

# THIS IS AN OFFICIAL NH DHHS HEALTH ALERT

Distributed by the NH Health Alert Network  
[DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov)  
July 21, 2022 Time 1630 (4:30PM EDT)  
NH-HAN 20220721



## COVID-19 Pandemic, Update # 63 *Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine*

### Key Points and Recommendations:

- On July 19<sup>th</sup>, the CDC and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend the Novavax COVID-19 vaccination as a 2-dose primary series for persons 18 years of age or older with each dose administered 3-8 weeks apart (recommended interval is based on a person's immunocompromised status).
  - Novavax is a recombinant protein subunit vaccine containing an adjuvant (Matrix-M).
    - It is expected that some persons who are mRNA vaccine hesitant may access the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, which is a more traditional vaccine platform.
  - Phase 3 clinical trials showed an overall vaccine efficacy (VE) of 90% at preventing mild, moderate, and severe disease during a period when the Alpha variant was predominant; VE against more recent variants is unknown.
  - No safety concerns have been identified. There have been rare reports of myocarditis/pericarditis associated with Novavax, but risk is likely [greater after natural infection](#) (based on comparison with mRNA vaccination).
  - Be aware of several important differences when using Novavax compared to the other available COVID-19 vaccines:
    - Novavax should NOT be used as a booster dose following a primary series – it is currently only authorized and recommended to be used for primary series vaccination.
    - After the Novavax primary series is completed, there is no recommendation yet for a booster dose using ANY available COVID-19 vaccines.
    - For people who are moderately-severely immunocompromised, a 3<sup>rd</sup> additional primary series dose of Novavax is NOT currently authorized or recommended.
  - Review CDC's updated [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#), including their updated [contraindications and precautions](#).
  - Review the Novavax FDA [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine](#).
  - Use the Novavax FDA [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#).
  - Novavax is supplied in 10-dose vials which are stored at refrigerator temperatures (2-8°C). Do NOT freeze. No dilution is required.

- There will be no expiration date printed on Novavax vaccine vials or cartons, but expiration dates can be found online at: <https://us.novavaxcovidvaccine.com/hcp>.
- CDC will conduct a webinar on **Thursday, 7/28** from **2:00 – 3:00 pm** on “*Recommendations for the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine Primary Series in Adults 18 and Older*” which can be accessed online at: [https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2022/callinfo\\_072822.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2022/callinfo_072822.asp).
- Join our monthly NH DPHS healthcare provider webinar for updates on COVID-19 and other emerging public health issues (e.g., monkeypox); the next webinar will be on **Thursday, 8/11** from **12:00 – 1:00 pm**:
  - Zoom link: <https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/s/94059287404>
  - Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
  - Meeting ID: 940 5928 7404
  - Password: 353809

- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to [DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov).

Status: Actual  
Message Type: Alert  
Severity: Moderate  
Sensitivity: Not Sensitive  
Message Identifier: NH-HAN 20220721  
Delivery Time: 12 hours  
Acknowledgement: No  
Distribution Method: Email, Fax  
Distributed to: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Practice Managers, Infection Control Practitioners, Infectious Disease Specialists, Community Health Centers, Hospitals, Hospital CEOs, Hospital Emergency Departments, EMS, Nurses, NHHA, Pharmacists, Laboratory Response Network, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, Public Health Networks, DHHS Outbreak Team, DPHS Investigation Team, DPHS Management Team, Northeast State Epidemiologists, Zoonotic Alert Team, Health Officers, Deputy Health Officers, MRC, NH Schools, EWIDS, Dialysis & Transplant Clinics, STD Clinics, Immunization Practices, Travel Centers, Influenza Sentinels, Urgent Care Centers, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, Walk-in Clinics, Poison Center, Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Centers, Long-Term Care Facilities, Community Mental Health Centers, Health Departments, Internal Medicine, Occupational Health, Gastroenterology, Schools and Daycare Providers, Regional Public Health Networks, Environmental Services, Family Planning Programs, Department of Corrections, Home Care Providers, Local and State Partners, Area Agencies

From: Benjamin P. Chan, MD, MPH; State Epidemiologist  
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services