

Information for after your Novavax (NUVAXOVID®) COVID-19 Vaccine

Today your community pharmacist has given you the **Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine**. Congratulations on taking this vital step in protecting yourself, your family, and your community from COVID-19.

Two doses of COVID-19 Vaccine are needed as your primary course for maximum protection, or three doses for people whose immune systems are severely compromised. You may be receiving this **Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine** as a first or follow-up dose as part of your primary course. It is important that you have all your doses for full protection. The pharmacy staff can assist you with advice and booking for a follow-up dose if needed.

A digital vaccination certificate will be automatically generated for you by Services Australia when you are fully vaccinated. You can see your COVID-19 digital certificate in your Medicare account through the Express Plus Medicare app or myGov.

What to expect after vaccination

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.

After getting the vaccine, your immune system learns to recognise and fight against the virus that causes COVID-19. You may experience some mild side effects following vaccination. Most side effects last no more than a couple of days and you will recover without any problems.

Common side effects after the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine include:

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

Less common side effects after the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine include:

- ♦ redness or itching at the injection site
- ♦ nausea (feeling sick) or vomiting
- ♦ fever

These side effects are usually mild, and start within a day after the vaccination and go away within one or two days. They can be managed by resting and using a pain medicine such as paracetamol or ibuprofen, or a cold compress if needed. Your pharmacist can assist with advice.

If after a few days of the vaccine you have unexpected symptoms or you have an expected side effect listed above that has not gone away, you should seek medical advice from your doctor or healthcare professional. Be sure to tell them that you have recently received the **Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine**.

Serious reactions such as allergic reactions are extremely rare and usually occur within 15 minutes of receiving your vaccine, which is why you are asked to wait in the pharmacy afterwards. If an allergic reaction occurs, your pharmacist is trained and equipped to deal with this. After you leave the pharmacy, call 000 if you think you are having an allergic reaction and experiencing severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat or collapsing.



Further information and side-effect checker is available from www.healthdirect.gov.au/covid-19-vaccination



Information about COVID vaccines in other languages is available from www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-information-in-your-language



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Version 1.0 11/02/2022