



INFORMATION ABOUT THE CORONA-VACCINE STATUS: 10.05.2021

UPDATE 17.05.2021:

Since the 17.05.2021 the prioritization for the vaccine was cancelled for family doctors/general practitioners in Berlin. That means everyone can try to get an appointment for any of the vaccines at family doctors/general practitioners who offer vaccines against Corona. You can try to get an appointment on this website: <https://sofort-impfen.de/> . You have to register with your post code and an emailaddress and will receive an email if there's an appointment available.

Unfortunately it is still very hard and can take some time to get an appointment.

Is the corona vaccine mandatory?

The corona vaccine is not mandatory.

You can decide for yourself if you want to get vaccinated.

The vaccination is strongly recommended. It's very safe and can protect you from getting seriously ill with Corona (Covid-19).

The pandemic will be over sooner if many people get vaccinated.

What happens at a vaccination site?

1. You show your vaccination invitation and sometimes your passport/personal ID
2. You will go to a waiting area and receive information materials.
3. A doctor talks to you about the benefits and the risks of the vaccination. If you don't have any questions, you will sign a document saying that you understood everything.
4. You get the vaccine. The vaccine is injected into your upper arm. Tell your doctor which arm you use less because your arm can hurt for 1-2 days afterwards.
5. You wait for 15 minutes in another waiting area. You can leave afterwards.

You have to wear a mask every step of the way. You can also wash or disinfect your hands
Please bring your vaccination passport/certificate for your appointment. (Don't worry if you don't have a vaccination passport/certificate. You will get a document as confirmation.)

You will also get an appointment for your second vaccination. Every vaccine needs a different time between the two vaccinations:

BioNTech: 6 weeks

Moderna: 6 weeks

AstraZeneca: 12 weeks

You will usually get the same vaccine on your second appointment.

Example: After getting vaccinated with BioNTech at your first appointment you come back after 6 weeks to your second appointment and vaccination with BioNTech.

Can something bad happen if I get vaccinated?

The vaccination is very safe. Serious side effects are very rare (about one person in 100 000).

What do I do if I feel sick afterwards?

Every vaccination can lead to minor side effects, it is normal.

They usually start after the vaccination and end after 1-2 days. This is the same for the Covid-vaccination. These body-reactions show that the body (immune system) is responding to the vaccination. They are a sign that the body is making important antibodies against the coronavirus and are not dangerous.

Some people may experience these reactions:

BioNTech, Moderna

often:

- arm: swelling, pain
- headache and muscle pain
- joint pain
- chills
- fever
- exhaustion
- nausea
- local redness at the puncture
- malaise
- swelling of the lymph nodes

AstraZeneca

often:

- arm: pressure sensitivity and pain
- headache and muscle pain
- joint pain

- chills
- increased temperature, fever
- exhaustion
- vomiting, diarrhea
- there have been very rare cases of blood clots (thrombosis) in people under 60 years old

When does the vaccination take effect?

14 days after the second vaccination the full vaccination protection takes effect.

Does the corona vaccine make me immune?

Protection given by vaccination with BioNTech/Moderna:

A vaccination with BioNTech and Moderna protects up to 95% against all Corona symptoms and 100% against a severe Corona disease. It is very effective. There is only a very small risk of getting Corona.

Protection given by vaccination with AstraZeneca:

The AstraZeneca's vaccine is up to 80% effective. This means that it protects up to 80% against all symptoms of Corona and 100% against a severe Corona disease. At the present moment (pandemic) the benefit of a vaccination with AstraZeneca is much greater than the risk of side effects in all age groups. The older a person the better is it to decide to take AstraZeneca.

Nevertheless, in very rare cases, also fully vaccinated people could continue to infect others. This means that even people who have already been vaccinated must continue to wear masks and social distance in order to protect everyone.

How long does the corona vaccine last?

Scientists are still studying how long the protection from the vaccine will last. But it lasts at least 6 months, probably even a year or longer.

I had this specific condition/illness once – is that bad?

If you have been tested positive for Corona in the last 6 months or if you currently have a fever above 38,5°C, you should not get vaccinated for now.

If you have any allergies against parts in the vaccines, talk to your doctor which vaccine

you should get.

A vaccination while being pregnant for at least 12 weeks or during breastfeeding is possible and safe based on the current data, the decision is made by the doctor.

There are no other restrictions for the vaccination.

When do I get vaccinated?

