

Vaccine in short for **Comirnaty (BioNTech/Pfizer)** to prevent **COVID-19**

What is this vaccine for?

This vaccine protects against the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). When you are infected with this virus, you may experience symptoms. Possible symptoms are fever, coughing, sore throat, runny nose and loss of smell and taste. You may also experience serious symptoms such as shortness of breath and pneumonia. Some people die from the coronavirus.

You are receiving this vaccine to prevent you from getting sick with the coronavirus.

How does this vaccine work?



If you contract the coronavirus after vaccination, your body will recognise this virus. This vaccine has already triggered your body to make antibodies that protect you against the coronavirus. As a result you will not become ill, or not as ill as you would otherwise be.

You need **2 vaccinations** to be well-protected against the coronavirus. 7 days after the second vaccination, you are protected against the coronavirus.

Initial studies show that this vaccine **reduces the chance of getting COVID-19 by 95%**. Of the 100 people who would contract COVID-19 without being vaccinated, only 5 people would contract COVID-19 after being vaccinated.

When will I receive this vaccine?

This vaccine is approved for people from 12 years of age. The Government of the Netherlands decides who gets an invitation for this vaccine.



You need **2 vaccinations**. You will receive the second vaccination at least 3 weeks after the first.



You will receive the injection in your upper arm.

You can get a third vaccination if:

- You have a very weak immune system. The immune system provides protection against diseases. You will receive the third vaccination at least 4 weeks after the second. You will receive an invitation from your doctor for this vaccination.

You can get a booster dose if:

- You are part of the group whose turn it is to receive a booster dose. The Government of the Netherlands advises you receive this dose at least 3 months after your last vaccination.

How was this vaccine approved?

- Numerous studies into the safety and efficacy of the vaccine were carried out at the same time.
- These studies were reviewed as soon as the results became known. No important steps were skipped.

Caution!



You are allowed to drive a car after receiving this vaccine. However, you should not drive if you experience side effects such as tiredness.



Are you pregnant? According to the RIVM you can be vaccinated safely.

Most important warnings

Ask your doctor whether you are allowed to receive this vaccine if you:

- Have previously had an **allergic reaction** to a vaccine.

The RIVM advises to make a new appointment if you:

- Are **very ill** or have a **high fever** before you receive the vaccination.
- Have COVID-19. Or could possibly have COVID-19.
- Have **missed** your vaccination appointment.

You have a very small chance of an inflammation of your heart muscle or the outer lining of the heart. This usually occurs within 2 weeks. This happens more often after the second vaccination, and more often in young men. **Contact your doctor immediately** if, after the vaccination, you experience:

- Chest pain.
- Shortness of breath.
- Feeling your heart beating (palpitations).

Most important side effects

As with any other vaccine, you may experience side effects. Most side effects occur because the vaccine triggers your body's immune system. This provides protection against the coronavirus.

Initial studies show that the following side effects are the most common:

- Pain at the injection site (more than 80%).
- Tiredness (more than 60%).
- Headache (more than 50%).
- Muscle pain (more than 30%).
- Fever (more than 10%).
- Diarrhoea (more than 10%).

The mentioned side effects usually last 1 to 3 days.

A serious side effect that very rarely occurs is an inflammation of your heart muscle or the outer lining of the heart.

More information?

Do you have any questions or concerns about vaccination? Please discuss these with your doctor or pharmacist.

You can find the official vaccine product leaflet at [EMA.europa.eu](https://ema.europa.eu). For more information, go to government.nl.

Do you want to report a side effect? Or would you like more information about side effects? Visit lareb.nl.