

Vaccine in short for the **Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) vaccine 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. 2 weeks after the second vaccination, you are protected against the coronavirus.

Initial studies show that this vaccine **reduces the chance of getting COVID-19 by 60%**. Of the 100 people who would contract COVID-19 without being vaccinated, only 40 people would contract COVID-19 after being vaccinated.

When will I receive this vaccine?

This vaccine is approved for people from 18 years of age. The Government of the Netherlands decides who gets an invitation for this vaccine.



You need **2 vaccinations**. The Health Council of the Netherlands advises that you receive the second vaccination 4 to 12 weeks after the first.



You will receive the injection in your upper arm.

How was this vaccine approved?

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

This vaccine has been approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) of which the Dutch Medicines Evaluation Board (MEB) is part.

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? The RIVM recommends that you are vaccinated with a different COVID-19 vaccine.

Most important warnings

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

- Have previously had a severe **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** the vaccination appointment.

You have a very small chance of getting a clot in your blood (thrombosis) with low blood platelets. Sometimes this is accompanied by bleeding. This usually occurs within 3 weeks after vaccination.

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience: chest pain, shortness of breath, a persistent stomach ache or swelling in your leg. **Or if, after a few days, you experience:** a severe headache, blurred vision, or blue or purple spots under your skin in a different place than where you were injected.

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 (54%).
- Headache or tiredness (53%).
- Muscle pain (44%).
- A general feeling of being unwell (44%).
- Chills (32%).
- Joint pain (26%).
- Nausea (22%).
- Fever (8%).

The side effects mentioned usually last 1 to 3 days.

A rare severe side effect (less than 0,01% chance) is a clot in your blood with a low number of blood platelets in your blood.

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://www.ema.europa.eu). For more information, go to [government.nl](https://www.government.nl).

Do you want to report a side effect? Or would you like more information about side effects? Visit [lareb.nl](https://www.lareb.nl).