Viral vector-based COVID-19 Vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19 and its complications, in addition to other measures such as physical distancing, wearing a medical mask or face covering, and hand washing.

Disease	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
COVID-19	- Fever - Cough - Trouble breathing - Loss of smell - Fatigue - Headaches - Muscle aches - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea - Overall sick feeling	- Pneumonia and other respiratory issues - Heart problems - Neurological problems - Death

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19 and its complications. Viral vector-based COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for people age 18 and over. Research is still being done regarding its use among people under 18.

Viral vector-based COVID-19 vaccines require two doses. Shots are administered by intramuscular injection. After the first dose, viral vector-based vaccine is about 60% effective in preventing the disease and 90% effective in preventing hospitalization. The second dose is mainly for long-term protection. Given the current very high spread of COVID-19, administration of the second dose can be postponed to allow more people to be vaccinated. The effectiveness in preventing the disease is more than 80% after two doses.

Symptoms after vaccination

Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine (e.g., pain at the injection site). Other problem may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g., cold, gastro). Most reactions are harmless and do not last long. These reactions occur slightly more often with the first dose.

This vaccine cannot cause COVID-19 because they do not contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the disease. However, people who have been in contact with the virus in the days preceding or following their vaccination could still develop COVID-19. It is important to continue to apply health measures until a majority of the population has been vaccinated.

Safety of the vaccine

Viral vector-based COVID-19 vaccine is approved by Health Canada and safe. It has met all the requirements for approval. The vaccine was tested on a large number of people. Experts are closely monitoring any adverse reactions that could occur following vaccination and taking measures to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine.

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Frequency	Possible reactions to the vaccine	What to do
In most cases (more than 50% of people)	• Pain or tenderness at the injection site • Headache, fatigue	• Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site. • Use medication for fever or discomfort if needed. • See a doctor if symptoms are severe.
Very often (less than 50% of people	• Itching, swelling, warmth, redness or bruising at the injection site • Shivering, discomfort, nausea • Muscle soreness • Joint pain	
Often (less than 10% of people)	• Fever	

If you have COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, trouble breathing, loss of smell, etc.), consult the *COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool* to find out if you need to be tested:

https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/covid-19-symptom-self-assessment-tool/

We recommend that you stay at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reactions may occur.
If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

For any questions, contact the person giving the vaccine, or Info-Santé 811 or your doctor.

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