

Coronavirus vaccination for children (5 to 11 years of age)

Information for parents and guardians

Last updated: 25 January 2022

What you need to know about vaccinating your child

Coronavirus vaccinations are now also being offered in Germany for children between 5 and 11 years of age. An appropriately adapted and tested vaccine is available. As parents and guardians, you face the question of whether you should vaccinate your child. This leaflet is intended to support you in your decision by answering a number of important questions.

Why is it important to have my child vaccinated?

Nursery school children and school-age children come into contact with a lot of other people, and so cannot always comply with the proper social distancing and hygiene rules. Children are therefore at a **high risk** of contracting the **coronavirus**. Children generally experience a mild form of the disease, sometimes even without symptoms. But, in certain cases, children can also experience a more severe disease. Children with underlying health conditions are especially at

risk. Children who initially displayed no symptoms, are also at risk of developing Paediatric Inflammatory Multisystem Syndrome (PIMS) after they have had the coronavirus infection. This can lead to fever, abdominal, intestinal as well as cardio and circulatory problems. Long-term consequences (long COVID) have also been observed. Medical researchers are still investigating how often this occurs in children.

Infected children with mild systems can also transmit the virus.



The German Standing Committee on Vaccination (STIKO) currently recommends vaccinating children between the ages of 5 and 11 against the coronavirus in the following cases:

with certain pre-existing medical conditions, such as:

- serious or uncontrolled bronchial asthma
- severely overweight
- severe chronic disease of the heart, nervous system, lungs or kidneys
- seriously impaired immune system
- cancer
- Down's syndrome (trisomy 21)
- poorly controlled diabetes
- congenital diseases with severe impact

in the event of contact with particularly vulnerable people

The following people are particularly at risk:

- people who have a high risk of severe COVID-19 disease progression

AND

- people who cannot be vaccinated or people who are unable to build up adequate vaccination protection themselves, such as the elderly.

Even children without pre-existing medical conditions and with no contact with especially vulnerable people can be vaccinated after consultation with a medical practitioner if their parents or guardians opt in favour of vaccinating them.

Is the vaccination safe for my child?

Currently the BioNTech/Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine is approved for children between 5 and 11 years of age. This is a **lower dose** (10 µg) of an adapted vaccine. Children only receive a third of the dose administered to other age groups. Two doses three to six weeks apart are required. **Complete protection** is only provided **two weeks after** the second injection.

The vaccine has been thoroughly tested, officially approved and is continuously checked. Most children tolerate the vaccine very well. It can lead to normal vaccination reactions, such as pain at the injection site, fatigue, headaches or even fever. These symptoms usually disappear after a few days. As with all vaccinations, allergic reactions can occur in rare cases. Therefore, inform your doctor or medical practitioner about whether your child has ever experienced an allergic reaction before they receive the vaccine.

The latest information on side-effects can be found in the [Information leaflet on mRNA vaccines](#), which is published by the Robert Koch Institute (RKI).

Please note: Since Januar 2022, **booster jabs** are recommended for all **persons aged 12** and older.



Another important fact: nursery schools and schools, as well as sports clubs or music lessons, are important for **children's development and mental health**. Vaccinations can help to prevent children from being infected as often and enable them to continue doing the things they enjoy.

What happens if my child has already been infected by COVID-19?

If your child has already had COVID-19 or been infected by the virus then, in accordance with the aforementioned STIKO criteria, **only one dose of the vaccine is required after around 3 months**.

If your child has already had COVID-19 or been infected by the virus then and without pre-existing medical conditions, vaccination is not explicitly recommended but is possible if their parents or guardians agree to.



Where and how can my child be vaccinated?

Your child can be administered the vaccine in your paediatric medical practice, in a vaccination centre, at a public health-care centre or by mobile vaccination teams. Look out for posters and announcements in your local press and information on [your community's website](#). You can also arrange appointments in certain federal states by calling [116117](#). Vaccination is free.

We would be happy to answer any further questions you may have:

☑ <https://www.infektionsschutz.de/coronavirus/schutzimpfung/impfung-bei-kindern-und-jugendlichen>

☑ Zusammen gegen Corona (Together Against Coronavirus campaign):

<https://www.zusammengegencorona.de/impfen/kinder/corona-schutzimpfung-ab-5-jahren/>

☑ Federal Ministry for Health: <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronavirus/faq-covid-19-impfung.html>



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Check-list: coronavirus vaccination for children

This short checklist can help you to make a decision about vaccinating your child.

- ✓ My child is at least 5 years of age. Yes No
- ✓ Vaccination is especially beneficial for my child, as they suffer from a pre-existing medical condition. The German Standing Committee on Vaccination (STIKO) recommends the coronavirus vaccination particularly for this pre-existing condition. Yes No
- ✓ My child comes in contact with vulnerable people. These people have a particularly high risk of becoming seriously ill should they become infected by the coronavirus. This risk is especially high as they cannot be vaccinated or cannot build up adequate vaccination protection themselves. Yes No
- ✓ I have talked about the coronavirus vaccination to my child. I have already sought medical advice or will do so. Yes No
- ✓ I would like to protect my child from a severe form of COVID-19 and its potential consequences by vaccinating them against the coronavirus. Yes No



You can find more information on vaccinating children aged 12 years or older against the coronavirus [here](https://www.infektionsschutz.de/coronavirus/materialienmedien/corona-schutzimpfung)

<https://www.infektionsschutz.de/coronavirus/materialienmedien/corona-schutzimpfung>



Why is it so important to adhere to hygiene and social distancing rules?

The coronavirus vaccination is [very effective](#) but cannot offer total protection. Therefore continue to follow the [Hands – Face – Space rule](#): **H**ands pay attention to hygiene measures, **S**pace observe social distancing, **F**ace wear a mask + ventilate rooms + use the Coronavirus **Track and Trace** app. **Limiting your personal contact and coronavirus tests – particularly if you are meeting vulnerable people – are also very important in protecting yourself and other people.**

Still have questions? Other BZgA services:



[infektionsschutz.de/corona-schutzimpfung](https://www.infektionsschutz.de/corona-schutzimpfung)



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