Your COVID-19 vaccination
Everything you need to know about Novavax

The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine (Nuvaxovid) is for adults aged 18 and above who wish to have a different COVID-19 vaccine option. Novavax is the first protein-based COVID-19 vaccine to be approved for use in New Zealand and helps prevent you from getting infected and having COVID-19 symptoms, or severe illness.

New Zealand now has three vaccines available (Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Novavax). The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine continues to be the preferred COVID-19 vaccine. Novavax, alongside AstraZeneca provides New Zealanders with other COVID-19 vaccination options.

All of these vaccines are free.

Getting your vaccination

A healthcare worker will do a health check with you and answer your questions.

You will need to agree to be vaccinated. Remember, you can ask questions at any time.

A fully-trained healthcare worker will then give you the vaccine in your upper arm.

You will need to stay for at least 15 minutes so a healthcare worker can look out for you and make sure you are ok.

Once the healthcare worker is confident that you're fine and you are feeling ok, you can leave and carry on with your day.

After your vaccination

You can get your second dose of Novavax three weeks later. This is important because you will get your best protection against COVID-19 after two doses.

If you feel unwell or are worried about any side effects, speak with your trusted health professional.

Is the vaccine safe?

The Novavax vaccine has been thoroughly assessed for safety by our own Medsafe experts.

Medsafe only grants consent for using a vaccine in Aotearoa once they're satisfied the international evidence shows the benefits outweigh the risks.

Can I get it if I'm pregnant?

There is insufficient data on the use of Novavax in pregnant people, so the Pfizer vaccine remains the preferred choice of vaccine for this group. If you're pregnant, you can get a Pfizer vaccine at any stage of your pregnancy.

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Potential side effects

As with any vaccine, you may have some temporary side effects after receiving Novavax.

Common side effects after Novavax include:

- injection site pain or tenderness
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle or joint pain
- generally feeling unwell
- nausea or vomiting.

Some people also experience a slight rise in their blood pressure. Most side effects are mild and go away within a few days.

If you are unsure about your symptoms or if they get worse, call the **COVID Vaccination Healthline** on **0800 28 29 26**. If you have an immediate concern about your health, call **111**, and make sure you tell them you've had a COVID-19 vaccination with Novavax so they can assess you properly.

For reliable and trustworthy information about COVID-19 health advice and information visit: health.govt.nz/covid-vaccine or call the **COVID Vaccination Healthline** for information and advice. Don't hesitate to ask for an interpreter if you require one.

To book an appointment:
visit **bookmyvaccine.nz**
or phone **0800 28 29 26** to book over the phone. **Not all sites are equipped to deliver the Novavax vaccine.**

Rare side effects

A rare side effect after Novavax is severe allergic reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis). At this stage, information about other rare side effects is limited due to current use of this vaccine worldwide. More information will become available over time and the Ministry continues to monitor emerging information.

People who are not recommended to have Novavax

It's recommended that you do not have Novavax if you have had a severe allergic reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of the vaccine or to any component of the vaccine.

You can report any side effects you experience at:
report.vaccine.covid19.govt.nz

Getting the right information matters

Be aware of incorrect information on social media and other places.

You can get accurate and trusted information at:

- Call the **COVID Vaccination Healthline** on **0800 28 29 26** (8am-8pm, 7 days a week). **Covid19.govt.nz**

- **Health.govt.nz/covid-vaccine**

- **Karawhiua.nz**

- or talk with your doctor.

- To make or change an appointment go to **BookMyVaccine.nz** or call the **COVID Vaccination Healthline** on **0800 28 29 26** (8am–8pm, 7 days a week)

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