

# ABOUT THE MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINE



## WHAT IT IS

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is the first vaccine that all Canadian territories will receive to reduce further harm caused by COVID-19.

The vaccine is an mRNA vaccine, using technology that has been in development for 20 years.

After a rigorous approval process, the vaccine received approval from Health Canada for use on adults over the age of 18 on December 23, 2020.

## INGREDIENTS

- mRNA
- 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (DSPC)
- acetic acid
- cholesterol
- lipid SM-102
- polyethylene glycol (PEG) 2000 DMG
- sodium acetate
- sucrose
- tromethamine
- tromethamine hydrochloride
- water for injection

## HOW IT IS ADMINISTERED

The vaccine is administered via injection into the upper arm, given in two separate doses, approximately one month apart.

## HOW IT WORKS

The mRNA vaccine teaches our cells how to make a protein that will trigger an immune response, without actually exposing us to the COVID-19 virus.

Once triggered, our body makes antibodies. These antibodies help us fight the infection if the real virus enters our body in the future.

## SIDE EFFECTS

Like all vaccines, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine can cause side effects. The most common side effects of the vaccine are:

- Pain at the injection site
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle ache and stiffness
- Chills
- Fever
- Swelling or redness at the injection site
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Enlarged lymph nodes

Should you develop any serious symptoms or symptoms of an allergic reaction, seek medical attention immediately.

**The vaccine is not mandatory. If you are concerned because of a pre-existing health condition, are pregnant or breastfeeding, please reach out to your local health centre for advice.**

**The decision is an individual one, but one that will have a direct impact on our communities' health, on Nunavut's public health restrictions and one of the ways we move forward in the months and year to come.**