



EXPLANATORY SHEET

Vaccination with the protein vaccine from Novavax: Important information for patients

✓ You are being vaccinated against COVID-19

This information sheet is intended to supplement the vaccination discussion with a professional. Please read this information sheet carefully before the COVID-19 vaccination and discuss any questions you have with a professional at the vaccination centre.

General information on the COVID-19 vaccination

- We recommend vaccination against COVID-19 with the protein vaccine from Novavax for anyone aged 18 and over who is not pregnant or breastfeeding and who cannot be vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine for medical reasons or who refuses to accept the mRNA vaccines.
- With the vaccination you have a lower risk of contracting COVID-19 than if you are not vaccinated. The vaccination does not, however, provide absolute protection. If you nevertheless do contract COVID-19 despite being vaccinated, the illness should be less severe, and you should have fewer symptoms.
- Full primary vaccination generally requires two injections in the upper arm. You should have the second injection around four weeks after the first.
- A booster with the Novavax vaccine is not currently authorised and is generally not recommended.
- Novavax's protein vaccine uses a harmless component of the virus to transmit important instructions about the pathogen to the immune system.
- The vaccine does not contain any coronaviruses and cannot trigger COVID-19. It cannot change human DNA.
- In people with an immune deficiency (due to an illness or therapy), the vaccination may be less effective. If you have a weakened immune system, we primarily recommend vaccination with an mRNA vaccine. Please seek advice from the specialist doctor treating you.

What side effects can the vaccine have?

- If the vaccine does have side effects, these will normally be mild to moderate and only last a few days. As with other vaccinations, these are generally reactions at the injection site (especially pain, or also redness or swelling) or general symptoms (such as headaches, tiredness, muscle and joint pain or nausea).
- Severe allergic reactions to a component of a vaccine are very rare and generally occur a few minutes after the vaccination. This is why you remain at the vaccination site for a short time after the injection. Initial signs include shortness of breath, a drop in blood pressure or severe reactions at the injection site. Serious allergic reactions of this kind are generally easy to treat.

- According to current research, the risk of suffering serious side effects after the vaccination is much lower than the risk of experiencing serious illness following infection with the coronavirus
- At present, it is not possible to completely exclude the risk of rare severe side effects or unexpected side effects. Experience acquired with other vaccines has shown that such events would be expected to occur within months of the vaccination. According to current research, however, the risk of this happening is very low. The responsible agencies are closely monitoring possible indications. So far, no other abnormalities have been found in vaccination trials involving several thousand people or in the people vaccinated with this vaccine since its authorisation.
- Other health problems – unrelated to the vaccine – may continue to arise, sometimes directly after a vaccination. This does not mean that they are necessarily a consequence of the vaccination.

Important: Please report any unexpected or serious symptoms experienced after the COVID-19 vaccination to a doctor, a pharmacist or the vaccination centre.

You should not get vaccinated with the protein vaccine from Novavax in the following cases:

- If you know that you suffer from hypersensitivity to components of the vaccine, particularly polysorbate 80, saponins or Matrix-M. Please consult an allergist for advice

Vaccination with the protein vaccine from Novavax is not recommended in the following cases:

- In young people and children under 18
 - In pregnant and breastfeeding women
- Insufficient data is currently available on the use of the vaccine for these groups.

Individuals with a weakened immune system (due to an illness or therapy) are primarily recommended vaccination with an mRNA vaccine. Other particularly vulnerable people and their care staff, as well as healthcare personnel with patient contact, are recommended vaccination with an mRNA vaccine in preference.



Caution is advised for the vaccination in the following cases:

- If you are currently ill and have a high temperature.
- ➔ In this case, you should postpone the vaccination.
- If you have an acute allergy.
- ➔ You should inform the professional at the vaccination centre so that they can take special precautions.

Vaccination after a confirmed coronavirus infection

- If you have already tested positive for coronavirus.
- ➔ Vaccination is also recommended in this case to ensure optimal and long-lasting protection.
If possible, get yourself vaccinated within one to three months of having been infected. In this case a single vaccine dose is generally sufficient. You do not have to have a second dose of vaccine. There may be exceptions for especially vulnerable people; consult your doctor.

Important information for after the vaccination

- Stay at the vaccination centre for at least 15 minutes after your first vaccination. After the second vaccination it's sufficient to remain for five minutes.
- Make sure you receive a vaccination certificate and keep it somewhere safe.
- The full protection of the vaccination will have been built up around one to two weeks after the last dose of vaccine.
- Continue to follow the hygiene and behavioural measures recommendations, and wear a mask where this is required.
- Please report any unexpected or serious symptoms experienced after the COVID-19 vaccination to a doctor, a pharmacist or the vaccination centre.

Have you any questions? You should discuss these with the professional vaccinating you.

This fact sheet does not replace the vaccination discussion with a professional.

