

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

For children from **5 to 11 years old**

What is this vaccine for?

This vaccine protects your child against the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). Your child could develop symptoms if infected with this virus. These could include fever, coughing, a sore throat, a runny nose and loss of taste or smell. A small number of children are hospitalized.

Your child is being given this vaccine to prevent them from falling ill with the coronavirus.

Why is there a vaccine specifically for children?



Children aged 5 to 11 years are given the same vaccine as adults. There is a difference, however, since children need a lower dose of the vaccine. They are given a 10 microgram dose. Adults are given a 30 microgram dose.

Why do children only need a dose of 10 micrograms?

Children's immune systems are stronger than those of adults. The immune system protects against the coronavirus. Children produce the same quantity of antibodies as adults with a lower dose of the vaccine. That is why a vaccine has been developed specifically for children.

How does this vaccine work?



If your child contracts the coronavirus after vaccination, it's body will recognise this virus. This vaccine has already triggered your child's body to make antibodies that protect it against the coronavirus.

As a result your child will not become ill, or not as ill as it would otherwise be.

Your child needs **2 vaccinations** to be well-protected against the coronavirus. 7 days after the second vaccination, your child is protected against the coronavirus.

This vaccine works as effectively for children as it does for adults. Research shows that children require less vaccine. When given a 10 microgram dose, they will produce the same quantity of antibodies as adults do when given a 30 microgram dose.

Research also shows that this vaccine will reduce your child's **chances of catching COVID-19 by 91%**. This means that for every 100 children that would have gotten COVID-19 had they not been vaccinated, only 9 will still get COVID-19 once vaccinated.

When will I receive this vaccine?

Your child will be eligible for this vaccine if they are 5 to 11 years of age. The Government of the Netherlands decides who will be invited to receive this vaccine.



Your child needs **2 vaccinations**. The RIVM recommends having the second vaccination roughly 4 to 8 weeks after the first.



Your child will receive the injection in the upper arm.

Most important warnings

Ask your doctor whether your child can have this vaccine if your child:

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

The RIVM recommends making a new appointment if your child:

- Is **very unwell** or has a **high fever** before getting the vaccination.
- **Has COVID-19**. Or could possibly have COVID-19.
- Has **missed** the vaccination appointment.

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.

Most important side effects

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

Research shows that the following side effects are the most common with children:

- Pain at the injection site (more than 80%).
- Tiredness (more than 50%).
- Headache (more than 30%).
- Red skin or thickening of the skin at the injection site (more than 20%).
- Muscle pain (more than 10%).
- Chills (more than 10%).

The mentioned side effects usually last 1 to 3 days.

More information?

Do you have any questions or doubts about this vaccine? 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.