Our best defence against coronavirus

Information on vaccinating 12 to 17-year-olds against COVID-19

Why should I get vaccinated?

So I am better protected. And in order to help protect those who cannot protect themselves from the coronavirus, such as my younger siblings or people with other illnesses. The more people vaccinated, the less opportunity the virus has to spread. Fully vaccinated people are significantly less likely to transmit the coronavirus than others.

Is coronavirus really that dangerous?

Coronavirus is very contagious, especially the new Omicron variant. Some people do not even notice that they had been infected, others only feel a little ill. There are, however, also people who become severely ill and need to be hospitalised – or still struggle with the disease's effects long after it subsides. This is precisely what we are trying to avoid.

Is the vaccine safe and effective?

Yes! The results of a study with approx. 2,000 children and adolescents show: BioNTech/Pfizer's Comirnaty® vaccine is also safe for this age group and its effectiveness is comparable to the effectiveness among adults. In the marketing authorisation study, none of the children and adolescents who were vaccinated fell ill with COVID-19.

How will the vaccine affect my body?

The coronavirus vaccination helps the immune system learn how to recognise a small part of the viral envelope and combat the virus. The immune system is therefore training to fight off the virus. In some respects, much like how a goalkeeper might practice to stop shots at the goal. The more a goalie trains with their team, the fewer goals are let in.

But can I still get the virus even though I am vaccinated?

The likelihood of getting infected despite being fully vaccinated (i.e. after receiving two vaccine doses) is significantly lower than without vaccination, and even lower once you have received the booster – three months after the second jab. If you do get infected nonetheless, you are optimally protected against serious illness and its long-term effects. Since your immune system responds much faster.

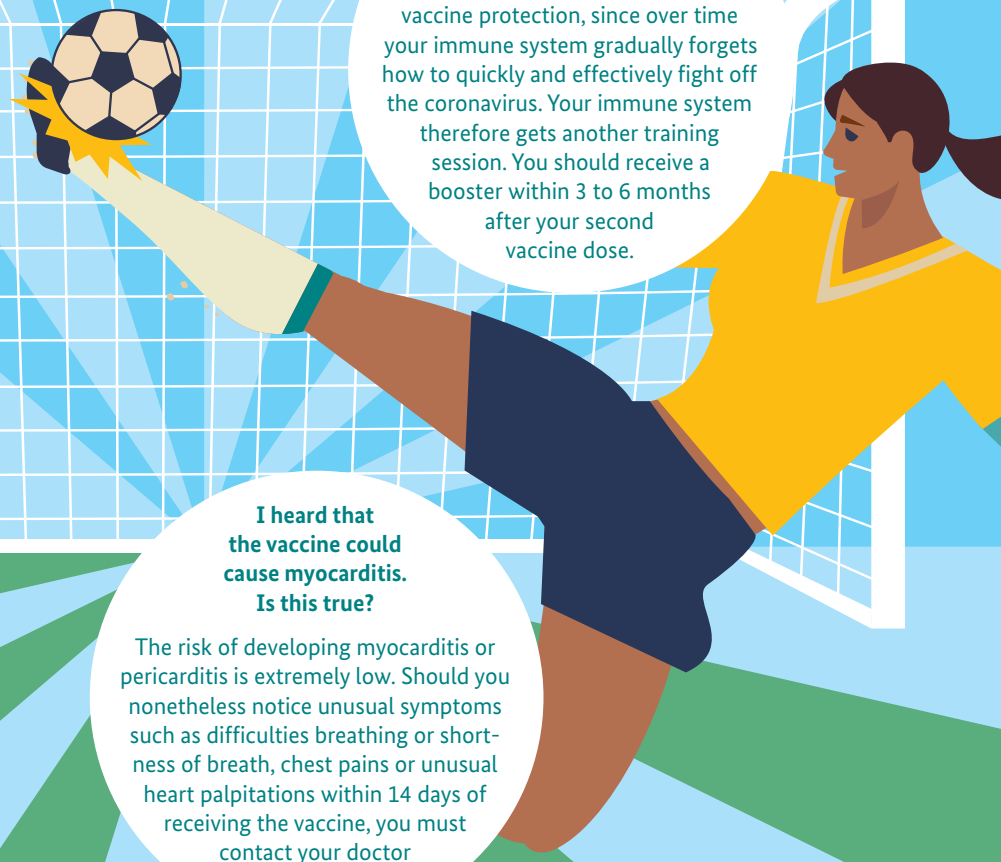
Side effects after vaccination?

Brief side effects that wear off again after a few days are called vaccine reactions. One study found that after being administered BioNTech/Pfizer's Comirnaty® vaccine, typical vaccine reactions also occurred among children and adolescents, and that these disappeared again after 1 to 3 days. These included pain at the injection site, fever, shivering and headaches.

More serious side effects occur very rarely among children and adolescents.

When should I boost my vaccine protection?

The booster helps retain your vaccine protection, since over time your immune system gradually forgets how to quickly and effectively fight off the coronavirus. Your immune system therefore gets another training session. You should receive a booster within 3 to 6 months after your second vaccine dose.



Do I still need to get tested at school despite being vaccinated?

Children and adolescents should get tested regularly, regardless of whether they are vaccinated or not, since vaccinated people can still transmit the coronavirus. This is the only way to ensure face-to-face classes remain as safe as possible.

I heard that the vaccine could cause myocarditis. Is this true?

The risk of developing myocarditis or pericarditis is extremely low. Should you nonetheless notice unusual symptoms such as difficulties breathing or shortness of breath, chest pains or unusual heart palpitations within 14 days of receiving the vaccine, you must contact your doctor without delay.

And if I still have questions?

Then you should speak to your doctor. Your doctor can answer all your questions in a personal consultation. You can also find important information on coronavirus vaccination in the information sheet and on the consent form.

These protective measures should help you safely navigate the pandemic:

Distance | Hygiene | Masking up | Airing | Corona-Warn-App | Coronavirus vaccination

As of: 4 February 2022

More information is available at corona-schutzimpfung.de

Zusammen gegen Corona
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit
ROBERT KOCH INSTITUT
BZgA Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung
Paul-Ehrlich-Institut