

# Coronavirus vaccine for adolescents 16–17 years

Brief information from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health about COVID-19 vaccines.

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## About COVID-19

COVID-19 mainly causes respiratory tract infections, but can also cause symptoms from other organs.

The elderly and adults with chronic diseases have the greatest risk of a severe COVID-19 disease course. Children who become ill usually have a mild course with mild and short-term respiratory tract symptoms. Adolescents more often feel unwell, with headaches and muscle aches.

The risk of a severe COVID-19 disease course among adolescents is low, but some may become seriously ill. Vaccination can reduce this risk, while contributing to less transmission in society.

## About the vaccines

The mRNA vaccine Comirnaty (BioNTech and Pfizer) is recommended for adolescents under 18 years of age. The vaccine does not contain live virus and cannot cause COVID-19 disease.

Two doses at 12-week intervals are recommended. For those who have previously had COVID-19, one vaccine dose is recommended. The protection against a serious disease course is already good three weeks after the first dose.

The vast majority of side effects from the coronavirus vaccine occur 1–2 days after vaccination, are mild/moderate and pass after a few days.

Common side effects are pain and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, chills, joint pain and fever.

We know a lot about common side effects after vaccination. Serious side effects are very rare. We are following closely to see if there are any unknown side effects.

Typical symptoms of myocarditis include chest pains, shortness of breath, palpitations and fever, and they usually occur within two weeks after the second dose. Contact a doctor if these symptoms arise, or if you have other unusual, severe or persistent symptoms after vaccination.

Norwegian cardiologists consider that COVID-19 can have a more serious effect on the heart than the vaccine, and that this rare side effect should not prevent young people from being offered the vaccine.

[Read more about the coronavirus vaccine at www.fhi.no/cvp](http://www.fhi.no/cvp)