



If you are being vaccinated against COVID-19

If you have been offered a vaccination against COVID-19, you might have some questions before agreeing to be vaccinated. Hopefully, this information can guide you before, during and after the vaccination process.

COVID-19 is caused by a virus. Most people who catch COVID-19 will only experience mild symptoms. However, some people can become seriously ill and some of them may even die.

The vaccination will protect you and others

A vaccination against COVID-19 can protect you from the virus and it also reduces the risk of you infecting others. Eventually, the spread of the virus can be slowed down.

Who is being offered the vaccination?

The current Public Health Agency recommendations state, that the vaccine is being offered to people aged 18 and above. Those who are most at risk of becoming seriously ill will be offered the vaccine first.

Individual assessments might be necessary

The vaccine is currently not being offered to people aged 17 or younger – or to pregnant women. However, this could change as our knowledge increases. Depending on the type of vaccine, and whether a person has any underlying health conditions, it might be appropriate to discuss the vaccination with your family doctor.

The risk of becoming seriously ill increases with age

The older a person is, the greater the risk they will become seriously ill if they catch COVID-19. This particularly applies to people aged 70 or older. Also, people with certain health conditions run a higher risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 – regardless of their age.

Before the vaccination

Vaccination against COVID-19 is voluntary.

If you want to learn more about the vaccine before you decide to have it, information and facts are available from 1177, the Public Health Agency of Sweden and the Swedish Medical Products Agency. See contact information on the next page.

The vaccination process

Before you are vaccinated you will need to complete a health declaration form.

A nurse will inject the vaccine into your upper arm. If you need two doses of the vaccine, you will be given the same type of vaccine twice.

You might experience some tenderness, swelling or redness at the injection site, or the top of your arm might become itchy. Some people experience a short-term fever, headache or might feel generally unwell. This is to be expected and is a sign that the immune system is responding. The symptoms are often mild and will clear up after a few days. Allergic reactions are very rare.

After the vaccination

If you feel unwell or are worried after you have been vaccinated, contact the healthcare services. They will be able to assess your symptoms – regardless of whether they can be linked to the vaccine or not.

The healthcare services must report any suspected side effects to the Swedish Medical Products Agency. If you experience any side effects after the vaccination, you can report them yourself via

www.lakemedelsverket.se/rapportera.

Protects against serious illness

After the vaccination, the body's immune system will build up some protection against COVID-19. However, there is no guarantee that everyone who is vaccinated will be fully protected. This applies to all vaccines – not just vaccines against COVID-19. Nevertheless, it is less likely you will become seriously ill.

It takes one week from the final dose for the vaccine to start protecting

Depending on the vaccine being used, you may need more than one dose. At the moment, two doses are necessary in order to develop the best level of protection. It takes about one week from the final dose for the body to build up adequate protection.

If you are helping a relative make a decision

If you are supporting a relative in their decision to be vaccinated, you might need to talk to a hospital if you have any questions. You should definitely consider this if your relative has a tendency to bleed easily, has underlying health conditions and is taking medication that affects their immune system.

More about COVID-19

The symptoms of COVID-19 vary. They are often similar to a heavy cold or the flu. The most common symptoms are fever and a cough. You may also experience one or more of the following: difficulty breathing, runny or blocked nose, sore throat, headache, nausea, diarrhoea, rash, loss of or decreased sense of taste, muscle aches and/or joint pain.

The National Vaccination Register

All vaccinations against COVID-19 will be recorded in the National Vaccination Register so they can be followed up. The information being stored includes personal identity numbers or coordination numbers, vaccination date, type of vaccine used, batch number, healthcare provider responsible for the vaccination, and the COVID-19 vaccine dose number.

This information is confidential and cannot be accessed through medical records. In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), you have the right to request a copy the information stored about you.

Product information about the vaccine

You can read the latest information about the vaccine you have received on the website of the Swedish Medical Products Agency. You can print the information or read it directly on the website.

Continue to protect yourself and others

You must still follow the recommendations in order to limit the spread of the virus, even if you have been vaccinated.

Follow developments and continue to

- stay home if you are ill
- keep your distance from other people
- wash your hands regularly

Further information and contact details

Learn more about what applies to you and where you live:

- 1177 Healthcare Guide – [1177.se](https://www.1177.se)

Vaccination recommendations and how to limit the spread of the virus:

- Public Health Agency of Sweden – [folkhalsomyndigheten.se](https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se)

Vaccine against COVID-19:

- Swedish Medical Products Agency – lakemedelsverket.se/coronavaccin
- Department of Public Medicines Information, tel.: 0771 46 70 10

FAQs on Covid-19 for residents:

- [krisinformation.se](https://www.krisinformation.se)
- 113 13 – National information line