



For any questions regarding the Corona-vaccination please send an E-Mail to vaccination@bochum.de.

The vaccination Centre Bochum will be happy to answer all your questions in English. Appointments can also be made at www.116117.de.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to get vaccinated against Covid-19? Is the Corona vaccination compulsory?

No, there is no obligation to get vaccinated against Corona.

Do I have to pay for the Corona vaccination?

No, the vaccination will be free of charge for citizens regardless of whether they have health insurance. The cost of the vaccine will be paid by the federal government. The federal states, together with the statutory health insurance companies and private health insurance companies, will pay for the costs of running the vaccination centers.

Who should be vaccinated?

As of June 7, the prioritization of persons eligible for vaccination will no longer apply. This means that everyone in the state of Berlin who is eligible for vaccination can make an appointment with their general practitioners and specialist doctors, as well as in the Berlin Corona vaccination centers.

Since the approval of the vaccine BioNTech children over the age of 12 can also make an appointment for vaccination at doctors' practices or at the Corona vaccination centers. Please be patient when booking appointments, as currently the demand for vaccination is greater than the availability. As soon as there is more vaccine available there will be more appointments.

Why should I get vaccinated?

Vaccinations are the best way to protect yourself and others from infectious diseases like Corona. They also help prevent infectious diseases from spreading.

Do you get tested before vaccination (rapid test)?

No, you do not get a rapid Corona test before vaccination. Your body temperature may be measured.

Do I have to postpone my vaccination appointment if I am ill?

Yes, vaccination is not possible if you are ill. If you have any questions about your individual situation, please contact your doctor.

Do I have to have the 2nd vaccination if I had side effects after the first vaccination?

In such cases, please consult your doctor.

When is the second vaccination?

The interval between the first and second vaccination is three or four weeks, depending on the vaccine. This should be observed as closely as possible. When vaccination center appointments are made, the second appointment takes into account the correct interval.

What languages are spoken at the vaccination center?

It is planned that contact persons for the languages German, English, Turkish and Arabic will be available in the vaccination centers. Information materials will also be provided in various languages. In addition, it is possible to make use of telephone language mediation services at the vaccination center.

How long does a vaccination take?

Allow 1 - 1.5 hours (including a follow-up observation period).

Is there a need for a follow-up period at the center?

A 15-minute follow-up period is provided for medical reasons. A separate room with seating is available for this purpose.

What happens if I am found to have a raised temperature at the entrance to the vaccination center?

In this case, you will not be able to enter the vaccination center and will be asked to contact your doctor to find out the cause. The vaccination can be postponed to a later date. You can make a new appointment online on the following day or ring the vaccination hotline.

Where can I get information about the known side effects?

If there are new side effects, they are published on the RKI website. This is also pointed out in the information talk before the vaccination.

What should I do if I have side effects or complications after vaccination?

If you have side effects or complications related to the vaccination, please contact your doctor.

How long does the effect of the vaccination last?**When do you have to repeat the vaccination, or does it last a lifetime?**

It is not known yet how long the protection of the vaccines will last. It must be taken into account that the protective effect also depends on the vaccine used. New findings on the duration of the protective effect are published on the websites of the Federal Ministry of Health and the Robert Koch Institute.

Am I obliged to report any side effects of the Corona vaccination?

If you experience any side effects after vaccination, please contact your doctor.

According to Sections 6 and 8 of the infection protection act (Infektionsschutzgesetz – IfSG) only health professionals are obliged to report suspected adverse reactions to the relevant authority.

Citizens can report suspected adverse reactions voluntarily.

According to Section 6 (1) of the IfSG, a suspicion of damage to health which is more than a normal vaccination reaction must be reported to the public health department.

Do I have to avoid contact with other people for a while after the vaccination, e.g. babies, toddlers, people at risk or other people who have not yet been vaccinated?

No. However, vaccinated persons must also continue to comply with existing hygiene regulations.

Can anyone get vaccinated, including pregnant women or people with certain pre-existing conditions?

As there is not yet sufficient experience regarding these vaccinations, they are currently only recommended during pregnancy and breastfeeding after an individual risk-benefit assessment. Please clarify the possibility of vaccination in individual cases personally with your doctor.

Do I have the possibility to leave luggage in the vaccination center? What should I not bring?

Please do not carry any dangerous objects (knives, pepper spray, etc.).

How safe is the new Covid-19 vaccine?

Like any other vaccine, the new Corona virus vaccine is subject to intensive testing. The approval process is subject to strict scientific and public health controls, which means that this new vaccine also meets the high national and international quality requirements and will only be approved after sufficient testing.

How much protection can I expect from the vaccination?

According to approval studies, efficiency can be assumed to be above 90% for BioNTech and Moderna vaccines.

How does the vaccination protect? How does the vaccine work in the body?

