

December 2020



Information from the Danish Health Authority on vaccination offer against COVID-19



The Danish Health Authority is sending this letter to all citizens over the age of 18 to inform them about vaccination against COVID-19. The letter contains general guidance on vaccination against COVID-19, provides answers to some of your questions about the vaccination programme and directs you to where you can find up-to-date information.

COVID-19 is a disease that can affect anyone. The disease can be severe for some, and vaccination can help prevent illness. Vaccination will be an important new tool in our efforts to control the COVID-19 epidemic.

Vaccination against COVID-19 will be both free and voluntary.

In short:

- Vaccination against COVID-19 will begin shortly, and among the first to be offered vaccination are our most senior citizens as well as healthcare personnel and nursing staff.
- Initially, we will not be getting enough vaccines for everyone, and it will be a while before we are able to vaccinate everyone. When it is your turn to be vaccinated, you will be informed via Digital Post at borger.dk and e-boks.dk. If you are exempt from receiving Digital Post, you will get a letter in the mail.
- The regions will set up vaccination centres around the country where most citizens will be vaccinated. Some will be vaccinated locally, for example, in nursing homes or at their workplace if they are healthcare personnel or nursing staff.

Who should be vaccinated?

The aim is to be able to vaccinate everyone in Denmark for whom the vaccines have been approved. We do not expect the vaccines to be authorised for use on, for example, pregnant and breastfeeding women or children, which is why these groups will not be offered vaccination.

At first, we will not be receiving enough vaccines for everyone. Therefore, we will initially prioritise vaccinating those who are most at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 – including the very elderly, residents in nursing homes, and older people who are at risk due to, for example, pre-existing conditions or diseases. Personnel in healthcare and elderly care who have close contact with the most vulnerable and perform critical functions will also be given priority. Still, as more vaccines are delivered during 2021, more and more groups will be offered vaccination against COVID-19.

How do you get notified of vaccination offers?

The institution or management will notify residents of nursing homes and personnel in healthcare and elderly care. If you are at higher risk, for example, if you are elderly and seriously ill, you may be contacted by your own doctor or the hospital.

Older people will be offered vaccination according to their date of birth and will be notified via Digital Post at borger.dk and e-boks.dk. If you are exempt from receiving Digital Post, you will get a letter in the mail.

When you are offered vaccination against COVID-19, you will also receive information about when you can be vaccinated. If you have to book the vaccination yourself, you will receive information on how to do so.

Where is the vaccination going to take place?

The regions will set up vaccination centres across the country where the majority of the population will be vaccinated. Some will be vaccinated locally, for example residents in nursing homes. Much personnel in the healthcare and elderly care sector will be vaccinated at their workplace – for example at the hospital, nursing home or one of the regional vaccination centres. Your employer will notify you. Healthcare professionals, etc. who work outside the hospital will be offered the vaccination at a vaccination centre.

How does the vaccine work?

The first vaccines we receive are based on so-called mRNA technology. The vaccines give the immune system a preview of what the real virus looks like without causing disease, and this preview gives the immune system time to design powerful antibodies that can neutralise the real virus if you are ever infected. However, it is still unclear whether everyone will be fully protected, and we have not yet been provided with evidence of how long the protection will last, but we will gain more knowledge on an ongoing basis. Please be assured that we will only use approved vaccines, that no vaccine is authorised for use before both efficacy and safety has been thoroughly documented through extensive scientific studies and trials, and that the benefits will far outweigh any adverse side effects.

In the long term, several different vaccines against COVID-19 will be approved. Consequently, it may vary which vaccine various individuals may be given. You can read more about this at The Danish Health Authority's website, www.sst.dk/covid-vaccination-eng

Further information

You can read more and always find the latest information on vaccination against COVID-19 at our website: www.sst.dk/covid-vaccination-eng

Continue to follow the Danish Health Authority's guidance

Although we will soon be able to vaccinate against COVID-19, it will be a while before enough people have been vaccinated. Therefore, it remains important that we all continue to follow the general guidance on how to prevent infection in society in the months to come:



Regards,



Søren Brostrøm

Director General, The Danish Health Authority