

Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine: What You Should Know



The newest FDA authorized COVID-19 vaccine, Novavax, is different than the other COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the US. Novavax is a protein subunit vaccine that uses the same, long-used, technology seen in other widely used vaccines such as HPV, hepatitis B, and flu. Novavax is a two-dose series given 21 days apart, available to those aged 12 years and older. It is also available as a booster to adults 18 years and older at least 6 months after completion of a primary series.

Novavax is a traditional protein subunit vaccine.

While each of the authorized vaccines works to help our body's immune system recognize and attack the COVID-19 virus, Novavax utilizes an older, more familiar vaccine technology.



- Protein subunit COVID-19 vaccines contain pieces (proteins) of the virus that causes COVID-19
- They also contain an additive along with fats and sugars intended to help the immune system respond to the virus and protect you in the future
- They do not contain mRNA

Novavax side effects are proving to be minimal.

Novavax's temporary side effects are not unlike the typical side effects seen with other COVID-19 vaccines. Pain/tenderness, redness and swelling at the injection side, as well as fatigue, muscle pain, headache, joint pain, nausea/vomiting, and fever. Protein subunit COVID-19 vaccines cannot cause COVID-19 or other illnesses.

What does the data show?

Clinical trial studies conducted in the spring of 2021 showed that the Novavax vaccine demonstrated 90% effective against stopping COVID-19 infections and 100% effective in preventing COVID-19 related deaths.

The vaccine is said to have prompted broad immune responses against all COVID-19 variants, including BA.5, according to ongoing trials. Subunit vaccines like Novavax do not use any live virus and cannot change or influence our genes. We have also learned that Novavax:



- Has been used effectively in many other countries, including Canada, since 2021
- Does not contain ingredients used in other vaccines that trigger allergies
- Uses same familiar technology used in popular vaccines such as flu, HPV, hepatitis B, and shingles

Novavax has gone through the FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) process and is a valid option, especially for those seeking an alternative to [mRNA vaccines](#).

Novavax is now available for use as a booster in adults aged 18 years and older [under an EUA](#).

Vaccination is still the best choice.

As COVID-19 persists, more vaccine options have become available. It's important to remember that vaccinated is best. Regardless of vaccine brand, vaccination is your best protection from COVID-19 and its effects. Talk to your provider about which option is best for you.