



## Information sheet about coronavirus vaccination

### COVID-19 vaccination

The most important facts in brief:

- Coronavirus vaccination is free of charge. Including preparations and aftercare, vaccination will take about one hour.
- You will receive two vaccination doses several weeks apart. Immunity against the coronavirus will be established one week after the second dose.
- You will be informed when it is your turn to be vaccinated.
- You can't make an appointment by telephone or in person at vaccination centres.
- People in risk groups, as well as medical and care personnel, will be vaccinated first.
- If you experience side effects after your coronavirus vaccination, please contact the vaccination centre or your family doctor.

### The aim of coronavirus vaccination

The aim of vaccination is to protect against a certain disease. The coronavirus vaccination is intended to protect from getting COVID-19 in the first place, or to prevent progression to severe disease if you do get it.

Vaccination causes the body to make substances called antibodies. These antibodies are able to recognise the pathogen and induce our immune system to neutralise it. This means that people who are vaccinated can fight the coronavirus immediately if they become infected, and then they don't get sick with COVID-19, or at least not as severely.

### Why should you get vaccinated?

You don't have to get vaccinated; it is not compulsory. This means that you decide yourself whether you want to be vaccinated or not. However, there are several reasons to get vaccinated against coronavirus. Vaccination protects you and everyone else against getting sick with COVID-19. Only when as many people as possible have been vaccinated, can the number of those who get sick with COVID-19 be reduced so that the pandemic will eventually pass. You don't have to pay for vaccination.



## The order of priority for vaccination – who will be vaccinated when

Because there is only a limited amount of vaccine available at the moment, there is a set order for who will be vaccinated when. First to be vaccinated are those who need the vaccination most urgently. These groups include older people (over 60 years of age), those who care for, support and treat people who are sick or depend on care, contacts of pregnant persons and people depending on care, as well as people with existing illnesses.

There are four vaccination groups (1 to 4). You can look up your group in the table:

<b>Vaccination Group 1</b> <b>Highest priority</b>	<b>Vaccination Group 2</b> <b>High priority</b>	<b>Vaccination Group 3</b> <b>Elevated priority</b>	<b>Vaccination Group 4</b>
Over 80-year-olds	Over 70-year-olds	Over 60-year-olds	Healthy persons under 60 years of age
Residents of aged care and nursing homes	People with dementia, intellectual disability, neuro-muscular diseases and severe psychiatric disorders	People with existing illness (heart disease, diabetes or similar)	
Care personnel of inpatient, semi-inpatient and domiciliary care services	People with cancer or lung disease, people with a body mass index > 40	Staff in medical facilities with low exposure risk	
Staff in medical facilities with high exposure risk	People with severe diabetes or chronic liver/kidney disease	People in relevant positions in government institutions	
Medical employees caring for people at high risk	Patients after organ transplantation	People in relevant positions in companies and critical infrastructure	
	2 close contacts of pregnant persons and of certain care-dependent people	People working in the grocery retail sector	
	Staff and residents of refugee and homeless facilities	Personnel in child and adolescent services facilities, as well as in schools, who are not captured in Vaccination Group 2	
	Personnel in child care facilities, children's family day care, in primary and special education schools (Sonderschulen, Förderschulen)	People at strongly elevated risk of infection because of their working and living conditions	
	Personnel caring for people with intellectual disability		
	Doctors and other personnel with regular patient contact, blood and plasma donation services, complementary medicine practitioners with high exposure risk		
	Police and public order personnel with a high risk of infection		
	People in public health services		

Source: <https://corona.rlp.de/de/impfen>



## Where do the vaccinations take place?

**Currently, you will receive your vaccination in specially established vaccination centres.** Mobile vaccination teams visit accommodation facilities for refugees and residential care facilities to vaccinate people locally. **In a second phase, it is intended that vaccinations will also be carried out in doctor's practices.**

## Appointments:

If you are currently living or working in an accommodation facility for refugees, the medical personnel will visit the facility to vaccinate you. In this case, you don't need to make an appointment at a vaccination centre. Please enquire at your accommodation facility.

