



## COVID-19 Vaccine [Moderna]

**The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine is a vaccine and may prevent you from getting COVID-19.**

Coronavirus disease 2019 ([COVID-19](#)) is a viral infection that primarily affects the lungs. Some people may have a mild illness. Others may get very sick, including seniors or people with pre-existing health conditions. Very rarely, some children can get a serious inflammatory condition. The long-term effects of COVID-19 are not fully known. Some people are at greater risk of getting COVID-19 because of their work or living conditions.

### HOW DOES THE VACCINE WORK?

The vaccine tells the cells in our body to make a protein that is found specifically on the virus that causes COVID-19. These 'spike proteins', although harmless to us, will trigger our body to start making antibodies. Our new antibodies will help to protect us from becoming sick if we are exposed to the virus. The vaccine does not contain the virus and cannot give us COVID-19. The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine may not protect everyone.

On December 23, 2020, Health Canada authorized the second COVID-19 vaccine in Canada, manufactured by Moderna. The vaccine was authorized under Health Canada's [Interim Order Respecting the Importation, Sale and Advertising of Drugs for Use in Relation to COVID-19](#) and is authorized for those 18 years and older.

### WHO SHOULD GET THE MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINE?

The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine has been authorized for individuals 18 years of age and older.

### WHO SHOULD NOT GET THE MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINE?

You should not get the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine if you:

- have had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine
- have had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient of this vaccine including polyethylene glycol (PEG)

### WHAT ARE THE INGREDIENTS IN THE MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINE?

The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine contains the following ingredients: messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA), lipids (SM-102, polyethylene glycol [PEG] 2000 dimyristoyl glycerol [DMG], cholesterol, and 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine [DSPC]), tromethamine, tromethamine hydrochloride, acetic acid, sodium acetate, and sucrose.

### VACCINATION SCHEDULE

The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine is administered as a 2-dose series, 1 month apart, into the muscle.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINE?

Two doses of the vaccine are required for better protection. After completing the second dose, it will take another 14 days to be protected against COVID-19. At this time, there is no information on the long-term protection with this vaccine. In trials, the vaccine was 94.1% effective in preventing COVID-19.

There is a small chance that you may still get COVID-19 after being vaccinated. It is important to continue with public health measures such as physical distancing, wearing a mask, and staying home if you are sick.

## **WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINE?**

Side effects that have been reported with the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine include:

- Injection site reactions: pain, tenderness and swelling of the lymph nodes in the same arm of the injection, swelling (hardness), and redness
- General side effects: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills, nausea and vomiting, and fever

There is a remote chance that the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction. A severe allergic reaction would usually occur shortly after getting a dose of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. For this reason, you will be monitored for 15 minutes after vaccination.

Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of your face and throat
- A fast heartbeat
- A bad rash all over your body
- Dizziness and weakness

These may not be all the possible side effects of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. Serious and unexpected side effects may occur.

### **PRECAUTIONS**

- Delay vaccination if you have a fever, are sick with COVID-19 symptoms, or have received a vaccine in the past 14 days.
- If you are on blood thinner medication, you will need to apply pressure at the injection site for 3-5 minutes after getting the vaccine to reduce bruising.

### **TALK TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IF YOU:**

- are pregnant or breastfeeding
- have a weakened immune system due to illness or treatment
- have a bleeding disorder

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** talk to your healthcare provider or visit one of the sites below

[www.wechu.org](http://www.wechu.org)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines/moderna.html>

[www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine](http://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine)