



General information on the COVID-19 vaccination with the protein vaccine from Novavax

Is the vaccination safe and effective?

Since every vaccine in Switzerland must be authorised, it has to meet stringent safety, efficacy and quality requirements. Swissmedic, the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products, has carefully assessed and authorised the [vaccines against COVID-19](#). They are [safe and effective](#).

Several thousand people have received Novavax's protein vaccine in trials. Even after authorisation, experts will continue to monitor the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. The benefits of a vaccine must significantly outweigh the risks. Only then will the vaccine be recommended in Switzerland.

Where can I be vaccinated?

The federal government has drawn up a vaccination strategy and vaccination recommendations. The cantons are responsible for vaccination. Find out more from your cantonal website or infoline (www.foph-coronavirus.ch/cantons) where you can be vaccinated, or ask your doctor or a pharmacist.

For whom is the vaccination recommended?

We recommend vaccination against COVID-19 with the protein vaccine from Novavax for people aged 18 and over who are not pregnant or breastfeeding and who

- cannot be vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine for medical reasons;
- refuse to accept the mRNA vaccines.

Who should not be vaccinated with the Novavax vaccine?

We do not recommend the COVID-19 vaccination with the protein vaccine from Novavax for the following:

- People with a severe, confirmed allergy to an ingredient of the vaccine, particularly polysorbate 80, saponins or Matrix-M. Please consult an allergist for advice.
- Young people and children aged under 18 as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women. There is not currently sufficient data on the use of the vaccine in these groups.
- Individuals with a weakened immune system (due to an illness or therapy).

Please note: If you have a high temperature or are feeling ill or unwell, postpone your vaccination. Go for the vaccination as soon as you can.

What if I am pregnant or planning to become pregnant?

We recommend vaccination with an mRNA vaccine.

If you are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant and have questions about the vaccination, talk to your doctor or midwife.

What happens during the vaccination?

You receive an injection in the upper arm. After the first injection you remain at the vaccination centre for another 15 minutes for observation. After the second injection it's sufficient to remain for five minutes.

How many injections do I have to have?

Two injections are needed for full primary immunisation. You should have the second injection around four weeks after the first.

How does the vaccination protect me?

Your body builds up protection against COVID-19.

This takes up to around one or two weeks after the second injection. The vaccination strengthens your body's defences. It helps your body fight the virus. The risk that you will get COVID-19 is then greatly reduced.

Important: Complete protection is not possible. Some people can still get COVID-19 despite being vaccinated. However, the vaccination does offer good protection against serious illness.

You will find further details on how the vaccination works here: www.foph-coronavirus.ch/protein

How long does the vaccination protect me?

That's not yet clear. Experts are currently investigating how long the vaccine provides protection. It may be that another vaccination is subsequently needed.

Can I get COVID-19 because of the vaccination?

No. You do not get COVID-19 as a result of the vaccination. The vaccine does not contain any coronaviruses.

Should I get vaccinated if I've already been infected with the coronavirus?

It is still worthwhile getting vaccinated if you have already had a coronavirus infection. While you are generally protected against renewed infection for a certain period after becoming infected, it is not known just how long this protection lasts. We recommend that you have the vaccination to give you better and longer-term protection.



Get yourself vaccinated as soon as possible from four weeks after the infection. After infection, one dose of vaccine is generally sufficient. You do not have to have a second dose of vaccine.

Are there any side effects?

Side effects can occur with any vaccination. They are usually mild to moderate and pass quickly. Serious side effects occur very rarely. In rare cases people have experienced a serious allergic reaction to a component of the vaccine directly after the vaccination. There have so far been no noticeable problems with serious side effects with the Novavax vaccine. Such side effects would be expected to emerge within a few months of the vaccination. Experts are keeping a close eye on potential indications.

What symptoms can occur after the vaccination?

- The place on your arm where you received the injection can become inflamed, painful or swollen.
- Headaches
- Tiredness
- Muscle and joint pain
- Nausea

These side effects are common after a vaccination. Since they indicate that the body is building up protection against the disease, they are a good sign when they are mild. An allergic reaction is typically associated with severe swelling, redness, itching or shortness of breath immediately after the injection. You should contact your doctor immediately if you experience such symptoms.

How long can side effects last?

The side effects usually disappear within a few days. If you are still experiencing side effects after a week, or if they get worse or cause you concern, contact your doctor.

I am vaccinated. Can I infect other people with the coronavirus?

Once you have been fully vaccinated, the likelihood of becoming infected is greatly reduced, as is the risk of transmitting the virus. However, the vaccination does not provide 100% protection and protection can decline over time. The protection afforded by the vaccine and the speed with which it decreases can vary depending on the virus variant.

Please remember: Continue to follow the hygiene and social distancing recommendations, and wear a mask where this is required.

Who pays for the vaccination?

Your vaccination is free of charge for you. Your health insurer pays for part of the vaccination. The federal government and the cantons will pay the remainder.

Is the vaccination voluntary?

Yes. Vaccinations are voluntary in Switzerland.

Where can I find further information?

You will find further information on COVID-19 vaccination on the FOPH website:

www.foph-coronavirus.ch/vaccination

Or you can ask your doctor or pharmacist.