Otherwise, i.e. if you are living in your own apartment, how you make an appointment for vaccination depends on the federal state (Bundesland) you are in. In some federal states, you will receive an invitation letter by mail, or you will be informed by your employer. If you have received an invitation letter, you can make a vaccination appointment online or by telephone. Other federal states provide information on websites and in the press about who can be vaccinated when.

In most federal states, appointments are made via the online portal

<https://www.impfterminservice.de/impftermine> or by dialling the number 1 16 1 17.

You can find comprehensive information about making an appointment on the internet pages of your respective federal state (Bundesland):

**Please only go to the vaccination centre if you have an appointment.**

**You can only be vaccinated if you have an appointment!**

## Please do not get vaccinated if

- You are younger than 16 years
- You are pregnant (if you are at increased risk of infection, e.g. because of your occupation, please speak to a doctor about balancing the risks and benefits of coronavirus vaccination)
- You have a fever or
- You are allergic to one of the components of the vaccine.

## Documents required for vaccination

To be vaccinated, you must bring proof of your identity, for example an identity card (Personalausweis) or passport. For residents of refugee accommodation facilities and residential care facilities, the facilities will provide documentation. Persons who are eligible for vaccination

on the basis of their occupation require a certificate from their employer.

Please also bring your **appointment confirmation when you attend for vaccination and, if you have them, your vaccination record (Impfpass) and your health insurance card.**



## This is how vaccination happens

First, the medical personnel will record your personal data. Then, a doctor will inform and advise you comprehensively about the vaccination.

Please tell the doctor if you are feeling sick or if you are pregnant, if you have an allergy, previously had an adverse reaction to a vaccination, or if you have received another vaccination in the past two weeks.

You will only be vaccinated if you expressly consent to the vaccination, and if no complications are apparent. You will receive the vaccination only after you have signed the consent form confirming your wish to be vaccinated.

Vaccination proceeds similarly to other vaccinations: normally, you will receive an injection into your upper arm. Afterwards, you will remain **in the observation area for up to 30 minutes for monitoring**. This ensures that you are feeling well before you go back home.

**For the vaccine to be effective, you have to receive two doses of the vaccine.** Several weeks should pass between the first and second vaccine dose. Only then will the vaccine be fully effective. The process for the second vaccine dose is identical to that for the first dose.

Even if you are protected from getting sick with COVID-19 after the second dose, **you may still be able to pass the virus on** and infect other people. **It is therefore important that you keep to the hygiene rules, even after your second vaccination dose:** wear a mask, wash your hands frequently and keep your distance from others.

## Vaccine reactions and side effects

Most people tolerate the vaccination well. But some people experience mild discomfort after vaccination, e.g. swelling, redness or pain at the injection site, fever, fatigue, headache or joint pain, diarrhoea or vomiting.

These kinds of reactions, however, are a good sign that the vaccination is working. They mostly occur within two days of vaccination, and rarely last for more than one or two days.

So far, severe and life-threatening side effects have occurred extremely rarely.

However, if you are developing long-lasting pain or severe side effects after vaccination, call a doctor without delay.

## Further information

For questions regarding vaccinations, you can turn to the **central vaccination hotline of the Federal Ministry for Health: 116 117**

General information and answers to frequently asked questions on the topic of coronavirus and coronavirus vaccination can be found on the following websites:

[Bundesministerium für Gesundheit: Informationen zum Impfen](#)

[Integrationsbeauftragte der Bundesregierung: Informationen zum Coronavirus in unterschiedlichen Sprachen](#)

[Robert Koch-Institut: Infoblatt zur Corona Impfung mit Vektorimpfstoffen](#)

[Robert Koch-Institut: Infoblatt zur Corona Impfung mit mRNA-Impfstoffen](#)