As long as there are not enough corona vaccines, people who are at risk for severe Corona conditions get their appointments first. The same goes for people that are working with elderly people or vulnerable patients. There is a plan in Germany that divides people into 3 groups. People from Group 1 receive a vaccination first, then people in Group 2 and then in Group 3. Once these three groups have been vaccinated, everybody else can get a vaccine.

It is already possible for everyone to get vaccinated with AstraZeneca.

Who is in Group 1?

- people older than 80 years
- people who live or work in a nursing home
- people who work as a caregiver for the elderly
- people who work in a medical environment where contact to covid-19-patients is possible
- people who work with very vulnerable people (oncology, transplant medicine)

Who is in Group 2?

- people between 70-80 years old
- people with mental disabilities
- people with down syndrome
- people with dementia
- doctors in hospitals
- contacts of pregnant women
- people who need an organ transplant (f.e. a new heart or a new kidney)
- contacts of people in the risk group

Who is in Group 3?

- people between 60-70 years old
- people with these conditions: kidney diseases, liver diseases, heart diseases, lung diseases, high blood pressure, HIV or AIDS, diabetes, cancer, stroke, rheumatism, immunocompromised, overweight people (BMI>30)
- people working in the following jobs:
 - police officers
 - teachers
 - pre-school/kindergarten/nursery teachers

- employees in a laboratory
- sales people/sellers in shops (also in bakery, butchery etc.)
- working in pharmacy
- undertaker
- waste collection
- bus/train-driver
- working in constitutional body, justice/law or embassy/as diplomat
- water/energy-supply
- telecommunication and information

- electoral assistants for 2021
- people living in a collective accommodation or shelter
- people who as caregiver for people of group 3

Can I choose a specific corona vaccine?

A vaccination with AstraZeneca is recommended for people over 60 years of age. If you are younger, you can still get vaccinated with AstraZeneca at your own request after a talking to a doctor. There is no longer any prioritization for the AstraZeneca vaccine. This means that every person in Germany can now make an appointment for a vaccination.

Where do I sign up for a vaccination with BioNTech or Moderna?

If you are in Group 1, 2 or 3, you need to make an appointment: Call this number 030/90 2822 00 or go to service.berlin.de/corona. You may have to wait a long time on the phone and might only get an appointment in a few weeks.

An appointment is needed so that not too many people come at the same time. It's less dangerous to get infected with fewer people around.

You have to bring a passport/ID.

If you are in Group 1, 2 or 3 because of an illness or condition you need a certificate from your doctor. Ask your doctor about the certificate so you can get vaccinated.

If you are in Group 1, 2 or 3 because of your job you get a certificate from your work. Your personal information and your work address should be on the certificate.

Sometimes your family doctor/general practitioner has vaccines as well, ask them.

Where do I get vaccinated?

You usually go to a vaccination site on your appointment. When you make the appointment they will tell you where to go.

You can also get vaccinated by your family doctor/general practitioner since April. Make an appointment by phone or online just like you would with regular doctor appointments.

Only family doctors/general practitioners vaccinate AstraZeneca!

Everybody can sign up for a AstraZeneca vaccine, even if you are not in Group 1, 2 or 3. Here is a [list](#) of all doctors that offer vaccinations. You can call them and have them put you on a waiting list.

Do I have to pay for a corona vaccine?

The vaccination is free of charge for everybody in Germany.

How does BioNTech/Moderna work?

The vaccine consists of mRNA. It's like a construction manual for very small parts of the human body - the proteins.

The mRNA vaccine contains instructions for a very small particle on the surface of the corona virus (spike protein), which on its own is not dangerous and cannot infect anyone. These small particles are then built in the body for a short time because the building instructions have been vaccinated. The small particles are recognized by the body as not normal and it begins to form antibodies. In addition, the immune cells are trained. The body can react faster and better. From this point on you are protected against the Coronavirus.

The mRNA of the vaccine is destroyed after a while - it does not stay in the body and is not converted or implemented into the DNA.

How does AstraZeneca work?

The vaccine consists of a modified virus that is no longer contagious and in which the instructions for a small particle on the surface of the Coronavirus (spike protein) have been planted. This virus and the small corona particle cannot multiply in humans and no one can get sick from it.

However, the body recognizes the changed virus and the small corona particle and begins to form antibodies.

When a real Coronavirus hits the body, it already knows how to build antibodies (this is called immunological memory, because the immune system is building the antibodies).

Now it is way harder for the Coronavirus to multiply in the body. This means once people are vaccinated with AstraZeneca, people will no longer get sick. Very rarely they can still get infected, but they get only some or no symptoms at all.

References:

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