



Novavax COVID-19, Adjuvanted Vaccine: Overview and Safety

Updated Aug. 24, 2022

Recommended for People 12 Years and Older

Stay up to date

Guidance for people who are immunocompromised

General Information

Manufacturer: Novavax, Inc.

Number of Shots: 2 doses in the primary series, given 3–8 weeks apart.

People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should also receive 2 doses, given 3 weeks apart (a 3rd primary dose is not currently authorized).

Booster Shot: Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is not authorized for use as a booster dose.

Type of Vaccine: Protein subunit

How Given: Shot in the muscle of the upper arm

Does NOT Contain: Eggs, preservatives, latex, metals

[See full list of ingredients](#)

Name: NVX-CoV2373

Safety Data Summary

- COVID-19 vaccines have undergone—and continue to undergo—the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. [Side effects](#) that happen within 7 days of getting vaccinated are common but are mostly mild and only last a few days. Some people have reactions that affect their ability to do daily activities.
- Side effects throughout the body (such as fever, chills, tiredness, and headache) are more common after the second dose of the vaccine.
- [Severe allergic reactions](#) to vaccines are rare but can happen. Cases of myocarditis and pericarditis have been reported in people who received Novavax COVID-19 vaccine.

Learn more about [vaccine safety monitoring](#) after a vaccine is authorized or approved for use.

How Well the Vaccine Works

- Vaccines reduce the risk of COVID-19, including the risk of severe illness and death among people who are fully vaccinated.
- COVID-19 vaccines are effective. Clinical trials demonstrate that Novavax COVID-19 reduces the risk of COVID-19, including the risk of severe illness and death. However, studies from other COVID-19 vaccines have shown that protection declines over time especially with the Omicron variant.
- All FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccines provide substantial protection against COVID-19 hospitalization and death.
- CDC will continue to provide updates as we learn more.


Learn about Novavax’s [clinical trial information for people 18 years and older](#) .

Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine Ingredients

COVID-19 vaccine ingredients are considered safe for most people. Nearly all of the ingredients in COVID-19 vaccines are ingredients found in many foods—fats, sugar, and salts. The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine also includes harmless pieces (proteins) of the virus that causes COVID-19; they are pieces of what is often called the spike protein. After vaccination, the body creates an [immune response](#) to these protein pieces. This response helps protect you from getting sick with COVID-19 in the future. After the body produces an immune response, it discards all the vaccine ingredients, just as it would discard any substance that cells no longer need. This process is a part of normal body functioning.

All COVID-19 vaccines are manufactured with as few ingredients as possible and with very small amounts of each ingredient. Each ingredient in the vaccine serves a specific purpose as seen in the table below.

Type of Ingredient	Ingredient	Purpose
Protein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SARS-CoV-2 recombinant spike protein 	Causes an immune response that helps protect the body from getting sick with COVID-19 in the future.
Lipids (fats)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cholesterol • Phosphatidylcholine 	Work together to help the recombinant spike protein enter cells
Adjuvant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraction-A and Fraction-C of <i>Quillaja saponaria</i> Molina extract. 	Facilitates activation of the cells of the innate immune system.
Salts, sugar, and acid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disodium hydrogen phosphate heptahydrate • Disodium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate • Polysorbate-80 • Potassium chloride (common food salt) • Potassium dihydrogen phosphate (common food salt) • Sodium chloride (basic table salt) • Sodium dihydrogen phosphate monohydrate • Sodium hydroxide or hydrochloric acid • Water 	Work together to help keep the vaccine molecules stable while the vaccine is manufactured, shipped, and stored until it is ready to be given to a vaccine recipient.

The vaccine may also contain very small amounts of ingredients from the manufacturing stage, which can be found in the [EUA Fact Sheet](#) .

Ingredients that are NOT used in COVID-19 vaccines

The above table lists ALL ingredients in the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine. There are NO ingredients in this vaccine beyond what is listed in the table. The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine has:

- **No preservatives** such as thimerosal or mercury or any other preservatives.
- **No antibiotics** such as sulfonamide or any other antibiotics.
- **No medicines or therapeutics** such as ivermectin or any other medications.
- **No tissues** such as aborted fetal cells, gelatin, or any materials from any animal.
- **No food proteins** such as eggs or egg products, gluten, peanuts, tree nuts, nut products, or any nut byproducts (COVID-19 vaccines are not manufactured in facilities that produce food products).
- **No metals** such as iron, nickel, cobalt, titanium, rare earth alloys, or any manufactured products like microelectronics, electrodes, carbon nanotubes or other nanostructures, or nanowire semiconductors.
- **No latex.** The vial stoppers used to hold the vaccine also do not contain latex.

Related Pages

- › [Possible Side Effects](#)
- › [Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- › [Benefits of Getting Vaccinated](#)
- › [How Vaccines Work](#)
- › [Protein Subunit Vaccines](#)

For Healthcare Workers

Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine: General information, schedule, and administration overview.

Resources

- [FDA fact sheets](#) 

Last Updated Aug. 24, 2022