



# Corona vaccines at a glance

AstraZeneca, BioNTech and Moderna - we have summarised below the key information about the vaccine type, application, vaccination reactions and storage

## AstraZeneca



### Vaccine type:

This vaccine is a **vector vaccine**. This means that the genetic material for a surface protein

of SARS-CoV-2 was combined with that of a harmless vector virus. The body begins to produce antibodies against the surface protein. The vector virus cannot reproduce in humans and will degrade over time.

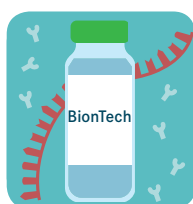
**Administration:** The vaccine is injected into a muscle, usually in the upper arm. In order to provide adequate protection, a second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine must be given after twelve weeks. The vaccine is approved for **people aged 18 and over**. Since 30 March 2021, the standing committee for vaccination at the Robert Koch Institute has only recommended the AstraZeneca vaccine for people aged 60 and over.

### Effectiveness and side effects:

In studies, the AstraZeneca vaccine decreased the probability of developing Covid-19 by around 80 percent. Many people report mild reactions to the vaccine after receiving the vaccination. Fatigue or pain at the injection site, for example, were reported in over half of those vaccinated. If symptoms such as severe headache, blurred vision, shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, or persistent abdominal pain occur within days or weeks of the vaccination, you should seek medical help immediately.

**Storage:** The AstraZeneca vaccine can be stored unopened in a refrigerator at temperatures of 2 to 8 degrees Celsius for six months. It must not be frozen.

## BioNTech



### Vaccine type:

The BioNTech vaccine is an **mRNA vaccine**. The artificially produced genetic information for the

surface protein of SARS-CoV-2 is absorbed into the cell after vaccination without changing the body's own genetic material. Special cells produce and present the harmless surface protein causing antibodies to be formed against it. The artificial mRNA degrades over time.

**Administration:** The vaccine is injected into a muscle, usually in the upper arm. In order to offer adequate protection, a second dose of the vaccine must be given after three to six weeks. The vaccine is approved for **people aged 16 and over**.

### Effectiveness and side effects:

In studies, people who were vaccinated with the BioNTech vaccine were about 95 percent less likely to contract Covid-19. More than 80 percent complained of pain at the injection site. Other mild vaccine reactions such as headache or muscle pain occurred less often. A high temperature was more likely after the second vaccination.

**Storage:** Since the artificial mRNA is very sensitive, the vaccine must be handled with great care. Unopened, the vaccine lasts for six months at -90 to -60 degrees, and up to five days at 2 to 8 degrees.

## Moderna



### Vaccine type:

Moderna's vaccine is also an **mRNA vaccine**. The artificially produced genetic information

for the surface protein of SARS-CoV-2 is absorbed into the cell after vaccination without changing the body's own genetic material. Special cells produce and present the harmless surface protein causing antibodies to be formed against it. The artificial mRNA degrades over time.

**Administration:** The vaccine is injected into a muscle, usually in the upper arm. In order to offer adequate protection, the second dose of the vaccination must be given after four to six weeks. The vaccine is approved for **people aged 18 and over**.

### Effectiveness and side effects:

In studies, the Moderna vaccine reduced the chance of contracting Covid-19 by about 95 percent. Most of the vaccinated people complained of pain at the injection site, but there were also other mild reactions to the vaccination, such as tiredness, headache, muscle pain or nausea. A high temperature was more common after the second dose than after the first dose of the vaccine.

**Storage:** The mRNA vaccine must be kept constantly refrigerated at -25 to -15 degrees Celsius. Unopened, it can be kept for seven months. It can be stored in a refrigerator at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius for a maximum of 30 days. Unopened at temperatures of 2 to 8 degrees Celsius, it can be kept for six months. It must not be frozen.



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## Important information and advice about vaccinations

- The corona vaccine is voluntary and free of charge for everyone.
- The order of priority used to offer vaccinations, including in medical practices, is based on the Vaccination Regulation.
- There are not yet sufficient data for the vaccines available about how they affect children and pregnant women, which is why the vaccines have not yet been approved for these groups.
- You should be healthy when you have the vaccination. If you have signs of an infection, contact your family doctor or the vaccination centre by phone and find out whether vaccination is still possible or whether the appointment needs to be postponed.
- If you have any concerns or questions about vaccination, speak to your family doctor or your local vaccination centre.
- After the vaccination, you should take it easy and give your body time to process the vaccine.
- If you want to treat mild reactions such as a high temperature or aching limbs after the vaccination with over-the-counter preparations, ask your family doctor or pharmacy for advice first.
- If you notice stronger reactions to the vaccine, you should seek medical advice.
- The Paul Ehrlich Institute has developed the free “SafeVac 2.0” app. You can use this app to record how well you tolerate the vaccine. You can find the app in the popular app stores.
- All vaccines were tested for quality, effectiveness and safety by the Paul Ehrlich Institute before they were approved.
- You can find more information at [www.corona-schutzimpfung.de](http://www.corona-schutzimpfung.de) and [www.apotheken-umschau.de](http://www.apotheken-umschau.de)



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Your stamp

If you feel unwell and suspect that you have been infected with coronavirus, contact **your family doctor** (please do not visit your doctor in person), your local health authority or the medical emergency services by telephone on the number **116 117**.

In an emergency you can contact the emergency services on the same free number across Europe from a landline and any mobile network by calling **112**.

Detailed information about coronavirus is available online at

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