

Information Sheet

COVID-19 Vaccine

Please read this information sheet carefully and ask a healthcare provider any questions before receiving the vaccine.

What are COVID-19 vaccines?

COVID-19 vaccines target either the original strain of COVID-19 or the original strain and the Omicron variant. They are used to protect against the COVID-19 virus.

The COVID-19 vaccine causes our body to produce protection against severe illness and hospitalization from COVID-19.

You cannot get COVID-19 from this vaccine.

Who should get a COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines are free and available to Nunavummiut 6 months of age and older.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe for people who have had COVID-19. Please let a health care provider know if you had COVID recently as this may affect the date you are eligible for your next dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

You might not be vaccinated today if:

- It has been less than 6 months since your last COVID-19 vaccine.
- It has been less than 6 months since you had a COVID-19 infection.
- You are allergic to one of the components of the vaccine.
- You had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine and appropriate follow-up has not yet been completed.

How safe are COVID-19 vaccines?

The vaccine is safe. Canada has one of the most rigorous vaccine approval systems in the world. During vaccine development, studies provide information on the safety of a vaccine as well as how effective it is in developing immunity.

What are the side effects of COVID-19 vaccines?

The most common side effects that people get after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine are minor and include:

- Pain, redness or swelling where the needle was given
- Fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, nausea/vomiting, fever and chills
- Swelling and tenderness in the underarm of the vaccinated arm

These side effects usually disappear within 1-3 days without treatment. If they do not go away, call the health centre.

Very rare adverse events may occur such as an extreme allergic reaction or inflammation of the heart muscle or lining around the heart. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy), swelling of your face, tongue or throat, or difficulty breathing. The clinic staff are prepared to manage an allergic reaction should it occur and will provide immediate medical care if you develop any of these symptoms. Symptoms of myocarditis or pericarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle or lining around the heart) include chest pain, shortness of breath, and palpitations. Please contact the health centre if you experience any of these symptoms after COVID-19 vaccination.