



This information is for distribution to patients and to the general public.

INFORMATION CONCERNING CORONAVIRUS VACCINATION

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- The coronavirus vaccination is voluntary and available to all citizens free of charge.
- The coronavirus vaccines available in Germany undergo a centralised approval process which is coordinated by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and are evaluated by experts belonging to the national medical authorities, such as the Paul Ehrlich Institute. Approval of a Covid-19 vaccine is granted in compliance with all regulations and provisions which apply for the approval of a vaccine for use in the European Union (EU). One of the prerequisites is a positive risk-benefit ratio. Before the vaccines can be used, the Paul Ehrlich Institute checks their quality, efficacy and safety, and confirms these by officially releasing the batch for use.

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HOW? WHO? WHEN? – VACCINES IN BRIEF

- Vaccines will be administered in phases: People who are at greatest risk must be protected first. The goal is, of course, to gradually ensure equal access to coronavirus vaccination for all.
- Priority is given to vaccinating people who are at particularly high risk of developing a severe or fatal case of the disease, and those with a particularly high job-related risk of becoming infected themselves or of infecting people in need of protection.
- Only by working together and by showing solidarity with others can we succeed in normalising our everyday lives.

Key points of contact for patients

- Current information from the Federal Ministry of Health: www.corona-schutzimpfung.de
- If you have coronavirus symptoms or questions concerning the coronavirus test, you can find the information you need on the www.116117.de website or by calling : 116 117
- Information from the Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA): www.infektionsschutz.de/coronavirus
- To participate in the survey on Covid-19 vaccine tolerability, use the Paul Ehrlich Institute's app *SafeVac 2.0-App* (available from the Apple App Store or from Google Play).
- The Coronavirus Dossier published by the Paul Ehrlich Institute: www.pei.de/coronavirus

Information Concerning Coronavirus Vaccination

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Reasons in favour of vaccination

Why should I be vaccinated against Covid-19?

Most people don't get seriously ill.

- This way of thinking is understandable at first. But it pays to think things through a little more. There are some groups of people who do become seriously ill after becoming infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- The risk of becoming seriously ill or of dying after contracting Covid-19 is many times greater than with the flu.
- Especially older people or those with pre-existing illnesses have a greater risk of becoming seriously ill.
- The new coronavirus vaccine offers the best-possible protection against infection and potential consequences.
- Only when approximately 70 percent of the population are immune will transmission of SARS-CoV-2 be reduced to the extent that the pandemic will disappear.

Must I be vaccinated?

- No, vaccination against Covid-19 is not mandatory in Germany.
- But being vaccinated is highly recommended. If you are vaccinated, you not only protect yourself but others as well.

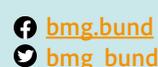
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Information Concerning Coronavirus Vaccination

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Getting vaccinated

Where do I obtain an attestation that I can/should be vaccinated?

You don't need an attestation. Your personal ID will suffice. For people with a high job-related risk of becoming infected, an attestation will be provided by their employer.

Where can I be vaccinated?

- Covid-19 vaccinations will initially be administered at vaccination centres set up by the German Länder (states).
- Mobile teams will also be deployed, for example to administer vaccines in residential care homes.
- At a later date, vaccinations will also be available at doctor's surgeries.

Why can't I be vaccinated at my doctor's surgery?

- The vaccine will not be available at doctors' surgeries in the first few weeks of the vaccination programme. This is a temporary situation.
- And it is largely due to logistics. Some vaccines have to be kept at extremely low temperatures, are supplied in multi-dose containers and must be properly stored. In addition, it is easier to organise vaccinations if the people who are to be protected as members of priority groups are vaccinated first.
- The more people vaccinated at an early stage, the sooner the pandemic can be brought under control.

Administering the vaccine

Will the vaccine be injected at a temperature of -70°C?

No. Although the vaccine is stored at around -70°C, shortly before vaccination it is thawed and mixed into a saline solution which is stored at normal refrigerator or room temperature.

