

FACT SHEET: Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted Benefits and Risks

Based on careful review by national experts, we know the benefits of COVID-19 vaccines far outweigh the risks. Understand the benefits and risks of receiving the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted which may prevent you from getting COVID-19. It is your choice to receive this vaccine. Talk to the vaccination provider if you have questions.

About this Vaccine

This vaccine has FDA emergency use authorization for people aged 12 and older. This vaccine is a two-dose series, given three to eight weeks apart, injected into the muscle of the upper arm.

When You Should Consider this Vaccine

- Some individuals are not medically able to take another COVID-19 vaccine (for example, some people may have had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose).
- Some individuals who elect to receive the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine because they would otherwise not receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Some individuals who would remain unvaccinated for COVID-19 who have limited access to other COVID-19 vaccines.
- We recommend these individuals discuss COVID-19 vaccination options with a medical provider.

What to Expect When You Get the Vaccine

You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building immunity against the disease. Side effects may include an injection site reaction, headache, feeling tired, muscle aches, nausea, or fever. Side effects should go away within a few days.

Risks Associated with this Vaccine

While there are small risks to getting the COVID-19 vaccine, the benefits of getting vaccinated outweigh the risks. Risks include:

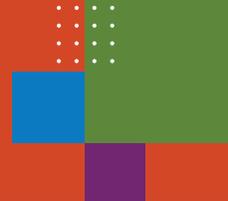
- **Rare Severe Allergic Reaction:** There is a remote chance the vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction (difficulty breathing, swelling of face and throat, fast heartbeat, bad rash all over your body, dizziness, weakness), which would usually occur a few minutes to one hour after getting the dose. If you experience a severe allergic reaction, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest hospital.
- **Rare Myocarditis and Pericarditis:** Clinical trial data provide evidence for increased risks of myocarditis and pericarditis following administration of Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted. In most of these cases, symptoms began within 10 days following vaccination. You should seek medical attention if you experience symptoms of myocarditis or pericarditis, including chest pain, shortness of breath, or abnormal heartbeat (beating fast, fluttering, or pounding).

If You Experience Side Effects

If you experience a severe allergic reaction, call 9-1-1, or go to the nearest hospital. Call the vaccination provider or your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

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Vaccination Options

It is your choice to receive this vaccine and not getting it will not change your standard medical care. Other vaccines to prevent COVID-19 are available. Learn more about your options by reading the [Pfizer COVID-19 \(Comirnaty\) Vaccine Benefits and Risks Factsheet](#) or [Moderna COVID-19 \(Spikevax\) Vaccine Benefits and Risks Factsheet](#).

Boosters

Immunity against disease and infection naturally wanes over time. A booster dose is a normal part of most vaccine series to ensure a person maintains optimal immunity against infection from a disease. Booster doses enhance protection against severe COVID-19, restoring immunity that might have faded since first doses were given. Please see the Pfizer Fact Sheet or the Moderna Fact Sheet for more information on Updated Booster (bivalent) doses. Eligibility includes:

- **Everyone** aged 12 years and older should receive an Updated Booster (bivalent) dose following completion of their primary series.
- Those aged 18 years and older may receive a Novavax booster (monovalent) dose following completion of their primary series and if they have not previously received a COVID-19 booster.

More Information

For more information on dosing intervals, please see [CDPH's COVID-19 Vaccine Timing by Age](#). Additional information is available on the CDPH COVID-19 Booster website.

