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This **information** is available in **Ukrainian** and **English**, as well as in **plain language**.



# Coronavirus vaccination in Germany

## General guidance

This leaflet provides important information on the COVID-19 vaccines approved in Germany and their modes of action. This guide is intended to assist you in making a decision about vaccination against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.

### General information on coronavirus vaccination in Germany

In Germany, people aged 5 years and older can be **vaccinated** against the coronavirus **free of charge** after medical advice.

Several vaccines have been tested for their safety and efficacy in the European Union to protect the population against the coronavirus. These vaccines are evaluated by the German Standing Committee on Vaccination (STIKO). This is an independent commission of experts charged with making recommendations about vaccination.

There are 3 types of COVID-19 vaccines available in Germany: mRNA vaccines, vector vaccines and a protein vaccine. There is also a lower-dose mRNA children's vaccine for children between 5 and 11 years of age.

Have you been vaccinated with a **vaccine that is not approved in the EU** (e.g. Sinovac or Sputnik)? We then advise you to be re-vaccinated with a **vaccine approved in the EU**. This is possible 4 weeks after your last vaccination. A doctor or health care professional can provide advice on vaccination.



### mRNA vaccines: Comirnaty® (BioNTech/Pfizer) and Spikevax® (Moderna)

mRNA vaccines contain the **blueprint (mRNA)** for the so-called **spike protein of the coronavirus**. After vaccination, this blueprint is carried into some cells of the body and read there. The cells of the body then produce spike proteins themselves. These proteins are recognised as being foreign by the immune system. The immune system forms antibodies and defence cells to combat the spike protein and thus also the coronavirus, which produces a **protective immune response**. The mRNA contained in the vaccine is rapidly degraded in the body.

### Vaccination recommendation for Comirnaty® (BioNTech/Pfizer)

**Primary immunisation is provided by two vaccinations** (3 to 6 weeks apart). **The vaccine is recommended** for:

- **Adolescents from 12 years of age and adults**, including pregnant women from the second trimester of pregnancy onwards and breastfeeding mothers,
- **Children between 5 and 11 years of age** with an underlying health condition and who have contact with people at risk of developing a more severe disease. After medical advice, all other children aged 5 years and older can also be vaccinated with the (lower-dose) mRNA children's vaccine Comirnaty®.

### Vaccination recommendation for Spikevax® (Moderna)

**Primary immunisation is provided by two vaccinations** (4 to 6 weeks apart). **The vaccine is recommended** for people **aged 30 and over** (with the exception of pregnant women).



You can find more information on vaccination with mRNA vaccines in the RKI information leaflet in Ukrainian

[www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Impfen/Materialien/Downloads-COVID-19/Aufklaerungsbogen-Ukrainisch.pdf](http://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Impfen/Materialien/Downloads-COVID-19/Aufklaerungsbogen-Ukrainisch.pdf)





### The protein vaccine Nuvaxovid® (Novavax)

The Nuvaxovid® vaccine contains spike proteins that have been synthetically produced. After vaccination, the spike proteins are recognised as being foreign by the immune system. The immune system forms antibodies and defence cells to combat the spike protein and thus also the **coronavirus**, which produces a protective immune response.

#### Vaccination recommendation for Nuvaxovid®

**Primary immunisation is provided by two vaccinations** (at least 3 weeks apart). The vaccine is recommended for people **18 years or older**, but not for pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and people with immune deficiency.

In individual cases, Nuvaxovid® can be administered on medical advice if there are medical reasons why a person cannot be vaccinated with mRNA vaccines.



You can find more information on vaccination with Nuvaxovid® in the RKI information leaflet in Ukrainian



[www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Impfen/Materialien/Downloads-COVID-19-Proteinimpfstoff/Aufklaerungsbogen-Ukrainisch.pdf](http://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Impfen/Materialien/Downloads-COVID-19-Proteinimpfstoff/Aufklaerungsbogen-Ukrainisch.pdf)



The BZgA also has **additional concise and understandable information on vaccination against the coronavirus in Ukrainian:**



- for [adults](#),
- for [children aged between 5 and 11](#),
- for [children aged 12 and over](#).



