



COVID-19: Commission authorises third adapted vaccine for Member States' autumn vaccination campaigns

Brussels, 31 October 2023

The Commission has authorised the Nuvaxovid XBB.1.5-adapted COVID-19 vaccine, developed by Novavax. This is another important step in the fight against the disease. It is the first protein-based adapted vaccine authorised for this autumn and winter season.

The European Medicines Agency ([EMA](#)) carried out an in-depth evaluation of the vaccine. Following this evaluation, the Commission authorised the adapted vaccine under an expedited procedure so that Member States have sufficient time to prepare for their autumn-winter vaccination campaigns.

In line with previous [recommendations](#) by the EMA and the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](#), adults and adolescents from 12 years of age who require vaccination are invited to get a single dose, irrespective of their COVID-19 vaccination history.

Background

With the EU Vaccines Strategy, the Commission continues to ensure that Member States have access to the latest authorised COVID-19 vaccines to protect the vulnerable members of their population and deal with the epidemiological evolution of the virus.

Novavax has adapted its COVID-19 vaccine to target the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron strain XBB.1.5. This is in line with ECDC-EMA statement on updating COVID-19 vaccines composition for new SARS-CoV-2 variants. The adapted vaccine is also expected to increase the breadth of immunity against current dominant and emerging variants.

For More Information

[Commission authorisation](#)

[EMA recommendation](#)

[EU Vaccines Strategy](#)

[Safe COVID-19 vaccines for Europeans](#)

[EU Coronavirus Response](#)

[Overview of the Commission's Response](#)

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Quotes:

Vaccination remains our most effective tool against COVID-19, and today we are adding a protein-based adapted vaccine option to our portfolio. Ahead of the Winter season, I call on everyone eligible, especially those aged 60 years and above, persons with weakened immune systems and underlying health conditions and pregnant women, to get their booster dose with the latest updated vaccines targeting the variants that are currently spreading. Let's take care of each other and protect our most vulnerable.

Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety - 31/10/2023

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