PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

COVID-19 VACCINATION

General information on COVID-19 vaccination

Is the vaccination effective and safe?
In Switzerland, every vaccine needs an authorisation and a recommendation. For this, it has to meet high standards of safety, efficacy and quality. Swissmedic, the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products, has carefully assessed and authorised the vaccine against COVID-19. It is safe and it works. Several tens of thousands of people have received the vaccine in clinical trials. It is also safe and effective in the elderly and those with chronic illnesses. The trials have not shown any serious side effects to date (mid-December 2020). Swissmedic will continue to monitor the safety and efficacy of the vaccine.

In general: The risk of serious side effects after the vaccination is much lower than the risk of experiencing serious illness after being infected with the coronavirus.

Who should not be vaccinated?
We do not recommend the COVID-19 vaccination for the following:
- People with a severe, confirmed allergy to an ingredient of the vaccine (particularly PEG).
- Pregnant women
  No information on vaccination in pregnancy has been obtained to date.
- Children and adolescents under the age of 16.
  No information on vaccination in this age group has been obtained to date.

Please note: If you have a high temperature or are felling ill or unwell, postpone your vaccination. If you are waiting for a COVID-19 test result, are in isolation or in quarantine, then delay your vaccination until you are free to leave the house.

Where and when can I be vaccinated?
The federal government has drawn up a vaccination strategy and vaccination recommendations. The cantons are responsible for vaccination. You can obtain the relevant information from your cantonal website or infoline *(www.foph-coronavirus.ch/cantons),* or from your doctor or pharmacist.

What happens during the vaccination?
You receive an injection in the upper arm.

How many injections do I need to be fully immunised?
Two injections are needed. You can receive the second injection about four weeks after the first.

Important: You must receive both injections in order to obtain the best possible protection.

How does the vaccination protect me?
Your body gradually builds up protection against COVID-19. This takes up to a week or so after the second injection. The vaccination strengthens your body's defences. It helps your body fight the virus. Immunisation greatly lowers the risk of contracting COVID-19.

Important: Complete protection is not possible. Some people can still get COVID-19 despite being vaccinated. The vaccination increases your chances of avoiding a serious illness.
You can find further details on how the vaccination works here: *www.foph-coronavirus.ch/mrna*

How long does the immunisation last?
We still don't know. The manufacturers are currently investigating how long the vaccination provides protection. We may have to recommend further vaccination after a certain period of time.

www.foph-coronavirus.ch/vaccination   COVID-19 vaccination infoline: 058 377 88 92

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Can I get COVID-19 due to the vaccination?

No. You do not get COVID-19 as a result of the vaccination. The vaccine does not contain any coronaviruses. Please note: Keep following the rules on hygiene and social distancing both before and after any vaccination.

Are there any side effects?

Side effects can occur with any vaccination. They are usually mild and pass quickly. Serious side effects are very rare. These include, for example, a serious allergic reaction directly after the vaccination.

What side effects are possible?

- The injection site can become inflamed, painful or swollen.
- Headaches
- Tiredness
- Muscle and joint pains
- General symptoms such as shivering, feeling feverish or a mild fever

These side effects are common after any vaccination. Since they indicate that the body is building up vaccine protection, they are a good sign even when they are mild.
An allergic reaction is typically associated with swelling, redness, itching or shortness of breath. You should contact your doctor immediately if you experience such symptoms.

How long can side effects last?

The side effects usually disappear within a few days. If you are still experiencing side effects after a week, or if they get worse or cause you concern, contact your doctor.

What must I do after the vaccination?

You have received the first injection. You should immediately arrange an appointment for the second injection around four weeks later.

Please remember: Keep following the rules on hygiene and social distancing.

I am vaccinated. Can I infect other people with COVID-19?

The vaccination protects you against COVID-19. But we don't yet know whether the vaccination stops you infecting others. So it is still possible that you are able to infect others despite being vaccinated and having no symptoms. You should therefore keep following the rules on hygiene and social distancing.

Who pays for the vaccination?

Your vaccination is free of charge. Your health insurer pays for part of the vaccination. The federal government and the cantons will pay for the remainder.

Is the vaccination voluntary?

Yes. Vaccinations are voluntary in Switzerland. There are no plans for compulsory vaccination.

Where can I find further information?

You can find further information on COVID-19 vaccination on the FOPH website (*www.foph-coronavirus.ch/vaccination*) or ask your doctor or pharmacist.

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