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The coronavirus vaccination
Your choice. Your vaccination.

Information for children and young people aged between 12 and 17

This **information** is also available in **plain German** and in **other languages.**

With this leaflet, we would like to provide **answers to questions** you might have regarding the coronavirus vaccination. This information will make it easier for you to **make your decision** about the vaccination. Here are some questions you may find useful:

Why is the coronavirus vaccination important?

The **Omicron** variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus is **more infectious** than other variants and spreads very quickly. Children and young people come into **contact with many** other people and are therefore at a **high risk of becoming infected with coronavirus.**

The coronavirus vaccination can protect you from **becoming critically ill with COVID-19 and from its possible long-term effects,** such as long COVID.

Can I get vaccinated?

Yes. The Standing Committee on Vaccination (STIKO) recommends the vaccination for **all 12 to 17 year-olds.**

The vaccination is **particularly beneficial** to children and young people who meet one of the following criteria:

– With certain **pre-existing illnesses**

– Have close **contact with vulnerable people** who are at a particularly high risk of become critically ill if they are infected

– With an increased **risk of infection through their work** or **through work-related contact** with particularly **vulnerable people**

Which vaccine is recommended for me, and how much time should be left between doses?

For those aged between 12 and 17 in Germany, the **mRNA-based Comirnaty® coronavirus vaccine from BioNTech/Pfizer** is administered in the same doses as it is for adults (30µg).

Primary immunisation
Comirnaty® BioNTech/Pfizer

doses administered three to six weeks apart

Two doses

$+$

Booster
Comirnaty® BioNTech/Pfizer

administered three to six months after the second vaccination dose

One dose

Please note that you are not protected immediately:

– Vaccination protection only takes effect **two weeks** after the primary immunisation dose.

– Vaccination protection takes effect **7 to 12 days** after the booster dose.

Further information on this subject is available here:

www.infektionsschutz.de/coronavirus/schutzimpfung/impfung-bei-kindern-und-jugendlichen/#c15820

You can find more information about the recommended vaccine here:

https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Impfen/ImpfungenAZ/COVID-19/Impfempfehlung-Zusfassung.html

Booster

The **protection** provided by the vaccine **gets weaker over time.** Breakthrough infections can happen. A **breakthrough infection** is when a fully vaccinated person becomes infected with COVID-19. Even if you become infected with COVID-19 after receiving the vaccination, the coronavirus vaccination still protects you from becoming critically ill with the disease.

Vaccination protection is increased again with a booster vaccination dose.

The STIKO therefore recommends that young people aged between 12 and 17 have the **mRNA-based Comirnaty®** booster within a **period of three to six months** of the second vaccination dose.

What if I have already had COVID-19?

If you have already been infected with coronavirus or have been ill with COVID-19, it is usually recommended to **wait about three months before getting vaccinated**.

It is also possible for a person to become infected with coronavirus **after having the first vaccination dose**. The STIKO then usually recommends waiting another three months before having the second vaccination dose.

In some cases, however, the vaccination can already be administered **from four weeks** after the symptoms of the disease have gone.

A **booster dose** is recommended within a period of three to six months after the second vaccination dose, irrespective of the date of infection.

Contact your doctor if you have any questions about the coronavirus vaccination following past infection with coronavirus.

How do mRNA-based vaccines work against coronavirus in my body?

Our infographic shows how mRNA-based vaccines work to protect your body from becoming critically ill with COVID-19!

How safe is the coronavirus vaccination for me?

The vaccines are thoroughly tested before they are approved. Even after they are approved, their safety and possible side effects are regularly **tested.**

The vaccines are usually **well tolerated.** The usual **reactions to vaccinations** are common, such as pain at the site of injection, fatigue, headache or fever. These reactions usually disappear after a few days. Serious **side effects** are **very rare.**

As is the case with all vaccinations, some people may have **allergic reactions**, but this is rare. Please therefore **let your doctor** know before the vaccination if you have already experienced an allergic reaction. The latest information on side effects is provided in the Information leaflet on mRNA vaccines* from the Robert Koch Institute (RKI). This leaflet is kept updated.

Where can I get vaccinated?

You can get vaccinated at paediatric surgeries, by company doctors, at vaccination centres, at public health departments or by mobile vaccination teams. In the future, you can also be vaccinated at some pharmacies. Look out for advertisements and notices in your local press as well as information on the website of your town or city. In some federal states, you can also arrange an appointment by calling the telephone number 116 117. The vaccination is free of charge.

Why do the hygiene rules continue to be so important for vaccinated and unvaccinated people?

The coronavirus vaccination **provides a good level of protection from critical disease.** It is not, however, one hundred percent effective. Even if you **do not have any symptoms**, you can still transmit coronavirus and infect other people.

It is important to continue to follow the Hands. Face. Space + Fresh Air + App rules even after vaccination: Maintain physical distance (**A**bstand halten), follow hygiene rules (**H**ygiene beachten), wear a face mask during day-to-day activities (**A**lltag mit Maske), air out rooms you are in (**L**üften) and use the Corona-Warn app. **Limit contact with others** and do a coronavirus test before meeting high-risk people (even if you do not have any symptoms).

* Link: https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Impfen/Materialien/ Downloads-COVID-19/Aufklaerungsbogen-de.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

Questions? More services from the BZgA. For you.

infektionsschutz.de/corona-schutzimpfung

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