



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD
Commissioner
Gotham Center
42-09 28th St.
Long Island City, NY 11101

October 17, 2023

Dear Provider,

The 2023-2024 updated Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is now authorized and recommended for use. On October 3, 2023, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the [emergency use authorization \(EUA\)](#) of the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine to include the 2023-2024 formula. The recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on September 12, 2023 for everyone 6 months and older to receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine applied to all XBB-containing monovalent vaccines. As such, no further CDC action is needed.

Novavax is an adjuvanted recombinant spike protein vaccine. Like the updated Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines, the updated Novavax vaccine targets currently circulating variants to reduce the risk of serious consequences of COVID-19, including hospitalization and death.

People ages 12 years and older can now choose which of the three updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines to get: Pfizer, Moderna, or Novavax. There is no longer a preference for the mRNA vaccines. Following is a summary of the recommendations for people who choose to receive the Novavax vaccine:

- People **previously vaccinated** with any COVID-19 vaccine (and who have not already been vaccinated with an updated 2023-2024 mRNA COVID-19 vaccine) need **one dose** of updated Novavax vaccine to be up to date.
- People who are **unvaccinated** should receive **two doses** of the updated Novavax vaccine to be up to date.
- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised can receive additional doses.

Detailed clinical considerations for use of Novavax and other COVID-19 vaccines are available [here](#). The original Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is no longer authorized for use in the US. Original Novavax COVID-19 vaccine should be removed from your inventory, reported as 'other wastage non-returnable' in the [Citywide Immunization Registry \(CIR\)](#) and then discarded as medical waste.

Providers enrolled in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and/or Vaccines for Adults (VFA) programs are now able to order updated Novavax vaccine at no-cost in the CIR for administration to eligible patients. Updated Novavax vaccine can also be purchased from the commercial market.

Novavax is available in multi-dose vials containing 5 doses of 0.5 mL each. The minimum order is 10 doses. Unused doses of Novavax purchased from the commercial market can be returned. Unused, spoiled, or expired doses of VFC and VFA Novavax cannot be returned; doses should be reported as 'other wastage non-returnable' in the CIR and then discarded as medical waste. Providers are encouraged to use every opportunity to vaccinate eligible patients and will not be penalized for opening a multi-dose vial to vaccinate a single patient.

Thank you for continuing to promote and protect the health of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashwin Vasani', written over a horizontal line.

Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization