



Questions and answers about vaccination

Why should I get vaccinated against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus?

COVID-19 is a serious disease that can lead to severe infections and even death. Some patients continue to suffer from symptoms such as exhaustion, shortness of breath or loss of the sense of smell and taste (long-COVID) long after the infection. Those who contract COVID-19 can - even without knowing it - infect their friends, colleagues and family members. The best protection against COVID infection is vaccination. Those who get vaccinated protect themselves and make an important contribution to the common fight against the coronavirus.

Is it possible to offer vaccination to all citizens in Germany in the summer?

Yes. From June, anyone who wants to can make an appointment for vaccination - regardless of age, pre-existing conditions or profession. According to current knowledge, everyone in Germany can be offered vaccination during the summer.

Do I have to get vaccinated?

No. Vaccination is voluntary. However, vaccination is the best protection against the coronavirus. Vaccination is also an important contribution to the common fight against the virus.

How safe are COVID-19 vaccines?

All vaccines approved in Europe by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) are safe and effective. Extensive studies on the tolerability, safety and efficacy of the vaccines were carried out prior to approval.

What side effects can occur after vaccination?

As with any vaccination, vaccine reactions and side effects can occur after COVID-19 vaccination. These usually occur shortly after vaccination and last for a few days. The most common pain is at the injection site on the arm. Many people are tired after a vaccination, have a headache or a slight fever.

When can I make an appointment for my vaccination?

Vaccination prioritisation ends on 7 June, making it possible for everyone - regardless of age, previous illness or occupation - to be vaccinated. You can make an appointment with your GP or specialist practice. There may also be vaccinations with the company doctor in your company. The allocation of a vaccination appointment is dependent on the availability of vaccines.

Will the vaccination cost me anything?

Vaccination is free of charge for citizens, regardless of their insurance status.

Is vaccination being prioritised in some areas?

Yes. The Ministry of Health has made additional quantities of vaccine available for certain regions where incidences are particularly high and people live in cramped

housing conditions. In these cities and municipalities, so-called "urban district vaccinations" are carried out. Please check with the local authorities about the exact procedure.

Can pregnant women get vaccinated?

Pregnant women can consult their gynaecologist to find out whether they should be vaccinated.

Does vaccination lead to infertility in women?

Before the vaccines were approved, they were extensively tested. There is no evidence that women could become infertile because of the vaccination.

It was circulating on social media that a corona vaccination could render women infertile because spike proteins of the coronavirus and the protein syncytin-1, which is responsible for the formation of the placenta, are similar. From this it was concluded: if the body of the vaccinated person forms antibodies against the spike protein of the coronavirus after vaccination, these are also directed against the syncytin-1 protein and thus impair the formation of a placenta. However, because the similarity between the two proteins is so minimal, a cross-reaction of the COVID-19 vaccine can be ruled out.

Can the Corona vaccine cause diseases like cancer?

No, there is no evidence for that.

Is it true that the vaccines have microchips in them?

Such assumptions are conspiracy myths, not facts. This assertion is not true. Research on COVID-19 vaccines is conducted by independent scientists. Their aim is to develop a good protective vaccine against COVID-19.

Which pre-existing conditions prevent me from being vaccinated?

So far, there are no known special restrictions due to pre-existing conditions beyond the usual recommendations/restrictions for other vaccinations.

As with other vaccinations, you should not be acutely seriously ill, for example, you should not have a fever above 38.5°C. In case of allergy to components of the vaccines, a different vaccine should be used if necessary. This is the subject of the educational talk before the vaccination.

Cases of the mutated Corona variant have also occurred in Germany. Do the vaccines also protect against this mutated pathogen?

The effectiveness against mutations and thus the protection are continuously being investigated. So far, there are no indications that the approved vaccines might not also protect against severe courses of the new mutations.

When will the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus be defeated?

The coronavirus will affect our lives for some time to come. If enough people are fully vaccinated, it is very likely that we will be able to live with the virus in the same way as with other viral diseases for which there are vaccines.

If I am under 60 years old, can I still get vaccinated with AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine?

The use of the AstraZeneca vaccine below the age limit of 60 years remains possible

in principle after medical information and with individual risk acceptance of the person to be vaccinated.

If I am under 60 years old, can I still get vaccinated with Johnson&Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine?

The use of the Johnson&Johnson vaccine below the age limit of 60 years remains possible in principle after medical information and with individual risk acceptance of the person to be vaccinated.

Stay informed - stay healthy!

More information: www.impfen.nrw