

Things to know about COVID-19 vaccines

Two mRNA vaccines, two vector vaccines and one protein-based vaccine against coronavirus are currently approved in the EU. They are safe and protect against severe courses of COVID-19.

- **More than 836 million coronavirus vaccinations** have been administered in EU/EEA countries up to March 2022.
- The **basic principle of all COVID-19 vaccines** is identical: the immune system reacts to the **spike protein** of the coronavirus and forms protective **antibodies**.
- **No COVID 19 vaccine** triggers a disease.
- The **protective effect** does not occur immediately after vaccination – the body needs some time for this.

Neither mRNA vaccines nor vector vaccines contain any replicable viruses and can thus be classified as inactivated vaccines.

Inactivated vaccines are safer than the modern vaccine types!

Get vaccinated now!

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for detailed information on getting the vaccine.

Register at: impfen.gv.at



More information

(also multilingual) is available on our website:

sozialministerium.at/corona-schutzimpfung



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Media owner and publisher
Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health,
Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK)
Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna
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Place of publication and production: Vienna
Cover photo: © istockphoto.com/ luza studios
Layout & Printing: BMSGPK
March 2022

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COVID-19 vaccine

Facts about the vaccines

The vaccine is effective!



How do mRNA and vector vaccines work?

With mRNA and vector vaccines, the body receives the blueprint for the coronavirus spike protein and then produces it itself. The immune system reacts and forms protective antibodies.

- **mRNA vaccines:**
 - Comirnaty from BioNTech/Pfizer
 - Spikevax from Moderna
- **Vector vaccines:**
 - Vaxzevria from AstraZeneca
 - COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen (“Johnson&Johnson”)
- The **mRNA (“messenger RNA”)** and the **vector virus** are **degraded** after a short time and the spike protein is no longer produced. Neither mRNA vaccines nor vector vaccines have any effect on the human genome, the DNA!

Important to know

Research on mRNA technology has been carried out since the 1990's. The development of vector vaccines already started in the 1970's. It was possible to build on this knowledge for development of the COVID-19 vaccines.

What are protein-based vaccines?

The Nuvaxovid vaccine from Novavax is a protein-based vaccine that directly contains the protein components against which the immune system forms antibodies.

- The vaccine **Nuvaxovid** from Novavax is **EU-approved from 18 years of age**.
- **Similar active principles** are already used in other approved vaccines, such as vaccines against meningococcal B or influenza.
- Nuvaxovid is based on ‘classical’ vaccine technology and may be an **alternative** for people who do not want to be vaccinated with mRNA vaccines or vector vaccines.

Important to know

In order to generate a sufficiently good immune response, Nuvaxovid contains an active enhancer (an adjuvant). For a first vaccination protection, two vaccination doses at an interval of three weeks are recommended.

Things to know about COVID-19 medications

Approved medications that are effective against active COVID-19 disease are currently only used in people at risk. They can mitigate the course of a disease if administered as early as possible.

- The medications are **no substitute for the coronavirus vaccination!**
- **People at risk** who cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19 or for whom vaccination does not work can receive **antibody preparations** to still be protected against **COVID-19**.
- **People at risk** for whom treatment with COVID-19 medications is a possibility will be actively **contacted by the authority** after a positive test result.

Medicines do not replace vaccination! Follow the current vaccination recommendations for your best protection.

Why should I get vaccinated against COVID-19? After all, medicines are available already!