

Information Sheet

SPIKEVAX® COVID-19 Vaccine (mRNA-1273 SARS-CoV-2 vaccine)

Please read this information sheet carefully and ensure you have a chance to ask a healthcare provider your questions before receiving the vaccine.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, please don't come into the clinic and call the hotline (1-888-975-8601) to see if you need testing

What is COVID 19?

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a coronavirus, a type of virus. COVID-19 was first identified in late 2019 and declared a global pandemic in early 2020.

COVID-19 is most commonly spread by an infected person to others through coughing, sneezing, talking, singing or breathing. Someone with COVID-19 may not have any symptoms and not know they have COVID-19, but still be able to infect others.

For most people, symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses like the flu or common cold. A smaller number of people with COVID-19 can develop much more severe symptoms requiring hospitalization and it may result in long term side effects or even death.

Who should get the Moderna SPIKEVAX® vaccine against COVID 19?

The Moderna SPIKEVAX® vaccine is free and available to all Nunavummiut age 12 and over. It is up to you whether you decide to get the vaccine. **It is important to know that you cannot get COVID-19 infection from the vaccine.**

The Moderna SPIKEVAX® vaccine causes our body to produce protection against infection from COVID-19. It is a new type of vaccine that uses messenger RNA (mRNA) to help our body make protective antibodies against the virus.

Studies have shown that 14 days after the second dose of the vaccine 94% of adults developed protection against COVID-19. While there is good protection 14 days after the first dose, the second dose assures long term protection. Even adults who had, or think they might have had, COVID-19 will be offered the vaccine as it will provide additional protection.

Can children be vaccinated?

The Moderna SPIKEVAX® vaccine is only authorized for use in people aged 12 years and older. Younger age groups are likely to have vaccines available in the near future.

You might not be vaccinated today if:

- You have been told you are allergic to one of the components of the vaccine
- You had a serious allergic reaction to your first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (including an instance of myocarditis).

If you are pregnant:

- You will have the opportunity to discuss vaccination with a nurse or doctor. **It is up to you whether or not you are vaccinated.**
- Moderna SPIKEVAX® vaccine is safe and effective for pregnant people.

How safe is the Moderna vaccine?

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 the Moderna SPIKEVAX® vaccine?

The most common side effects that people get after the Moderna SPIKEVAX® 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

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

Serious side effects such as an extreme allergic reaction are very rare. 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.

