



# Information on COVID-19 vaccination

## Key points

- In principle, no COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for spring/summer 2023.
- People at especially high risk can receive a vaccination following an individual consultation with their doctor.

### Is vaccination recommended for spring/summer 2023?

In principle, no COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for spring/summer 2023. Nearly everyone in Switzerland has been vaccinated and/or contracted and recovered from COVID-19. Their immune system has therefore been exposed to the coronavirus. In spring/summer 2023, the virus will likely circulate less. The current virus variants also cause rather mild illness. For autumn 2023, the vaccination recommendation will be evaluated again and adjusted accordingly.

### What applies to people at especially high risk?

In principle, it is also not currently recommended for people at especially high risk to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. They can, however, receive a vaccination following an individual consultation with their doctor. Vaccination may be wise in individual cases, as it improves protection against developing severe COVID-19 for several months. This applies regardless of the number of vaccinations you have already received.

People at especially high risk include:

- People aged 65 or over
- People aged 16 or over with a chronic condition<sup>1</sup>
- People aged 16 or over with Down's syndrome
- Pregnant women

*If a wave of infection were to emerge in spring/summer 2023, the vaccination recommendation would be adjusted.*

**If your doctor recommends that you get the COVID-19 vaccination, the following applies:**

#### Vaccination timing:

The COVID-19 vaccination can be given from 6 months after the last COVID-19 vaccination or from 6 months after a known coronavirus infection. Other vaccinations with inactivated vaccines can also be administered before, at the same time as or after a COVID-19 vaccination.

#### Vaccine:

We advise you to get vaccinated with a bivalent (i.e. variant-adapted) mRNA vaccine or with the protein-based Novavax vaccine. Which vaccine(s) you have previously received is of no importance here.

Monovalent mRNA vaccines continue to provide good protection against severe COVID-19 with possible hospitalisation.

*Please note:* If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or if you have a severely weakened immune system, you should get yourself vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine.

*Allergies:* If you have confirmed allergies to components of vaccines, please consult an allergist.

#### Possible side effects:

Side effects are possible with any vaccination. They are usually mild to moderate and subside quickly.

Common side effects include reactions at the injection site, such as pain, redness and swelling as well as headaches and fatigue. Muscle and joint pain and general symptoms such as chills, feeling feverish or a high temperature can also occur.

Very rarely, there may be severe side effects. For example, some people have experienced a severe allergic reaction directly after being vaccinated, with symptoms such as severe swelling, redness, itching or difficulty breathing. In very rare cases, an inflammation of the heart muscle or of the outer lining of the heart has been observed within 14 days of the vaccination. These have usually been mild and easily treatable. Typical symptoms of such inflammation of the heart muscle are chest pain, difficulty breathing and palpitations, which usually occur within 2 weeks of the vaccination.

If you experience any of these symptoms, contact your doctor immediately.

#### Costs:

A vaccination recommended by your doctor is free of charge for you and is covered by compulsory health insurance.

## Further information

Infoline Coronavirus: +41 58 463 00 00

→ [www.foph-coronavirus.ch/vaccination](http://www.foph-coronavirus.ch/vaccination)

→ [How does the vaccination work?](#)

→ [Frequently asked questions \(FAQs\) \(admin.ch\)](#)

<sup>1</sup> The detailed list of conditions can be found at: *Categories of people at especially high risk*