### The Janssen® COVID-19 vector vaccine (Johnson & Johnson)

The Janssen® COVID-19 vector vaccine contains so-called **vector viruses**. A vector virus cannot multiply and cannot be transmitted to other people. The vector virus contains the **blueprint** for the coronavirus spike protein. After vaccination, this blueprint is carried into some cells of the body and is **read** there. The cells of the body then produce the spike protein themselves. The spike proteins are recognised as being foreign by the immune system. The immune system forms antibodies and defence cells to combat the spike protein and thus also the **coronavirus**, which produces a protective immune response. The vector virus degrades after a short time and no further spike proteins are produced.

#### Vaccination recommendation for Janssen®

**Primary immunisation** is provided with **one** vaccination with the Janssen® vector vaccine and a **second vaccination with an mRNA vaccine** (at least 4 weeks after the first vaccination). The vaccine is **recommended** for people **aged 60 and over**.

If there are medical reasons for a person being unable to or not wishing to take mRNA vaccines, after a medical consultation Janssen® or Nuvaxovid® can be administered to **optimise primary vaccination or as the first booster dose**.



You can find more information on vaccination with vector vaccines in the RKI information leaflet in Ukrainian



[www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Impfen/Materialien/Downloads-COVID-19-Vektorimpfstoff/Aufklaerungsbogen-Ukrainisch.pdf](http://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Impfen/Materialien/Downloads-COVID-19-Vektorimpfstoff/Aufklaerungsbogen-Ukrainisch.pdf)





## Boosting vaccine protection after primary vaccination

The German Standing Committee on Vaccination (STIKO) recommends that **all people over the age of 12** receive a booster vaccination. The booster dose should be given to everyone **aged 18 or over** after 3 months, and after 3 to 6 months for **children** and adolescents (depending on their age and possible underlying health conditions).

A **second booster dose** with an mRNA vaccine is recommended 3 months after the first booster dose for people **aged 70 years and older** and for people with an **immune deficiency** (5 years of age and older).

[Other vaccination recommendations](#) may apply if you have already had the coronavirus.

- If you have already been infected with the coronavirus and are then vaccinated, we recommend that you receive **one** booster dose (generally after 3 months).
- If you have become infected with the coronavirus after the first or second vaccination, you should also get **one** booster dose after around **3 months**.
- If you have become infected with the coronavirus after the first booster dose, we do **not** recommend a second booster dose at this time.

Please contact your doctor or health care professional if you have any questions about the coronavirus vaccination following infection with the coronavirus.

## How effective is vaccination?

All COVID-19 vaccines approved in Germany **provide good protection against serious and fatal infection by COVID-19**. Primary immunisation and a booster dose at the recommended intervals are important to achieve the best possible protection.

## What should I do before and after vaccination?

Please discuss with your doctor or health care professional if **you have allergies** or have a fear of vaccinations before going for your vaccination. Please inform health care personnel in advance if you have a clotting disorder or are taking anti-clotting **medication**.

**Avoid severe physical activity** in the first few days after vaccination.

You will only be protected from the virus some time after vaccination. Continue to adhere to the **HANDS-FACE-SPACE** rule after vaccination: keep your distance, practise good hygiene, wear a mask, ventilate rooms and use the Coronavirus Track and Trace app.

## What reactions or side effects to the vaccine can occur after vaccination?

The vaccines are **generally well tolerated**. You may notice normal vaccination reactions, such as pain at the injection site, fatigue, headaches, muscle aches, joint aches or even fever. After consulting your doctor, you may take medication to relieve pain and lower your fever should you experience pain or fever after vaccination. These symptoms usually disappear after a few days. Severe side effects may occur in rare cases.



**For more information on the coronavirus pandemic and the coronavirus vaccination in Ukrainian, visit**

[www.infektionsschutz.de/mediathek/materialien-auf-ukrainisch/](http://www.infektionsschutz.de/mediathek/materialien-auf-ukrainisch/)



The BZgA also has **additional concise and understandable information in Ukrainian:**



How to protect yourself against COVID-19:

[To the download](#)



Useful information about what to do should you become infected by the coronavirus:

[To the download](#)