

2023-2024 Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine: What You Should Know



What is the Novavax vaccine?

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. For those **not** previously vaccinated against COVID-19, Novavax is a two-dose series given three weeks apart, available to individuals aged 12 years and older.

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 site, 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 do we know?

The updated 2023-2024 formula of the Novavax vaccine, **Adjuvanted**, targets currently circulating variants to provide better protection against serious consequences of COVID-19. We have also learned that Novavax:



- Original COVID-19 vaccine formula has been used effectively in many other countries, including Canada, since 2021.
- Does not contain ingredients used in other vaccines that trigger allergies.
- Subunit vaccines like Novavax do not use any live virus and cannot change or influence our genes.

Individuals aged 12 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, or not vaccinated, can consider Novavax COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals previously vaccinated with any COVID-19 vaccine can receive one dose of Novavax (Adjuvanted 2023-2024 Formula) at least two months after their last dose. An additional dose may be available to immunocompromised individuals. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) recommend adults ages 65 years and older receive an additional updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine dose.

Vaccination is still the best choice.

None of the updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines is preferred over another. 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.