What you need to know about the coronavirus vaccination for your child
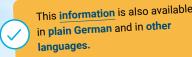
Information for parents and guardians

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

This leaflet contains important information on the **coronavirus vaccination for 12 to 17-year-olds.** This information and a short checklist are intended to help you and your child decide whether to have the coronavirus vaccination.

Last updated: 28 January 2022

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 your child from **becoming critically ill with COVID-19 and from its possible long-term effects,** such as long COVID.

Is the vaccination recommended for my child?

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 conditions**

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

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

The vaccination should be given **following an explanation** of the benefits and risks by a doctor or healthcare professional. Ask your doctor or healthcare professional to advise you and your child.

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

For those aged between 12 and 17 in Germany, the **mRNA-vaccine Comirnaty ® 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:

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 the booster vaccination.

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

ⓘ **You can find more information about the booster vaccination here:**
www.infektionsschutz.de/coronavirus/
schutzimpfung/auffrischimpfung-gegen-covid-19/

What if my child has already had COVID-19?

If your child has already been infected with coronavirus or has 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.

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

How safe is the coronavirus vaccination for my child?

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, such as myocardial or pericardium inflammation, are **very rare**. These side effects can also happen when you are ill with COVID-19 and are generally easily treatable. Inflammation mostly occurred within 14 days of the vaccination dose, often after the second vaccination dose and in young men in particular.

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 your child has 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 and how can I get my child vaccinated?

You can get your child vaccinated at paediatric surgeries, by company doctors, at vaccination centres, at public health departments or by mobile vaccination teams. In the future, children can also be vaccinated at some pharmacies. Look out for advertisements and notices in your local newspapers 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.

ⓘ **Information for your child and a leaflet on the coronavirus vaccination for children aged 5 and over can be found here:**
www.infektionsschutz.de/coronavirus/
materialienmedien/corona-schutzimpfung/

ⓘ **Further information:**

↗ Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA):
www.infektionsschutz.de/corona-schutzimpfung

↗ Together against coronavirus:
www.zusammengegencorona.de/impfen/familien/

↗ Federal Ministry of Health:
www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronavirus/

↗ Robert Koch Institute:
www.rki.de

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

Checklist

The following checklist may help you to make a joint and informed decision with your child about their vaccination

✓ My child is 12 years of age or older.　　　　　　　　　Yes ☐　No ☐

✓ The vaccination is particularly important for my child because they suffer from a pre-existing condition. The STIKO particularly recommends the coronavirus vaccination for people with this pre-existing condition.　　　　　　　　　Yes ☐　No ☐

✓ My child comes in close contact with vulnerable people who would be at particularly high risk of contracting a severe illness were they to be infected with coronavirus.　　　　　　　　　Yes ☐　No ☐

✓ My child is at an increased risk of becoming infected with coronavirus due to their training or occupation, or comes into contact with particularly vulnerable people through their occupation.　　　　　　　　　Yes ☐　No ☐

✓ My child would like to have the coronavirus vaccination to protect themself from critical COVID-19 illness and the possible effects. I have talked calmly with my child about the coronavirus vaccination.　　　　　　　　　Yes ☐　No ☐

ℹ 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 (AHA+L+A) 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 the rooms you are in (**L**üften) and use the Corona-Warn **a**pp. **Limit contact** with others and do a coronavirus test before meeting high-risk people (even if you do not have any symptoms).

Questions? More services from the BZgA:

infektionsschutz.de/ corona-schutzimpfung

facebook.com/bzga.de

0800 232 27 83
free BZgA hotline

www.bzga-k.de/youtube