

# INFORMATION SHEET

## COVID VACCINATION

### THE CORONAVIRUS

The Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is transmitted from person to person and causes the disease COVID-19. Anyone can contract COVID-19, regardless of their age.

The disease lasts several days and up to several weeks with symptoms such as fever, cough, loss of smell and taste, and shortness of breath.

In case of a severe progression, inflammation of the respiratory tract and other organs may occur. Treatment at an ICU may become necessary. COVID-19 may have long-term effects and can be lethal. A vaccination is the best possible protection from COVID-19.

### WHY SHOULD I GET VACCINATED?

The vaccine will protect you from a severe progression of COVID-19.

### HOW DOES THE VACCINATION WORK?

The vaccine stimulates your body to develop antibodies. These antibodies will protect you from a severe progression if you get exposed to COVID-19 viruses (SARS-CoV-2). The vaccination will protect you from a severe progression of the disease for at least six months. In the few exceptions where people who were vaccinated still contracted COVID-19, the progression of the disease was much more harmless. Complications and deaths were prevented.

The vaccines themselves do not contain the virus (SARS-CoV-2). You can therefore not contract COVID-19 from the vaccination.

### IS THE VACCINATION SAFE?

Yes. The vaccines were tested and confirmed to be effective and safe. All COVID-19 vaccines approved in Europe have been tested extensively and continue to undergo vigorous controls. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has therefore authorised these vaccines.

### WHO CAN GET VACCINATED?

People from 5 years of age can get vaccinated.

Persons with **pre-existing conditions** (such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart diseases, asthma) can get vaccinated, too. However, they do have to consult their physician about the vaccination, who will decide whether they can get vaccinated or not.

Persons with **allergies** (such as food allergies, pollen allergies, house dust allergies, antibiotics intolerance) can also get vaccinated, as the vaccines do not contain any of these substances. Please inform your physician during your medical briefing about your allergies and bring your allergy pass with you.

### WHO SHOULD NOT GET VACCINATED?

If you are suffering from an acute, severe infection with high fever (above 38°C), please consult your physician before you get vaccinated.

If you are pregnant, may be pregnant or trying to conceive, please consult your physician.

If you are currently infected with COVID-19 (up to 4 weeks after the first positive PCR test), you should not get vaccinated.



### **SHOULD PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD COVID-19 BEFORE STILL GET VACCINATED?**

Even after having had COVID-19, you may contract it again. Therefore, people who have had COVID-19 before should still get vaccinated.

However, you should wait 4 weeks after your infection before getting vaccinated.

### **WHERE AND HOW CAN I GET VACCINATED?**

There are different vaccination sites throughout the city. You will be informed in good time about when and where you can get vaccinated.

### **HOW DOES THE VACCINATION PROCESS WORK?**

Vaccination is voluntary. You do not have to pay for the vaccination.

Before your vaccination, you will receive a questionnaire ("vaccination form"), which you need to fill out. If you have any questions about the vaccination, you can consult a doctor before you get vaccinated.

Please bring your ID, your e-card (if you have one) and your vaccination certificate (if you have one) with you.

At your vaccination appointment, you will receive an injection into your upper arm. The injection is filled with the vaccine. After the vaccination, you must stay at the vaccination site for about 20 minutes. Should you feel unwell after your vaccination, please inform the physician or other health care professionals on site.

There are different types of vaccines, which are administered in several doses. The second dose will be administered no sooner than 21 days after the first shot. The booster shot can be administered after 4 months from the second dose but no later than 6 months after the second dose.

### **CAN I CHOOSE WHICH VACCINE I GET?**

No. You will receive the currently available vaccine. We cannot yet say which vaccine that will be.

### **ARE THERE SIDE EFFECTS TO THE COVID-19 VACCINATION?**

The vaccination may have unpleasant side effects, which include pain, swelling or redness at the injection site. Other reported side effects are fatigue, headaches, or a light fever. Nausea, vomiting or shivers have also been reported.

However, all these side effects are normal reactions to the vaccination. They occur because the body is preparing to defend itself against pathogens. Most side effects fade after a few days. Out of 10 people who received the vaccination, more than one person experiences side effects.

### **AFTER I GET VACCINATED, DO I STILL HAVE TO WEAR AN FFP2 MASK?**

Despite the vaccination, you must continue to comply with the safety regulations, such as wearing mouth/nose protection/an FFP2 mask, physical distancing, and hygiene requirements.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Corona-Schutzimpfung/Corona-Schutzimpfung---Haeufig-gestellte-Fragen.html>

<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Informationen-zum-Coronavirus/Coronavirus---Aktuelle-Informationen-in-Fremdsprachen.html>

<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Corona-Schutzimpfung/Corona-Schutzimpfung---Jetzt-anmelden-/Faktencheck-zur-Corona-Schutzimpfung.html>