How often must I be vaccinated?

To ensure complete protection, you will need to be vaccinated twice at intervals of between three or four weeks.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Vaccine distribution and prioritisation

Why are others being vaccinated first?

- The ultimate aim is to vaccinate everyone who wants to be vaccinated against coronavirus as soon as possible.
- But at the beginning, there will not be enough vaccine available for all. That's why it is recommended that those who have the greatest health-related risk of developing a serious case of Covid-19 and also those with a job-related risk of becoming infected are vaccinated first. The people who need to be vaccinated most urgently will thus be vaccinated first.

Do I belong to a particular risk group?

- We have to differentiate between risk factors and pre-existing illnesses.
- And here, pre-existing illnesses are actually of lesser importance than age. A person's age is the key risk factor in terms of developing a serious or perhaps even fatal case of coronavirus.
- But there are some existing illnesses which increase the risk of a serious Covid-19 infection and subsequent death. These include people with trisomy 21, organ transplants, extreme obesity, chronic kidney disease, dementia, heart failure and diabetes.
- Other pre-existing illnesses increase the risk only slightly or not at all.

Who gets vaccinated first?

Because the vaccine is only available in limited quantities to begin with, people with an especially high risk of developing a serious or fatal case of Covid-19 will be vaccinated first.

It is planned that all people to be vaccinated as a matter of priority will be notified personally or via the press.

If you provide care for persons entitled to be vaccinated, such as elderly people in residential nursing homes, who cannot give their consent to vaccination themselves, it is best for you as a carer to hand in your written consent to the home management in advance.

People with a particularly high job-related risk of infection or who have close contact with vulnerable groups of people should also be able to be vaccinated first.

This means:

- Residents of senior citizens' homes or residential nursing homes
- Nursing staff in both outpatient and inpatient geriatric care
- Other staff in senior citizens' homes or residential nursing homes who have contact with residents
- Persons aged 80 and over
- Staff in medical institutions
 - with an especially high risk of becoming infected (e.g. in emergency rooms, in providing medical care for Covid-19 patients)
 - with close contact to vulnerable groups (e.g. in oncology or transplant medicine)

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Information Concerning Coronavirus Vaccination

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Vaccine safety

Are the new vaccines really safe?

- Several tens of thousands of people were involved in the vaccine trials. No serious side-effects have been reported so far.
- Possible frequently-occurring side-effects include slight-to-moderate pain at the injection site, fatigue and headaches, all of which are temporary and usually disappear within two days.
- In the approval trials, side-effects can be observed with a frequency of 1 in 1,000. No conclusions can be drawn at this stage regarding any long-term effects.
- While certain risks cannot be ruled out, in Germany only vaccines that meet our very strict safety standards and have undergone extensive clinical trials are approved.
- The safety tests were optimised for the coronavirus vaccine in that the traditional test phases were carried out in parallel and not staggered at intervals over time. But that does not mean that test phases were left out.
- The main priority is safety first.

Where can I report side-effects?

- If you notice any side-effects, you can report them straight to your doctor or local pharmacist. It's best to stay in contact with your doctor. Even if they did not administer the vaccination, they are your first point of contact in evaluating side-effects, making a possible diagnosis and prescribing follow-up treatment.
- Suspected cases of side-effects are taken very seriously and efforts are made to clarify as quickly as possible whether the symptoms involve a coincidental reaction or are a real side-effect. In many cases, a suspected side-effect is not confirmed. Side-effects can also be reported to the Paul Ehrlich Institute via the www.nebenwirkungen.bund.de website or via the Paul Ehrlich Institute app *SafeVac 2.0-App*. Your doctor will and is required to report any side-effects that occur to the respective authorities.

Is it true that the vaccine contains microchips?

