

AFTER YOUR NUVAXOVID (NOVAVAX) COVID-19 VACCINATION

Today you have received the **Nuvaxovid (Novavax) vaccine**.

This vaccine can prevent people from becoming ill from COVID-19. The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine does not contain any live virus, and it cannot give you COVID-19. It contains an important part of the SARS-CoV-2 virus called the spike protein. It also contains an adjuvant called Matrix-M, which helps create a stronger immune response. After getting the vaccine, your system will then learn to recognise and fight against the SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes COVID-19.

What to expect after vaccination

As with any vaccine, you may have some side effects after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

Common side effects after **Novavax** include:

- pain or tenderness at the injection site
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle or joint pain
- generally feeling unwell

Less common side effects after **Novavax** include:

- redness or swelling at the injection site
- nausea or vomiting
- fever

These side effects are usually mild and usually go away within one or two days.

If you experience pain at the injection site or fever, headaches, or body aches after vaccination, you can take paracetamol or ibuprofen (note, ibuprofen is not recommended during pregnancy). These help to reduce some of the above symptoms (you do not need to take paracetamol or ibuprofen before vaccination). If there is swelling at the injection site, you can use a cold compress.

Rare side effects associated with **Novavax** are not yet known.

You should seek medical attention after vaccination if you:

- think you are having an allergic reaction. Call 000 if you experience severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat, or collapsing
- are worried about a potential side effect or have new or unexpected symptoms
- have an expected side effect of the vaccine which has not gone away after a few days.

For non-urgent symptoms, you can see your regular healthcare provider (e.g., your GP).

Vaccine safety monitoring and reporting side effects

You can report suspected side effects to your vaccination provider or other healthcare professional. They will then make a formal report on your behalf to your state or territory health department or directly to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

If you would prefer to report it yourself, please visit the [reporting suspected side effects associated with a COVID-19 vaccine webpage](#) on the TGA website and follow the directions on the page.

COVID-19 testing after vaccination

Some side effects from COVID-19 vaccination might be similar to symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., fever). However, Novavax does not contain any live virus and cannot cause COVID-19. You may not need to get a COVID-19 test or isolate:

- if you develop general symptoms like fever, headache, or tiredness in the first two days after vaccination, and
- if you are sure that you don't have any respiratory symptoms (e.g., runny nose, cough, sore throat, loss of smell or loss of taste).

However, you should check the current guidelines in your state/territory for the most up-to-date information. This advice may change in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in your local area. You may still need to get a COVID-19 test if you meet other criteria, for example if you are a close contact of a known COVID-19 case. If in doubt, seek medical assessment.

Staying up to date

To be considered up to date with COVID-19 vaccination, you must have completed all the doses recommended for your age and health status.

Find out about how to stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines at:

www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-your-vaccination/stay-up-to-date

How is the information you provide at your appointment used

For information on how your personal details are collected, stored, and used visit:

<https://www.health.gov.au/using-our-websites/privacy/privacy-notice-for-covid-19-vaccinations>

More information

For more information visit: <https://www.health.gov.au/covid-19-vaccines-languages> or call 1800 020 080. For interpreting services, call 131 450.