Information on the COVID-19 vaccination

Since December 2020, it is possible to be vaccinated against the Covid 19 virus in Switzerland. Here you will find the most important questions and answers about the vaccination.

This is how we protect ourselves.

Is the vaccination effective? And is the vaccination safe?

Yes. The vaccination against the Covid 19 virus is effective. And the vaccination is safe. The Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products Swissmedic has investigated this in detail. Only then did it approve the vaccination.

The vaccine has been tested on many thousands of people. The studies show: The vaccination works. And the vaccination in safe. Also for older people and for people with pre-existing illnesses.

The vaccination does not cause severe side effects. That's what the studies have shown so far. Swissmedic continues to monitor the safety and effectiveness of the vaccination.

Important: The risk of serious side effects after vaccination is very small. The risk of serious illness after infection with the Corona virus is much greater. For this reason, the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) recommends vaccination for certain people.

Who should get vaccinated?

According to the FOPH, the following people should get vaccinated:

1. Particularly vulnerable people such as the elderly and people with pre-existing illnesses. Important: Pregnant women are among those most at risk. However, they should not get vaccinated.
2. Hospital and nursing home staff who have contact with patients. And people who care for particularly vulnerable people.
3. Persons living in the same household as persons at particular risk.
4. The residents of workplaces, residential homes and residential groups where the risk of infection is particularly high. For example, from workplaces or homes of disabled people. And also the staff of these workplaces, homes and residential groups.
5. All other adults who want to be vaccinated.

People who have already had Covid 19 can also get vaccinated. However, you should not get vaccinated until three months after infection.

Important: Do you have a high fever? Are you sick? Are you not feeling well? Or are you waiting for the results of the Corona test? Or are you in isolation or quarantine? Then don't get vaccinated now. Reschedule the vaccination. However, get the vaccination as soon as possible.

www.sg.ch/coronavirus

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Who should not get vaccinated?

The FOPH does not recommend vaccination for the following people:
- People with a severe allergy to any component of the vaccine (especially polyethylene glycol (PEG))
- Pregnant women. So far, there are no studies on the vaccination of pregnant women. Therefore, it is not known how the vaccination affects the pregnancy. Or the unborn child.
- Children and adolescents under the age of 16. To date, there have been no studies on the vaccination of persons under 16 years of age. It is therefore not known how the vaccination will affect children and adolescents under the age of 16.

Where and when can you get vaccinated?

The cantons are responsible for vaccination. Information on vaccination in the canton of St.Gallen can be found at www.sg.ch. You can also ask your doctor or health care professional. Or you can ask at your local pharmacy.

How is the vaccination performed?

It is injected with a syringe in the upper arm.

How often do you need to get vaccinated?

Two vaccinations are required. The second vaccination should take place about 4 weeks after the first vaccination.

Important: Make sure to get both vaccinations. Only then are you as well protected as possible.

How does the vaccination protect you?

Vaccination helps your body fight the virus. Your body is building up a protection against the Covid 19 virus. However, your body needs a few weeks to do this.

About one week after the second vaccination, your body will have built up protection against the Covid 19 virus. Then your risk of getting Covid 19 is very small.

Important: Keep to these rules also after vaccination: Wash your hands. Wear a mask. And keep your distance. This is because some people can get Covid 19 even though they have been vaccinated. But most often vaccinated people do not become seriously ill.

Would you like more information about the effect of the vaccination? Then check out the website at www.bag-coronavirus.ch/mrna.

How long does the vaccination protect?

We don't know that yet. However, the manufacturers of the vaccine are currently researching it. Perhaps the FOPH will at some point recommend a third vaccination.

Can you get Covid 19 from the vaccination?

No. You can't get Covid 19 from the vaccination. There are no corona viruses in the vaccine.

Does the vaccination have side effects?

Any vaccination can have side effects. Most of the time, however, the side effects are mild. And usually the side effects are over quickly.

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What are the possible side effects?
These side effects are common:
- The injection site becomes red, painful or swollen.
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Pain in the muscles and joints
- General symptoms such as chills or low-grade fever

These side effects indicate that the body is building up protection against the COVID 19 virus.

Severe side effects are very rare. Severe side effects include, for example, a severe allergic reaction. In this case, swelling, redness, itching or shortness of breath occurs after the vaccination. Do you have any symptoms like that? Then please contact your doctor immediately!

How long can the side effects last?
Usually the side effects are over after a few days. Do you still have side effects after a week? Or are the side effects getting worse? Or are you worried? Then talk to your doctor.

What do you need to do after vaccination?
Have you received the first vaccination? Then please make an appointment right away for the second vaccination. The second vaccination should take place about 4 weeks after the first vaccination.

Important: Keep to these rules also after vaccination: Wash your hands. Wear a mask. And keep your distance.

You have been vaccinated. Can you still infect other people with Covid 19?
We don't know that yet. However, you may get a Covid 19 infection despite vaccination. But it is very unlikely that you will get infected. And if, you may only get mild symptoms. But maybe you can infect other people with the virus. Therefore, even after vaccination, follow these rules: Wash your hands. Wear a mask. And keep your distance.

Do you have to pay for the vaccination?
No. The vaccination is free of charge.

Is vaccination voluntary?
Yes. In Switzerland, vaccinations are voluntary.

Would you like more information about the Covid 19 vaccine?
You can find more information on the website of the Federal Office of Public Health: www.bag-coronavirus.ch/impfung. You can also call the Federal Infoline: 058 377 88 92.

Or you can ask your doctor.
You can also get more information at your pharmacy.

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