

COVID Vaccines – Novavax

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized the Novavax vaccine – the fourth in the U.S. to receive approval for the prevention of COVID-19.

Q: Who is eligible to receive the Novavax vaccine?

A: Anyone ages 18 and older is eligible to get the Novavax vaccine. It's administered as a two-dose primary series, with the second shot given three to eight weeks after the first.

Q: Can I get a booster dose of the Novavax vaccine?

A: At this time, Novavax is not indicated for boost dosing. It is possible that this may change in the future.

Q: Is Novavax an mRNA vaccine?

A: No. Novavax is not an mRNA vaccine. It uses virus-blocking technology that has previously been used to prevent other conditions such as DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis) and shingles.

The vaccine directly injects harmless pieces of the COVID-19 spike protein into the body to stimulate the immune system, in order to trigger the body into producing antibodies and T-cells. It does not have live material inside, so it can't cause disease.

Q: How effective is Novavax?

A: According to an FDA summary, a Phase 3 trial demonstrates the vaccine is 90% effective against mild, moderate and severe disease. It's important to note that the trial was conducted prior to the emergence of the Delta and Omicron variants, so its efficacy against these variants is not known.

Q: What are the side effects of the Novavax vaccine?

A: The most commonly reported side effects were pain/tenderness, redness and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, muscle pain, headache, joint pain, nausea/vomiting and fever.

Q: What if I've got questions about the vaccine?

A: If you have questions or concerns about any of the COVID-19 vaccines, please contact your primary care provider.

Q: Where can I get the vaccine?

A: LMH Health Primary Care clinics may offer the Novavax vaccine and/or the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. You may also be able to get the vaccine at local pharmacies. Visit vaccinefinder.org/search for a complete list.

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