

Roll up your sleeves!

The vaccine is here



Wow, it's been over a year!

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global crisis, with devastating health, social and economic impacts. It was in the beginning of the second week of January 2020 that the first public announcement about a new type of virus, rampant in the city of Wuhan, was made by the Chinese authorities. Since then, as of 21 Feb 2021, there have been more than 2.3 million infections in Germany and more than 111 million worldwide.

The only viable way to contain the pandemic is through a vaccine. The quest to find a solution through a vaccine began in early 2020. However, the scientists were careful not to promise any 'quick' timelines and successful launches. Remember that the fastest any vaccine had previously been developed, from viral sampling to approval, was four years, for mumps in the 1960s. To hope for one even by the summer of 2021 seemed highly optimistic at the time. It was therefore remarkable that on 2 Dec 2020 a vaccine made by drug giant Pfizer with German biotech firm BioNTech, became the first fully-tested immunization to be approved for emergency use.

The European Union's medicines regulator, Amsterdam-based European Medicines Agency (EMA) reviews and approves vaccines for use in the bloc's 27 states. The following is the chronology of the approval dates of the vaccines currently available in EU:

- 21 Dec 2020: Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine- mRNA vaccine
- 6 Jan 2021: Moderna Vaccine-- mRNA vaccine
- 29 Jan 2021: AstraZeneca Vaccine - Viral vector vaccine

There are currently at least 246 vaccine projects against Covid-19. Internationally, Germany is one of the countries with a particularly large number of Covid-19 vaccine projects.



Anyone who is eligible to get a vaccine should go ahead and get it. With more people getting vaccinated, herd immunity will be built, and it will slow the spread of disease. Both mRNA and viral vector vaccines instruct body cells to make pieces of the coronavirus spike protein so that the next time the body encounters those proteins it can mount an immune response. This means there is no 'best' vaccine - the authorized vaccines have 90%+ efficacy, and they will protect against infection. The common side effects are similar to what one would expect for other vaccines: fatigue, headache, fever—particularly after the second dose—and acute pain at the injection site, which can feel warm to the touch and swollen; all of these symptoms are signs of immune reaction. These reactions are very common and often indicate that the immune system is working hard to recognize the vaccine and remember the new virus for next time. Allergic reactions can occur in response to any injected vaccines or drugs, but they are extremely rare.

In Germany vaccinations against the corona virus started on 27th December 2020. All three approved vaccines are administered through 2 doses. One of the biggest challenges faced by many countries is the distribution of the vaccine doses required to vaccinate the population. Vaccinations are being rolled out through various phases. All 30 EU/ EEA countries have started vaccinating the priority groups included in their first phase, which were selected based on their higher risk of developing severe disease, as well as to protect healthcare and other front-line workers. Countries primarily prioritised elderly people (with various lower age cut-off across countries), residents and personnel in long-term care facilities, healthcare workers, social care personnel and those persons with certain comorbidities. Some countries also prioritized workers in essential public services other than those in health such as police, firefighters and educational institutions workers. The rest of the population will be covered next.

[A detailed priority list can be found here](#)

How to get yourself immunized:

Every town in Germany has set up 'vaccine centers' (Impfzentren). The vaccinations are free of charge and one has to register and get a confirmed appointment/invitation to get the vaccine.

[Make your appointment here](#)

Don't forget to carry

- The confirmation of your appointment
- Your passport or ID
- Any medical documents about existing preconditions
- Documents that you received with the appointment confirmation

Every state in Germany state has detailed information about vaccination based on your address:

1. [Bayern](#)
2. [Berlin](#)
3. [Baden-Württemberg](#)
4. [Brandenburg](#)
5. [Bremen](#)
6. [Hamburg](#)
7. [Hessen](#)
8. [Mecklenburg-Vorpommern](#)
9. [Niedersachsen](#)
10. [Nordrhein-Westfalen](#)
11. [Rheinland-Pfalz](#)
12. [Thüringen](#)
13. [Sachsen](#)
14. [Sachsen-Anhalt](#)
15. [Saarland](#)
16. [Schleswig-Holstein](#)



The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) is the government's central scientific institution in the field of biomedicine. It is responsible for safeguarding public health in Germany. Their site offers the [official Coronavirus figures and data](#) in Germany.

On the sites of the federal health ministry you can find every [rule, figure, explanation about Coronavirus](#) in Germany.

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