



# What is the coronavirus vaccine?



## What is the coronavirus vaccine?



Every word that is written in **bold and blue** will be explained at the end of this document.



The information in this document is based on reports about the coronavirus vaccine in Europe.



This document wants to give you basic information about the coronavirus vaccine.

Ask your own doctor to learn about the details.

This way you can find out how and when you can get it and discuss your questions.

## What is the coronavirus?



The coronavirus is a **virus** that started in 2019.



The coronavirus spread to many countries in Europe and all around the world.



The coronavirus is also called COVID-19. This is the name of the **virus**.



The coronavirus makes many people sick. People that got the coronavirus have:

- a **fever**  
this is a high body temperature
- a **dry cough**
- **shortness of breath**



When people get very sick they have to go to the hospital.

Also many people die from the coronavirus.



Because the coronavirus can make people very sick many shops closed and people had to stay at home.

People call this a **lockdown**.

## What is a vaccine?

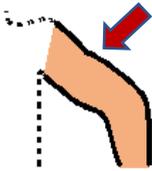


A vaccine is like a medicine that helps you not to get sick.

Most people got a vaccine already.

For example maybe you already had:

- a flu vaccine
- a chicken pox vaccine.



To get a vaccine you get a **shot of medicine** in your upper arm.



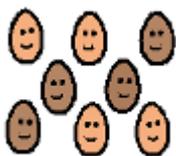
With the help of a **syringe**. A syringe is a needle with a **shot of medicine** inside.



It will only hurt a little bit.

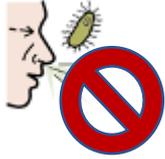
After a few seconds you will feel fine.

## What is a coronavirus vaccine?



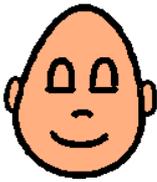
People that know a lot about the coronavirus worked together.

Together they found a vaccine against the coronavirus.



The vaccine helps your body  
to fight the coronavirus.

This way you will not get very sick.



There are different coronavirus vaccines  
that have different names.

But all coronavirus vaccines  
protect you from the coronavirus.

### **Why is it good to have the vaccine?**



It is good to get the coronavirus vaccine.

The vaccine will protect you and others  
from getting very sick from the coronavirus.



If you have any questions  
about the coronavirus vaccine  
speak to your doctor.

## Can I decide if I want to get the vaccine?

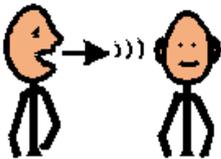


Yes.

It is your choice  
if you want to get the vaccine.

This means you can decide.

No person can force you  
to get the vaccine.



If you are not sure what to do  
talk to a person you trust.

For example talk to:

- a **good friend**
- your **family**
- your **support person**.



Together you can  
talk about the coronavirus vaccine  
and find helpful information.

This way you can make up your mind.

## How can I get the vaccine?



Every country has different rules to get a vaccine.

You can ask your doctor or a person you trust how to book the vaccine in your country.



In most countries in Europe the vaccine is free.

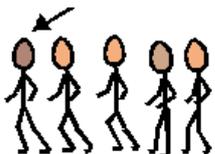
This means you do not have to pay for it.

You can ask your doctor if the vaccine is free in your country.

## When can I get the vaccine?



The coronavirus vaccine is ready for people to get it.



In many countries the people that get very sick from the coronavirus get the vaccine first.

So do not worry if you did not get it yet. You will get the coronavirus vaccine when it is your turn.

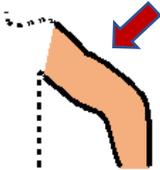
## What happens when I get the vaccine?



To get the vaccine  
you need to go to your doctor  
or a hospital.

# 2

For the vaccine to work  
you need to get the vaccine 2 times.



Both times you will get the vaccine  
in your upper arm.

With the help of a **syringe**.



Once you got your first vaccine  
you need to wait 4 weeks.

# 4

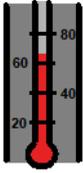
After 4 weeks you go again to the doctor  
to get the same vaccine 1 more time.



After you got the vaccine 2 times  
you are protected.

From now on  
you will not get very sick  
when you get the coronavirus.

## What happens after I get the vaccine?

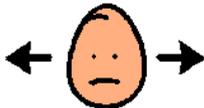


After getting the vaccine  
some people have pain in their muscles  
or a high body temperature  
this can feel a bit like a fever.  
These are called **secondary effects**.



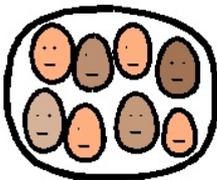
Feeling a little sick after a vaccine is normal  
if you feel unwell  
you can talk to your doctor.

## Can I stop wearing a mask after getting the vaccine?



No.

After getting the vaccine  
you must keep wearing a mask  
and do **social distancing**.



This is to protect yourself and others  
until many people are vaccinated.

## Blue words explained

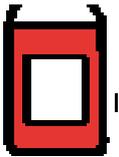


### Virus

A virus is very small  
you cannot see it with your eye.

A virus can make you sick  
for example:

- when you have the flu
- when you get a cold.



### Shot of medicine

A shot of medicine  
is medicine that is liquid  
it looks like water.

A shot of medicine  
fits into a syringe.

With the syringe the doctor  
can get the shot of medicine in your body  
for example the coronavirus vaccine.



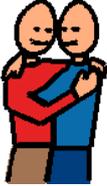
### Syringe

A syringe is a needle  
that doctors and nurses use  
to give vaccines to people.  
Or to give some medicines to people.



## Social distancing

Social distancing means  
to stay away from other people.



This is very important  
because when people are too close together  
it is possible to catch the coronavirus.



Social distancing means that  
we need to keep away from each other.

Staying away from other people  
stops the coronavirus  
from making more people sick.

**For more information contact:**

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