

As from 18/01/2022, this letter will be available in several other languages.

<https://coronavirus.brussels/materiel-de-communication/materiel-de-communication-vaccination-covid-19/materielcommunication-vaccination-covid/>

RE: Information letter on Covid-19 vaccination for children aged 5-11 years

Dear parent(s), dear guardian(s)

Dear,

We hereby inform you that vaccination against Covid-19 is now possible for children between 5 and 11 years of age.

This decision was taken following favourable opinions from the Superior Health Council and the Advisory Committee on Bioethics and after approval from the European Medicines Agency. This Pfizer paediatric vaccine has been scientifically proven to be safe and effective for children. It is already being administered to them in several countries around the world.

What are the main reasons to vaccinate your child?

- **The vaccine protects your child against the disease caused by the Covid-19 virus.** Vaccination reduces the risk of serious illness. Vaccination offers more protection against new variants than non-vaccination. Immunity after vaccination is also stronger and more durable than with Covid-19 infection. This individual advantage is even more important for children with specific diseases or co-morbidities. This is why vaccination is recommended for them.
- **Vaccination reduces the number of infections and therefore the number of quarantines.** This means that children's lives will be less disrupted, and they can continue to play, do sports and go to school with peace of mind. This promotes their well-being and their development.
- **Vaccination is useful in reducing the circulation of the virus in society.** Children are easily infected. The risk of contamination among children is currently more than twice that of the general population. Vaccination contributes to establishing herd immunity and protects the most vulnerable. It is for example, extremely useful if you live with an elderly person or with someone who has health problems, if your child often stays with their grandparents, or if you travel a lot.

Where can I find more information on the Covid-19 vaccine for children?

- Please contact your GP, paediatrician or pharmacist if you have any questions. If you do not have a GP, you can call 1710. This is a special number for people in Brussels who do not have a GP and who wish to obtain medical advice.
- There are also several websites which offer reliable, useful and practical information on vaccination www.coronavirus.brussels - www.vaccination-info.be - www.info-coronavirus.be/fr/vaccination - www.jemevaccine.be.

These sites are preferable to social networks, where a lot of false information and rumours circulate.

- You can also find more information about the vaccine itself and its possible side effects on the website of the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products https://www.afmps.be/fr/humain/medicaments/medicaments/covid_19

Is vaccination free?

Yes, vaccination against Covid-19 is completely free.

How many doses should my child receive?

Children aged 5-11 years will receive two doses of Pfizer's paediatric vaccine, 21 days apart. The vaccine has been adapted for children. The second dose of the vaccine is very important, because according to current scientific knowledge, your child will only be protected with both doses.

Are there any contraindications?

There are extremely few contraindications to vaccination against COVID-19.

If there has been a severe allergic reaction following a previous vaccination or in other circumstances which has required urgent medical attention, this should be reported to the attending doctor to check whether vaccination is recommended.

Are there any adverse effects?

The most common adverse events after vaccination in children aged 5-11 years are similar to those seen in people aged 12 years and over. These may include pain, swelling or redness at the injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle pain or chills. These possible side effects are usually mild to moderate and subside within a few days of the vaccination.

Studies have been and will continue to be conducted to evaluate vaccination in large populations of 5–11-year-olds worldwide. More than 4 million doses had been administered by December 2021. To date, no serious adverse events have been reported in children aged 5-11 years.

Is parental or guardian consent and accompaniment required for vaccination of children aged 5-11 years?

Yes, parental or guardian consent and accompaniment by a parent or guardian are required.

In the case of co-parenting, please agree in advance with the other parent/guardian in order to make a joint decision.

Upon arrival at the vaccination centre, verbal consent will be sought from the accompanying parent/guardian.

How do I talk to my child about the Covid-19 vaccination?

It is advisable to calmly discuss the vaccination with your child beforehand. Vaccines should not become a subject of fear or conflict.

This link provides access to some tools for talking to your child about the Covid-19 vaccination: <https://coronavirus.brussels/materiel-de-communication/materiel-de-communication-vaccination-covid-19/materiel-de-communication-vaccination-vacci4kids/>

Where can I get my child vaccinated?

The vaccination sites in the Brussels-Capital Region are suitable for children. There will always be a doctor present to answer questions about children's vaccinations.

You can have your child vaccinated in the following locations:

- Vaccination centres in Pacheco, Albert (Forest), Uccle, Molenbeek, Neder-Over-Heembeek (Military Hospital), Woluwe-Saint-Pierre (Joli-Bois) and Anderlecht (RSCA).
- If your child has a specific illness or co-morbidity, it is advisable to contact their paediatrician or attending doctor.

You can find more information on the vaccination sites for children here:

<https://coronavirus.brussels/vaccination-covid-menu/ou-se-faire-vacciner-a-bruxelles/>

You can also **telephone our call centre** on **02/214.19.19** for any information regarding the vaccination.

Do I need to make an appointment?

It is advisable to make an appointment in advance if you wish to avoid long waiting times at the vaccination centre.

- You can make an appointment **via the online booking platform bru-vax.brussels**. In this case, you must fill in the **child's** NISS code (= national registration number) or BIS number.
- You can also **telephone our call centre** on **02/214.19.19**.

Once you have made an appointment, you will receive a confirmation.

Practical info:

- Both the responsible person (parent/guardian) and the child must bring their identity card, and this letter or the appointment confirmation. For children who do not yet have a Belgian identity card (or a kids-ID), you can also bring a Belgian passport, a sticker from the mutual insurance company in the name of your child or their ISI+ card. Be sure to check the validity of these documents.
- Plan sufficient time. Allow 15 to 30 minutes for observation after vaccination.
- Wear a mouth mask.
- Your child should wear comfortable clothes. The vaccine will be administered in the upper arm.
- Do not come if you or your child are ill (temperature above 38°C). Reschedule your appointment in this case. The same applies if you or your child is in quarantine: reschedule your appointment to the end of the quarantine period.
To make an appointment: bru-vax.brussels or call **02/214 19 19**.

Thank you for reading this information and for taking it into account.

Sincerely,

Nathalie Noël

Executive official - Combined Collegial Departments - Common Community Commission Common

Free transport to your vaccination appointment.

Thanks to the STIB, you can get to the vaccination centre free of charge by tram, metro or bus. If you would like to benefit from this offer, simply indicate this when making an appointment via Bru-vax or via the call centre.

You can also ask your local municipality for information. Some municipalities offer free transport to the vaccination centre.

Mutual insurance companies also offer transport services for people with reduced mobility. Check the website of your mutual insurance company for more information on this subject.

Vaccination is an important tool in the fight against Covid-19. Vaccinated people are much less likely to be infected with the Covid-19 virus and much less likely to be hospitalised with severe forms of Covid-19.

Vaccination is recommended due to the appearance of the new OMICRON variant. It is also important to respect the HEALTH MEASURES and to follow the RULES FOR DETECTION AND TESTING OF COVID-19 CASES. You can find more information on this subject at coronavirus.brussels.

Your personal data have only been used by the competent authorities and the managers of this invitation to vaccination within the framework of the Royal Decree of 24 December 2020, concerning the registration and processing of data relating to vaccinations against COVID-19.

Common Community Commission, Rue Belliard 71, boîte 1 - 1040 Brussels