

## 10 questions to ask yourself when considering vaccination:

### Vaccination works – why I should get vaccinated against COVID-19 now

Last amended: 14.09.2021

#### **Why is the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 dangerous?**

The coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 is highly contagious. The disease is known as COVID-19 and can cause serious illness, or even death. Even those who have no symptoms can carry the virus and infect me and others. I can also infect others without being aware of it. SARS-CoV-2 can affect many organs in the body and cause serious health damage. The lungs are most commonly affected.

Long-term effects such as persistent fatigue, concentration problems and shortness of breath are also possible, even if the illness has been mild.

#### **Why should I get vaccinated?**

Vaccination provides a high level of protection against being infected with the virus. In those rare cases where infection occurs despite being vaccinated, the vaccine will protect me from becoming seriously ill.

#### **What other benefits does vaccination offer?**

In getting vaccinated, I am not only protecting myself, but also my family, friends and the community I live in. In doing so, I am also protecting people who are not able to get vaccinated, especially children under the age of 12.

Once I have been vaccinated, I generally don't need to go into quarantine after coming into contact with an infected person.

With my proof of vaccination, I face fewer restrictions under the 3G rule (vaccinated, recovered, tested), e.g. in being able to attend events and travel.

#### **What can happen if I am not vaccinated?**

If I **don't** get vaccinated, there is a very high chance that I will contract the virus, especially in indoor spaces. The risk of suffering serious illness from the infection depends on age and previous conditions. But young and healthy people can still become seriously ill. If I am fully vaccinated, I have a high degree of protection against infection and serious illness.

#### **How safe are the vaccines?**

The vaccines approved in the EU have successfully passed the testing procedure, which means that they are safe. The quality, safety and effectiveness of the vaccines were subject to exactly the same testing as all other medications – only this time the process was faster because all relevant steps were performed in parallel, rather than one after the other.

#### **Who can be vaccinated?**

Almost everyone can be vaccinated. In Germany, vaccination is recommended for everyone of 12 years of age and older. For those who are pregnant, there is also a general vaccination recommendation from the 12<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy.

My doctor will advise me if I have any questions.

## Where can I get vaccinated?

I can get vaccinated at my GP's or specialist doctor's office, from company medical services, at vaccination centres, in mobile vaccination services or at special offerings (vaccination bus, shopping centres, events etc.).

On the "*Zusammen gegen Corona*" (Fighting the pandemic together) homepage from the German Federal Ministry of Health

<https://www.zusammengegencorona.de/impfen/hier-wird-geimpft/>, I can find my nearest vaccination provider.

There are many vaccination providers where I can get vaccinated even without making an appointment.

The offer of vaccination is open to me regardless of where I live.

Vaccination is free of charge for me and is covered by my health insurance provider or company.

## When is the right time to get vaccinated?

As soon as possible, i.e. now! Because we will be spending more time indoors again over the approaching autumn and winter months. This allows the virus to spread more easily.

If I have problems in getting vaccinated due to my working hours, I can ask my employer for support in this regard. They are required to allow me to get vaccinated against the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 during working hours.

## When am I protected?

It will take some time before I am fully protected. The time period varies according to the vaccine I receive. Most vaccines must be given in two doses, with a break of several weeks in between. After the second dose, it will take another two weeks before I am fully protected.

## Where can I find more information?

If I have questions on the risks of vaccination, e.g. in the case of allergies, vaccination during pregnancy, vaccinating children etc., it is best to ask my GP, specialist or company doctor or to find out more in the consultation I am given before receiving my vaccination.

There is also a wealth of information available online.

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