



COMMISSION COMMUNAUTAIRE COMMUNE



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

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Brussels, 25 February 2022

Dear (full name)

Unsure about vaccination?

Decided not to get vaccinated?

As the Brussels-Capital Region's health authority and the organization responsible for action against the coronavirus pandemic, the Commission Communautaire Commune has some important information and advice to share with you:

Unsure about vaccination?

Given the vast amount of information in the media, including lots of "fake news", we understand that some people can't decide whether or not to get vaccinated against Covid-19. That's why we want to bring you the latest scientific data and help you make your decision.

From 1 March, a new type of vaccine will be available. It has been developed using traditional technology, which is better known and has previously been used for other vaccines.

The new vaccine, **Nuvaxovid** from Novavax, was approved by the European Medicines Agency on 20 December 2021 as a Covid-19 vaccine for **people over 18** in Europe.

Novavax is a protein subunit vaccine. What does that mean?

Instead of whole virus particles, this vaccine only contains purified or semi-purified proteins from which all other components of the virus have been removed. Its small particles mimic the coronavirus spike protein, against which the body produces antibodies.

Even though science has proven that vaccines using mRNA technology are perfectly safe and effective, Novavax could offer an alternative for people who remain unsure.

The new Novavax vaccine may also be more familiar to you as it has been developed using traditional technology. This is the same technology used in vaccines against hepatitis B, whooping cough, pneumococcus, Japanese encephalitis, rabies and some comparable influenza (flu) vaccines.

This type of Covid-19 vaccine wasn't available earlier as its development phase took longer than mRNA vaccines such as the Pfizer and Moderna.

People who couldn't be vaccinated due to allergies to previously available vaccines and people aged over 50 can receive the new Novavax vaccine in priority.

New scientific knowledge

It's scientific fact that coronavirus can make you seriously ill in the short and long term (long Covid) and that the serious consequences of the disease especially affect the unvaccinated, the vulnerable and people with underlying health conditions (obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular, lung and kidney disease, etc.).

The virus is now circulating less, meaning that health and safety measures can be gradually relaxed. This has been made possible by the reduced risk of infection for the majority of the vaccinated population. Therefore, vaccination is the reason for our new-found freedom. But caution is still required, especially if you're unvaccinated, vulnerable or in contact with vulnerable people.

As fewer people are using PCR tests, the virus is harder to track and trace. We also need to be wary as new variants might emerge in the near future. And so it's essential that the vaccination rate is as high as possible and that everyone has maximum protection. In that way, we will optimize our chances of avoiding a new wave of infections and intense pressure on the health system.

Currently, 61.9% of the world's population has already received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine. Over 10.4 billion doses have been administered to people aged 5 or over across the globe. And so there's enough scientific data to say that all previously approved Covid-19 vaccines are safe and effective. The vaccination side effects reported so far are insignificant in comparison with the health problems that coronavirus can cause. The benefit of vaccination is greater than the potential risk. Vaccination remains scientifically recommended.

If you're still unsure despite all this information, we recommend contacting a healthcare professional to help you decide. **Go to people you would normally trust on health matters, like your general practitioner or pharmacist.** If you don't have a doctor, you can call the freephone number 1710.

Want to get vaccinated?

The Novavax vaccine is available from 1 March. It's only available in the following four vaccination centres: **Anderlecht, Molenbeek, Pacheco or Forest.**

As stocks of this vaccine are limited, we advise you not to wait too long if you want to get it.

Appointments aren't necessary (except at Queen Astrid Military Hospital).

If you prefer, you can always make an appointment via the Bru-Vax platform or by phoning the call centre on 02/214.19.19 from 09:00 to 17:30 Monday to Friday and 10:00 to 17:30 on Saturdays and Sundays.

You can find vaccination centres' opening times at:

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

You can find additional accurate information about coronavirus on the websites:

- Vaccination is free and voluntary.
- You can use public transport free of charge to travel to and from your vaccination appointment. Simply mention that when making your appointment.
- Currently, you will easily find a vaccination site near you. But remember that some vaccination points will close in the near future.

Decided not to get vaccinated even though vaccination is scientifically recommended?

In that case, we strongly recommend the following:

- **Keep following health and safety measures.** The virus is still circulating and the risk of infection remains in our country. And watch out for information on the emergence of any new (more virulent) variants.
- **It's important for everyone, but even more so for you, to have as healthy a lifestyle as possible.** The serious consequences of Covid-19 can also affect the young, fit and healthy, although experience has shown us that people with obesity or other underlying health conditions are more likely to develop serious forms of the disease. Eat healthily, take regular exercise, avoid gaining weight and see your doctor whenever you feel unwell.
- **And don't forget that when you travel abroad,** you will need to follow the health and safety measures in place in that country. Many countries are placing restrictions on unvaccinated people. Please check before you travel.

We hope that the information in this letter will help you make your decision.

Best regards

Nathalie Noël
Executive Officer
Full Council of the Commission Communautaire Commune

Your personal data has been used solely by the competent authorities and issuers of this vaccination invitation pursuant to the Royal Order of 24 December 2020 on recording and processing data on COVID-19 vaccinations.

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