster dose but can be used for that purpose for people who cannot or prefer not to receive a mRNA vaccine. Booster doses in New Brunswick are given at least 5 months after the initial vaccine series.
- It is important to note that you cannot get COVID-19 infection from the vaccine.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT AFTER RECEIVING THE NOVAVAX VACCINE?

- Wait for at least 15 minutes after receiving your vaccine in the space provided for you by the healthcare provider. Longer waiting times of 30 minutes may be recommended if there is concern about a possible vaccine allergy or if it has been advised by your health care provider.
- Though uncommon, fainting or allergic reactions can occur after vaccination. Inform a health care provider at the clinic if you feel unwell while waiting.
- Do not operate a vehicle or other form of transportation for at least 15 to 30 minutes after being vaccinated or if you are feeling unwell.
- Serious side effects immediately after receiving the vaccine are rare. However, if you develop any serious symptoms or symptoms that could be an allergic reaction, tell the health care provider at the clinic right away. The clinic staff are prepared to manage serious symptoms should it occur. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include:
  - Hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy)
  - Swelling of the face, tongue or throat
  - Difficulty breathing

### WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT THE NEXT FEW DAYS?

- Common side effects can develop in the day or two after receiving the vaccine. Although these side effects are not serious to your health, they may make you feel unwell for approximately one to three days. The side effects will usually go away on their own.
- Common side effects include: pain, redness or swelling where the needle was given tiredness, muscle aches, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, nausea, vomiting, chills or fever.
- For comfort, you can put a cool/damp cloth on the injection site, rest, and/or take pain or fever medication (such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen). Your health care provider may provide you with additional guidance.

- Serious side effects after receiving the vaccine are rare. However, if you develop any serious symptoms or symptoms after you have returned home that could be serious call 9-1-1 right away. Serious symptoms of an allergic reaction include: hives, swelling of your face, tongue or throat, or difficulty breathing.
- Seek medical care right away if you develop symptoms that could be myocarditis/pericarditis such as chest pain, shortness of breath or a fast or irregular heartbeat. There have been few reports of this after Novavax Nuvaxovid in the clinical trial. Most cases are mild and symptoms resolve quickly after seeking medical care.
- Individuals with serious side effects after vaccination should report the event to their local Public Health Office or health care provider.
- Continue to follow the recommendations of local public health officials.
- Do not receive testing for tuberculosis (TB) until at least 28 days after a COVID-19 vaccine. For more information on how COVID-19 vaccines impact TB testing, please reach out to your primary care provider or pharmacy.

### WHEN SHOULD I RETURN TO RECEIVE THE NEXT DOSE OF THE VACCINE?

- Make an appointment or follow the instructions of the health care provider to ensure you receive the next dose at the right time. After your primary series, a booster dose is also recommended. Receiving your next dose at the right time will ensure your safety and the best possible protection that lasts as long as possible for you.
- Depending on the vaccine you receive and your health situation, the health care provider will discuss the number of doses and boosters you require to complete your COVID-19 vaccine series.
- Keep your immunization record in a safe place. Register online at [MyHealthNB.gnb.ca](https://myhealthnb.gnb.ca) to obtain a record of your COVID-19 immunizations. The paper record of COVID-19 Immunization provided when vaccinated will continue to be the official record. Keep a copy and take a picture of it. The paper copy or picture of the copy can be used as proof of vaccination.

## QUESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NOVAVAX NUVAXOVID COVID-19 VACCINE

QUESTIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
<b>Have you had a COVID-19 infection?</b>	It is important for people with previous COVID-19 infection to be vaccinated to prevent becoming infected again. After a COVID-19 infection you should wait 8 weeks to start or complete your primary series and 3 months to receive your booster dose (or 5 months from the last dose in your primary series, whichever period is longer). If you would like more information on the best optimal time to get your vaccine after infection, visit GNB's FAQs document: <a href="#">When should I get vaccinated after a COVID-19 Infection?</a>
<b>If you have received previous dose(s) of a COVID-19 vaccine, did you have any side effects after vaccination?</b>	It may be possible for people with previous allergic reactions to a COVID-19 vaccine to receive another vaccine type or the same vaccine type again. Consult with your health care provider.  If you had inflammation of the heart or lining of the outside of the heart (myocarditis/pericarditis) after a previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, you should not receive Novavax Nuvaxovid® vaccine at this time until more information becomes available.
<b>Are you allergic to polysorbate 80?</b> Which is contained in the Novavax Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine	If you are allergic to polysorbate 80, consult with your health care provider about whether to receive the Novavax Nuvaxovid® COVID-19 vaccine.
<b>Do you have a suspected but unproven allergy to a vaccine component (e.g., polysorbate 80)?</b>	If "yes", you may receive the Novavax Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine. You will be asked to wait in the clinic for 30 minutes after receiving the vaccine to make sure you are feeling well.
<b>Are you or could you be pregnant?</b>	Administration of Novavax Nuvaxovid in pregnancy should only be considered when the potential benefits outweigh any potential risks for the mother and fetus. Evidence is now available from real world use of mRNA vaccines, which has not indicated any safety concerns for pregnant and breastfeeding populations. An mRNA vaccine is preferred by NACI.
<b>Do you have any problems with your immune system or are you taking any medications that can affect your immune system?</b> e.g., high dose steroids, chemotherapy, some arthritis medications	There is currently limited evidence on the use of the Novavax Nuvaxovid® vaccine in this population. Talk with your health care provider if receiving the Novavax Nuvaxovid® vaccine.  In addition, you should continue to follow public health measures after vaccination (such as masking, physical distancing and hand hygiene).
<b>Have you recently received specific medications for COVID-19 treatment?</b> Monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma	If "yes", you may be asked to delay receiving your COVID-19 vaccine.
<b>Do you have a bleeding disorder or are you taking any medications that could affect blood clotting?</b> Ask the health care provider if you are not sure about your medical conditions	If "yes", the health care worker may hold the site where the needle is given for longer to prevent bleeding and bruising.
<b>Have you ever felt faint or fainted after a past vaccination or medical procedure?</b>	If "yes", the health care provider may vaccinate you lying down to prevent you from fainting.