

Vaccine against coronavirus

– Nuvaxovid (Novavax)

The novel coronavirus causes respiratory tract infection. Many people experience either mild or no symptoms, but some may become seriously ill. The elderly, and those who already have certain other diseases from before are at greatest risk of a serious disease course or death. The vaccine protects against a severe COVID-19 disease course.

Who should have the coronavirus vaccine?

Coronavirus vaccines offered through the national immunisation programme are available for people who are living in Norway. The vaccine is free and is voluntary.

Check the website of your municipality for information about who is being offered the vaccine, how vaccination is being organised and when it will take place.

How is this vaccine given?

The vaccine is injected into the upper arm. Before vaccination, you will be asked if you are feeling well and if you have had reactions to other vaccines you have had before. Remember to say if you have had COVID-19 or had a coronavirus vaccine before, are pregnant, have allergies, use medication or have other health problems. Follow the guidelines for the number of doses and intervals that apply to your group. The vaccination centre can help you with this. It is important to take the doses at the scheduled time. It is common to postpone vaccination with acute illness and with a fever above 38 °C. After vaccination, you will be asked to wait at the vaccination site for at least 20 minutes.

How does this vaccine work?

The vaccine is a protein-based vaccine based on a traditional vaccine technology. It contains a variant of the typical spikes on the coronavirus (spike protein) on which the immune system can practise. The vaccine also contains a new substance (adjuvant) that helps to enhance the body's immune response. In this way, the immune system learns to recognise the coronavirus spikes and can defend the body if it becomes infected with the virus. The vaccine does not contain live virus and does not cause COVID-19 disease. The coronavirus vaccine acts to prevent disease. It cannot cure an ongoing illness.

How well does this vaccine work?

The vaccines do not completely protect against further spread of infection. Therefore, it is important to continue to follow the current infection control advice.

Side effects

Most of the side effects occur in the first few days after vaccination. The symptoms are usually mild to moderate and go away after a few days, but some get more severe symptoms. Younger people often have slightly more severe side effects than older people. The most common side effects are pain at the injection site, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, headache, feeling unwell, nausea and vomiting. Some have a fever, most often after the second dose. In general, there are more side effects after the second dose than after the first dose. From the vaccine studies, it appears that Nuvaxovid gives milder side effects with shorter duration than after vaccination with mRNA vaccines. We cannot rule out side effects that are rare or that only appear long after vaccination.

What do I do if I get side effects?

If you experience unexpected, severe or prolonged symptoms, contact your doctor or another healthcare worker for assessment and advice. This applies regardless of whether you believe it is due to the vaccine or not. Healthcare workers have a duty to report any serious or unexpected reactions that they suspect are due to a vaccine. You can also send in a notification yourself via helsenorge.no.

Which vaccine have I received?

When you have been given a coronavirus vaccine, it will be registered in the Norwegian Immunisation Registry, SYSVAK. You can access your information at helsenorge.no

Do you want to know more?

Do you want to know more? Please ask your doctor or other healthcare worker or visit the Norwegian Institute of Public Health's website at www.fhi.no/cvp