According to current knowledge, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines (BioNTech and Moderna) provide high rates of efficacy of up to 95%. In order to provide sufficient protection, the vaccine must be administered twice. Vaccine protection presented in the clinical trials was calculated from 7 days (BioNTech) or 14 days (Moderna) after the 2nd vaccination. The probability of contracting COVID-19 was 95% and 94% lower in those vaccinated against COVID-19 than in those not vaccinated. For example, imagine that in an area with many active COVID-19 cases, there are about 20 cases per 1,000 people. In this situation, if some of the population in that area were then vaccinated, 20 out of every 1,000 unvaccinated persons would contract COVID-19, but only about 1 out of every 1,000 vaccinated persons would. Therefore, if a person vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine comes into contact with the pathogen, he or she is highly unlikely to become ill.

How long the vaccination protection lasts is currently not known. Protection also does not begin immediately after vaccination, and some vaccinated persons remain unprotected. In addition, it is not yet known whether the vaccination also protects against colonization with the pathogen SARS-CoV-2 or against transmission of the pathogen to other persons. Therefore, despite vaccination, it is necessary to protect yourself and others by following the Corona rules (social distancing, hygiene measures, mask wearing and ventilation).

What do I need to bring in order to be vaccinated?

The following documents are required so that you can be vaccinated:

- ID card, passport or residence permit
- Social security card
- Vaccination certificate (if available)
- Medical history form, consent form and information sheet

The medical history form, consent form and information sheet will no longer be sent with the vaccination invitation. Please bring the completed and signed documents with you to your vaccination appointment. You can find these documents on the Vaccination Against Corona (SARS-CoV-2) service page in the "Required Documents" section. If you do not have the possibility to download these documents, they are available at the vaccination centers.

Do I need to bring a vaccination certificate to the vaccination?

If you have a vaccination certificate, it is recommended that you bring it with you. This way, the vaccination can be documented in it right away. If you do not have a vaccination certificate with you, you will receive a separate certificate of vaccination. You can have the vaccination recorded in your vaccination certificate later by your family doctor.

I don't have a vaccination pass - can I still be vaccinated?

Yes, you can still be vaccinated. You will, in any case, receive a separate vaccination record card. Later, you can have the vaccination entered in the vaccination pass at your doctor's practice.

I lost the vaccination record card, can I still get the second vaccination?

Yes, you can still receive your second vaccination. The vaccination center where you received your first vaccination will document both of your vaccinations.

I have a high temperature, should I still come for the vaccination?

In such cases, please ask your doctor prior to the vaccination appointment.

I have a cold, or had a cold in the days before the vaccination. What period do I have to observe until I can be vaccinated?

In such cases, please ask your doctor prior to the vaccination appointment.

What side effects can be expected after vaccination?

Currently, the following side effects are known:

According to the Robert Koch Institute, typical complaints after a vaccination are redness, swelling and pain at the vaccination site; general reactions such as fever, headache, pain in the limbs and feeling sick are also possible. These reactions show that the vaccine is having the desired effect on the immune system and usually go away completely after a few days.

Specific side effects: No serious safety concerns have been identified to date; however, the observation period for relevant vaccine side effects has currently been too short to identify such concerns.

When and how soon are side effects to be expected?

Possible side effects can be expected shortly after vaccination.

Under which circumstances should I not be vaccinated? (allergies, other types of illness)

All vaccines can lead to allergic reactions. These include both short-term local hypersensitivity reactions after vaccination and serious potentially life-threatening immediate reactions (anaphylaxis). The Paul Ehrlich Institute, which is responsible for the safety assessment of vaccines in Germany, states the average frequency of anaphylactic reactions after administration of vaccines currently licensed in Germany to be 0.4 to 11.8 per 1 million vaccine doses.

Based on the currently available data, the Paul Ehrlich Institute estimates that there is no generally increased risk of serious adverse effects for persons with known diseases from the atopic-allergic group (e.g. asthma, neurodermatitis and allergic rhinitis with conjunctivitis (rhinoconjunctivitis) including hay fever and dust mite allergy) after vaccination with Comirnaty or COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna.

Do I have to watch out for anything after the vaccination (no sports or physical exertion, driving a car, etc.)?

In general, physical exertion and going to the sauna should be avoided immediately after vaccination. Based on current information, driving is allowed after vaccination.

Is it possible to get Covid-19 despite having been vaccinated?

Yes, although the vaccine provides a very high level of protection, unfortunately 100% protection cannot be guaranteed.

How is the vaccine administered?

The vaccine is injected by medical personnel.

What amount of vaccine is administered?

For the first vaccines, approximately 0.3 – 0.5 ml of the vaccine is administered per vaccination.

From when (how long after the vaccination) can I expect to be protected?

It is currently not known how long the vaccination protection lasts. Protection also does not begin immediately after vaccination, and some vaccinated persons remain unprotected. In addition, it is not yet known whether the vaccination also protects against colonization with the pathogen SARS-CoV-2 or against transmission of the pathogen to other persons. Therefore, despite vaccination, it is necessary to protect yourself and your surroundings by following the Corona rules (social distancing, hygiene measures, mask wearing and ventilation).