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www.coronavirus.brussels

Brussels, xx Month 2022

INVITATION TO VACCINATION : NEXT BOOSTER DOSE AGAINST COVID-19

Dear Sir/Madam,

Epidemiological indicators currently show an increasing trend in our and in several European countries. The number of hospital admissions remains under control. It is now important that vulnerable people protect themselves as much as possible against severe forms of Covid-19 and that the pressure on hospitals is limited in order to ensure continuity of care.

We recommend that vulnerable people continue to wear a FFP2 face mask when they come into contact with more than one person, and that they complete their vaccination schedule.

Recent scientific studies show that the effectiveness of Covid-19 vaccines decreases over time, especially in the most vulnerable people. **Maintaining immunity** is therefore extremely important in order to avoid serious health problems or possible hospitalisation caused by Covid-19.

The Conseil Supérieur de la Santé [Superior Health Council] found in its opinion that a booster vaccination is possible for vulnerable people. For this reason, the authorities have decided to extend the Covid-19 vaccination schedule for this group with a **new booster dose**.

In this context and based on the latest vaccination recommendations, as a more vulnerable person you are again invited to receive a booster dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

- **For people with reduced immunity:** you can have a fourth dose from 3 months after your last vaccination, unless you have already received it.
- **For people aged 80 and over (or born in 1942), whether or not they reside in a retirement home or nursing home:** you can have the booster dose from 3 months after your last vaccination.
- **For people who have been vaccinated with the J&J vaccine for their basic vaccination,** this will comprise your third dose.

This vaccination is free and without obligation. A doctor will be present at the vaccination centre to inform you and assess the benefit/risk balance of this vaccination.

Ideally, you should get this booster dose AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

An additional booster dose of vaccine may follow this autumn to give you maximum protection during the riskier winter months. This will again require a time interval of 3 to 4 months. This is one of the reasons why it is important not to postpone the current proposed vaccination.

Where can you go to receive this booster vaccination?

You can be vaccinated at a vaccination centre, in medical homes and medical centres, or at GPs and pharmacies offering Covid-19 vaccination.

Please note that in recent months some vaccination points have been closed. All available vaccination points and their opening hours can be found at <https://coronavirus.brussels/vaccination-covid-menu/ou-se-faire-vacciner-a-bruxelles/>.

- People who are **bedridden** can contact their GP to arrange for a home vaccination.
- **If you are residing in a retirement home or nursing home,** you will be informed about the vaccination procedure through the retirement home or nursing home.

Do I need to make an appointment?

If you wish to be vaccinated at a vaccination centre or pharmacy, it is advisable to make an appointment in **advance** with your **national register number** or BIS number:

- Online via the **booking platform**: <https://bruvax.brussels.doctena.be>
- By telephone via the **Call Centre** at **02/214.19.19**.

After you have made your vaccination appointment, you will receive a confirmation by e-mail or SMS. In this way you can be sure of receiving your appointment and avoid waiting on site.

Practical info

- Take **your identity card, this invitation and proof of your last vaccination**, e.g. your vaccination certificate (in the Covidsafe app or on masante.belgique.be) or your vaccination card (received at the vaccination centre).
- Take enough time and allow 15 minutes for observation after vaccination.
- Wear a face mask.
- Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing: the vaccine will be administered in the upper arm.
- Come alone, unless you need assistance.
- Postpone your appointment if you have symptoms of Covid-19 or if you feel ill.
- If you have tested positive for Covid-19, you can only be vaccinated 14 days after receiving the positive test result and when you are symptom-free.

If you have any questions about vaccination, please contact the call centre on **02/214.19.19**.

Regards,

Dr Uwe Ehrentreich

Dr. Uwe Ehrentreich
Medical doctor - Hygiene inspector
Combined Collegial Departments - Common Community Commission

(*) In some cases, you can ignore this invitation:

- 1 If you have already received this additional booster dose.
- 2 If you have already taken the initiative to make an appointment for the booster vaccination and you can prove that **you have undergone a sufficient waiting period since your last vaccination**. The accuracy of this information is required to ensure that the booster dose can be administered at the time of your appointment. From a medical point of view, it is recommended to respect the required time between your last vaccination and your booster dose. Your booster dose will not be given if this waiting period is not respected. In this case, you will have to make a new appointment after receiving this invitation.

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 Buvax or via the call centre.

You can also ask your local municipality for information. Some municipalities also 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 important in the fight against Covid-19

After a booster dose, you are 87% protected against a serious version of Covid-19 disease requiring hospitalization (Toon Braeye et al., 2022)*. An additional booster dose or a fourth dose will reinforce this protection.

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.

* Toon Braeye, Joris Van Loenhout, Ruben Brondeel, Veerle Stouten, Pierre Hubin, Matthieu Billuart, Jenny Chung, Mathil Vandromme, Chloé Wyndham-Thomas, Koen Blot, & Lucy Catteau. (2022). COVID-19 Vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic infection and hospitalization in Belgium, July 2021-APRIL 2022. *Medrxiv*. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.05.09.22274623>