



VACCINATION INFORMATION SHEET NUVAXOVID COVID-19 VACCINE

This vaccine has been approved by the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) for use in Singapore under the direction of the Ministry of Health. Read this information carefully. Consult your doctor or clinic if you have questions.

1. What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can range from mild to severe disease. Spread is mainly through droplets, airborne particles, or touching contaminated surfaces. Symptoms appear 2 to 14 days after exposure, and include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose or loss of smell or taste. Complications can include respiratory failure, heart attacks, blood clots and other long-term problems.

2. What is the Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine?

The Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine protects against COVID-19. The vaccine contains purified copies of a protein found on the COVID-19 virus (SARS-CoV-2 recombinant spike protein) which is used to stimulate the body to develop protection against the actual COVID-19 virus. The vaccine reduces the risks of infection and severe disease from COVID-19, with a vaccine efficacy of 90% for symptomatic COVID-19. The primary series of the vaccine consists of 2 doses taken at the recommended interval of 8 weeks or at least 21 days apart.

Additional doses are recommended for the following persons:

- a. Persons with severely weakened immune systems¹ should receive a third dose of the vaccine, two months after their second dose to complete their vaccination, for better protection
- b. Persons aged 12 years and above should receive a booster dose of an mRNA vaccine² under the National Vaccination Programme from about five months after the completion of their earlier vaccination, regardless of whether they had a previous COVID-19 infection. If the person had a recent COVID-19 infection, the timing of the booster should also be at least 28 days after the infection.
- c. Persons aged 80 years and above, living in aged care facilities and/or are medically vulnerable should receive a **second** booster dose of an mRNA vaccine² from about five months after the first booster dose.
- d. Persons aged 50-79 years can also receive a **second** booster dose of an mRNA vaccine from about five months after the first booster dose.

The Nuvaxovid vaccine is an acceptable alternative to the mRNA vaccines for use as a booster dose. The Nuvaxovid vaccine is safe, but like other vaccines and medications, side effects can happen. These are usually mild and get better in 1 to 3 days.

3. Who should get the vaccine? Who should not get the vaccine?

You should get this vaccine to be protected against COVID-19. You must be 18 years or older.

You should **NOT** get this vaccine if you had an allergic reaction (including anaphylaxis) to a prior dose of this vaccine or to any ingredients in this vaccine.

Tell your doctor or nurse before getting this vaccine if you:

- had a fever in the past 24 hours
- have active cancer treatment, organ/stem cell transplantation, or are immunocompromised
- have a low platelet count, bleeding disorder, or taking blood thinning medications
- had COVID-19 infection before, or received another COVID-19 vaccine

¹ This includes transplant patients, cancer patients on active treatment, hematological cancers, persons on treatments that suppress the immune system, end-stage kidney disease and advanced or untreated HIV.

² The Moderna/Spikevax vaccine is only for persons aged 18 years and older

Most people with the above conditions or situations can receive the vaccine, but the doctor or nurse may provide additional advice.

4. How is the Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine given?

This vaccine is given as an injection into the muscle of your upper arm.

5. What are the ingredients in the Nuvaxovid COVID-19 Vaccine?

The Nuvaxovid COVID-19 Vaccine includes the following ingredients: NVX-COV2373 recombinant spike protein nanoparticle; matrix-M1 adjuvant; phosphatidylcholine; potassium dihydrogen phosphate; potassium chloride; disodium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate; disodium hydrogen phosphate heptahydrate; sodium dihydrogen phosphate monohydrate; sodium chloride; polysorbate 80; sodium hydroxide; hydrochloric acid

6. What are the possible side effects? How do I manage the side effects?

Like other vaccines and medications, side effects can happen. Most side effects are mild or moderate, and usually get better within a few days. The table below lists some common side effects that have been reported with this vaccine, and how to manage them.

Side Effects	How to Manage
Pain, redness, swelling at the injection site	Those with fever are advised to self-isolate at home until the fever subsides. Paracetamol 1 to 2 tablets every 6 hours for adults or dosed according to the child's weight as needed
Fever, chills	
Headache, muscle pain, joint pain	Rest
Tiredness	

- See a doctor if side effects persist or get worse.
- See a doctor to get tested for COVID if you develop cough, sore throat or runny nose, since you don't develop full protection until at least 7 days after completing the second dose.
- Very rarely, this vaccine may cause a severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis. Symptoms include difficulty breathing, swelling of your face/throat/eyes/lips, fast heartbeat, dizziness/weakness, or rash. If you experience these, seek medical attention at once. Call 995 or go to the nearest A&E immediately.
- If you experience side effects after vaccination which are not listed above, please consult your doctor.

7. Any Other Advice?

Advice for different groups of vaccine recipients:

- If you are on blood thinning medicines, press firmly on the injection site for 5 minutes.
- If you are on active cancer treatment, recent organ/stem cell transplantation or are on aggressive immunotherapy, please consult your specialist to discuss if you can get this vaccine.
- Pregnant women and those planning to get pregnant should get vaccinated. Vaccination carries significant benefits for pregnant women and women trying to conceive. There is no evidence that vaccination is harmful in pregnancy.

Before vaccination:

- Continue to take your medications as usual, and do not stop them just for the vaccination.
- Avoid dehydration or skipping meals, to reduce risk of fainting after vaccination.
- If you have a fever or are acutely ill, you should re-schedule your vaccination.

After vaccination:

To reduce the risk of side effects after vaccination, it is advisable to:

- Avoid taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for pain or fever in the 1-2 days after vaccination. (NSAIDs include medications like ibuprofen, ketoprofen, naproxen, and diclofenac.)
- Avoid strenuous physical activity or intense exercise for 2 weeks after each dose.

8. How do I report side effects?

If you experience severe or unusual side effects, see your doctor, who will be able to advise you and report the side effects to HSA. You may also report side effects directly to HSA on a form by scanning the QR code:



9. What is the Pandemic Special Access Route (PSAR)?

PSAR is an authorisation process by HSA to facilitate early access to vaccines and medicines during a pandemic, such as COVID-19.

The content of this information sheet was updated on 21/06/22. For the latest COVID-19 vaccine consumer information, please refer to the HSA website at <https://www.hsa.gov.sg/covid-19-information-and-advisories>