


Coronavirus COVID-19 (/en/)

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Vaccination (/en/vaccination/)

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2. [Frequently asked questions \(FAQs\) \(https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/vaccination/#faq\)](https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/vaccination/#faq)
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Why should I get vaccinated?

The vaccine stimulates your body to create antibodies. These substances help your body fight the virus. What if you come into contact with the virus afterwards? The antibodies will protect you.

The vaccine not only protects you but also the people around you. Coronavirus is dangerous for people older than 65 or persons that have certain conditions. If over 70% of the population in Belgium is vaccinated, the spread of the virus will be inhibited. This, in turn, will protect the people who cannot have the vaccination. This is known as **herd immunity**.

Vaccination against coronavirus is voluntary and free to all.

You must continue to comply with the coronavirus rules after vaccination, until sufficient people have been vaccinated. So, maintain a 1.5 metre distance, wear a face mask and wash your hands frequently.

Is the vaccine safe?

- There was already a great deal of expertise about the creation of vaccines. Scientists, pharmaceutical specialists, businesses and governments across the world worked together on the coronavirus vaccine. A great deal of time and money has been freed up in order to tackle this urgent problem. As a result, the vaccines have been developed very quickly.
- All vaccines, however, are checked extremely carefully by the government. [More information here \(https://www.famhp.be/en/human_use/medicines/medicines/covid_19\)](https://www.famhp.be/en/human_use/medicines/medicines/covid_19).

When will I get my vaccine?

Month	Who
January	residents and personnel in residential care centres + healthcare staff (doctors, nurses, etc.) in hospitals
February	personnel from first line care (GPs, pharmacists, etc.) + collective care institutions (disability care, etc.) and other hospital staff
March	everyone aged 65 and above + people with a higher risk due to specific healthcare issues (this is yet to be announced)
April	people with a key role (this is yet to be announced)
June	everyone over the age of 18

These timings could change.

Practical: how does the vaccine process work?

- You will receive an invitation by post, text message and/or email.
- You must register online or by phone.
- Is the time of your appointment not suitable? Then you can choose another time.

During your appointment:

- You will be given an injection in your upper arm.
- 3 or 4 weeks after the first injection, you will be given your second injection. At the moment, each vaccine requires two doses, except for the vaccine from Johnson & Johnson.
- After vaccination, it takes between 10 and 14 days before your body begins to make antibodies. Only then do you have the best possible protection against the virus.

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

► **Why should I be vaccinated?**

► **What is a vaccine and how does it work?**

► **Which vaccines are available for COVID-19 at the moment?**

► **Is the vaccination against COVID-19 mandatory?**

- ▶ **How many doses of the vaccine must I have?**
- ▶ **Do I need a vaccine if I've already had COVID-19?**
- ▶ **Which checks are carried out on the effectiveness and the corresponding side effects from the vaccine?**
- ▶ **Where can we see how many people have already been vaccinated?**
- ▶ **Do I need to be tested before I am given the vaccine?**
- ▶ **I have mobility issues. How can I obtain my vaccine?**
- ▶ **What are the differences between the vaccines?**
- ▶ **Which vaccines has Belgium ordered?**

Is the corona vaccine safe?

- ▶ **Is the coronavirus vaccine safe, given that it has been developed so quickly?**
- ▶ **Why has a safe, workable and quality vaccine been developed much quicker than usual?**
- ▶ **It has been developed so quickly, is there any certainty about long-term side effects?**
- ▶ **What if there are side effects?**
- ▶ **Do some vaccines change your DNA?**

▶ **Will the vaccine protect me if the virus mutates?**

▼ **Is it safe if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?**

- The data that is currently available is insufficient to provide an opinion on the safety of vaccines during pregnancy. The recommendation is to avoid vaccinations during pregnancy. If you are trying to become pregnant, you are also advised against accepting the first dose of the vaccine.
- Women of childbearing age who are trying to have children are advised to only become pregnant two months after the second vaccination.
- If you discover that you are pregnant once you have had the first dose of vaccine, the pregnancy will be prioritised and you will not be given the second dose. Breast feeding will also be prioritised and the vaccination will be delayed until this has stopped.

▶ **How much time must I leave between the COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines?**

▶ **Can children get the vaccine?**

▶ **Do you need to get vaccinated if you have developed COVID-19 and/or if you are HIV-positive?**

▶ **I am chronically ill, how do I know whether I am eligible for vaccination?**

▶ **Can I have the vaccine if I am breastfeeding?**

▶ **Can I have the vaccine if I am pregnant or trying to conceive?**

Who will get the vaccine and when?

▶ **Will there be enough vaccines for everyone?**

- ▶ **Will there be enough vaccines for everyone?**
- ▶ **Will the vaccine be immediately available to everyone?**
- ▶ **Can everyone be vaccinated at the same time?**
- ▶ **Who is included in the priority groups?**
- ▶ **Can children have the vaccine?**
- ▶ **I have a chronic sickness, how do I know if I can be vaccinated?**
- ▶ **Do you need to be vaccinated if you have developed COVID-19 and/or you are HIV-positive?**
- ▶ **I am a informal caregiver, trainee or PAB-Assistant. When will I be vaccinated?**
- ▶ **My family member resides in a care home and is unable to provide informed consent. May I provide my consent?**
- ▶ **Why has Belgium opted for a delayed start?**

Vaccines in practice

- ▶ **How do I know when I am likely to be vaccinated?**
- ▶ **Can I be vaccinated by my GP?**
- ▶ **How will the vaccines be distributed?**

- ▶ **Will a vaccination centre be created in my district?**
- ▶ **Where will the vaccines be stored?**
- ▶ **Will the vaccines be stored and transported safely?**

After vaccination

- ▶ **Will I have to be vaccinated every year against COVID-19?**
- ▶ **Can I catch COVID-19 after vaccination?**
- ▶ **Am I protected immediately after vaccination?**
- ▶ **Can I infect other people with COVID-19 if I have been vaccinated?**
- ▶ **Can I get back to normal once I've been vaccinated?**
- ▶ **Will I have to prove that I have been vaccinated to take part in everyday life?**

Helping as a volunteer

Would you like to help as a volunteer/caregiver in a vaccination centre? Students and pensioners are also more than welcome!


- Flanders: register via <https://www.helpdehelpers.be/> (<https://www.helpdehelpers.be/>)
- Brussels: send an email to vacci-hyg@ccc.brussels (<mailto:vacci-hyg@ccc.brussels>)
- German-speaking Community: send an email to karin.cormann@dgov.be (<mailto:karin.cormann@dgov.be>)
- French Community: <https://solidaire.aviq.be/> (<https://solidaire.aviq.be/>)

Read more

For more information about the vaccination, see:

- [Flanders: Laat je vaccineren \(https://www.laatjevaccineren.be/\)](https://www.laatjevaccineren.be/).
- [Brussels: coronavirus.brussels \(https://coronavirus.brussels/nl/vaccinatie-menu/\)](https://coronavirus.brussels/nl/vaccinatie-menu/).
- [Wallonia: Jemevaccine.be \(https://covid.aviq.be/fr/vaccination\)](https://covid.aviq.be/fr/vaccination).
- [www.famhp.be \(https://www.famhp.be/en/human_use/medicines/medicines/covid_19/vaccines\)](https://www.famhp.be/en/human_use/medicines/medicines/covid_19/vaccines).
- [vaccination-info.eu/en \(https://vaccination-info.eu/en\)](https://vaccination-info.eu/en).

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