

COVID-19 VACCINES

These are drugs that help the immune system (our body's defence system) recognise and block the virus that causes COVID-19, preventing it from multiplying in our bodies.

There are several types of vaccines authorised in Europe: although they act differently, each one protects us! Covid-19 vaccines are a right for all people in our territory and are free of charge.

WHY WE HAVE Covid-19 VACCINES

- Because almost all vaccinated people do not fall ill with Covid-19
- Because the few vaccinated people who do get sick are not seriously ill
- Because vaccines protect the whole population by stopping the circulation of the virus

HOW MANY DOSES SHOULD WE GIVE

Depending on the type of vaccine, one or two doses may be needed. If the two-dose vaccine is used, it is important to receive both doses for complete protection.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE VACCINE?

Immediately after the vaccine you will be asked to wait 15-30 minutes to see if you have any complaints. In some people, you may experience discomfort (side effects). The most common side effects are mild and disappear after 1 or 2 days: redness and/or pain in the injection area, tiredness, headache, muscle aches, fever.

If these discomforts persist for more than 3 days or if you experience unexpected side effects, call your family doctor or your local health authority. In case of emergency always call 112 or go to the Emergency Room.

DOES THE VACCINE PROTECT US IMMEDIATELY AFTER INJECTION?

No, it does not: Full protection occurs **2 weeks after** the second dose (in the case of 2 doses) or 2 weeks after the single dose.

WHAT TO DO AFTER BEING VACCINATED

Until almost the entire population has been vaccinated (community immunity), the virus will continue to circulate and enter and reproduce in people's bodies (infection).

The vaccine decreases the risk of infection but does not eliminate it completely.

Until the virus stops circulating, **all protective measures against COVID-19 should continue to be observed** even after being vaccinated:

- properly wear a **mask** as required by national regulations
- maintain a **distance** of at least 1 m between people
- **avoid gatherings**
- **wash hands frequently** with soap and water or with a hydro-alcoholic solution.