- Such assumptions are conspiracy theories, not facts. The microchip claim is false.
- It must be remembered that research on the Covid-19 vaccine is conducted by scientists. Their aim is to develop a safe coronavirus vaccine.

I'm scared that the vaccine will harm me.

- Your health comes first. Your doctor can talk to you and will answer all your questions about the coronavirus vaccine.
- The fact is that the coronavirus vaccine gives hope of providing safe and effective protection against Covid-19 infection. Prior to approval, the vaccines have been tested in clinical trials involving several tens of thousands of volunteers and no serious side-effects have occurred so far. No conclusions can be drawn at this stage regarding any long-term effects.
- The risk of harm from contracting the infection is far greater.

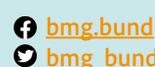
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Vaccine safety

How come the vaccine was developed so quickly?

- Researchers already know a lot about SARS-CoV-2 from similar viruses.
- That knowledge could be quickly used and provided a good basis on which to develop the Covid-19 vaccine.
- In addition, researchers around the world have been working on vaccine development simultaneously, sharing their latest results with each other and passing them on to the testing and approval authorities. This kind of global scientific collaboration has not been seen prior to this pandemic.
- But there's no cause for concern. None of the test phases were left out. Several test phases were worked on in parallel and cooperation was extremely intensive throughout.

Can the new vaccines influence/ manipulate our genes?

- You're referring to mRNA vaccines. These are not converted into DNA and have no influence on our genes. The fact is that DNA cannot be made from mRNA in human cells. While DNA and mRNA sound similar, they are two entirely different things.
- When you receive an mRNA vaccine, your body responds by making proteins which your immune system responds to by making antibodies which then protect you against the actual virus.

Are side-effects to be expected from the mRNA vaccine?

Vaccine reactions are not the same as side-effects. Based on the results of pre-approval clinical studies that showed good tolerability, the incidence of side-effects is low. However, as after every vaccination, vaccine reactions can occur. They are actually a good sign that your body is absorbing the vaccine and is building antibodies. Vaccine reactions can include things like medium-severity headaches, pain in the limbs and joints, pain in the arm near the injection site, tiredness or flu-like symptoms. Monitor your symptoms and if you have any questions, contact your doctor as described in the answer to „Where can I report side-effects?“ above.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ANSWERED

General questions

Can I have my children vaccinated?

- Initially, the vaccines will only be available for adults. This is simply due to the fact that the vaccine has not yet been sufficiently tested in children and adolescents. It cannot, therefore, be recommended for general use among these younger groups.
- If a vaccine for children is developed in the (hopefully) near future, the regulatory authorities must then ensure that it is effective and safe, just as for vaccines for adults.
- When the time comes, vaccination recommendations will also be made for children.

Can I be vaccinated if I've already had Covid-19?

It is generally assumed that people are immune after contracting Covid-19. If you have already had a coronavirus infection, you do not need to be vaccinated. However, vaccination is not harmful if the infection has passed unnoticed.

Do I have to pay for the vaccination myself?

You do not have to pay – you will receive the vaccination free of charge.

Can I do away with social distancing and mouth-nose covering once I've been vaccinated?

The vaccine takes effect and provides protection approximately 2-3 weeks after the second vaccination, but even after that you will still need to comply with the prevailing hygiene and distancing rules. Despite immunity, you may still be a carrier – so the rules continue to apply for the time being, for everyone's protection.

Do I need to be tested for Covid-19 before being vaccinated?

No, that is not necessary if you have no symptoms. The tolerability of the vaccine is not negatively influenced by an acute infection.

What does it mean that vaccination has 95 percent efficacy against Covid-19?

According to manufacturers' instructions, the Covid-19 vaccines offer a high degree of protection of up to 95 percent. Studies show that in trials, Covid-19 vaccinated volunteers were 95 percent less likely to contract coronavirus than those vaccinated with the placebo. If a Covid-19 vaccinated person comes into contact with the pathogen it is highly unlikely that they will become infected.

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