

Vaccine in short for **Comirnaty (Pfizer/BioNTech)** against **COVID-19**

For children from 6 months to 11 years old

What is this vaccine for?

This vaccine protects your child against becoming seriously ill from coronavirus disease, caused by SARS-CoV-2. The coronavirus continues to change and is still present in the Netherlands. This vaccine has therefore been adapted. Your child's protection against the virus gradually decreases after their last injection or after an coronavirus infection.

If your child becomes infected with the coronavirus, it may develop symptoms such as fever, coughing, a sore throat, a runny nose and loss of smell and taste. A small number of children are admitted to hospital.

This injection strengthens your child's immunity against the coronavirus.

Why is there a vaccine with a lower dose?



Children aged 6 months to 11 years receive the same vaccination as adults. However, there is a difference: children need a smaller dose of the vaccine. They receive an injection containing 10 micrograms. An adult receives an injection containing 30 micrograms.

Why is a 10 microgram injection enough for children?

The immune system of children respond more strongly than the immune system of adults. The immune system provides protection against the coronavirus. With a smaller amount of vaccine, children produce at least as many antibodies as adults do with a 30 microgram injection.

How does this vaccine work?



Because of the injection, your child's body produces antibodies that help protect them better against the virus. If your child becomes infected with the coronavirus after receiving the coronavirus injection, their body recognises this virus. **As a result, your child will either not become ill or will become much less ill.**

When will my child receive this vaccine?

Your child can receive this vaccine if they are aged between 6 months and 11 years of age. The Dutch Government determines who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination.

Your child's (pediatric) physician will tell you when your child needs an injection.



Your child receives the injection in the upper arm.

Most important warnings

Ask your doctor whether your child can receive this vaccine if your child has previously had an **allergic reaction** to a vaccine.

The RIVM advises you to make a new appointment if your child is **seriously ill** or has a **high fever** before receiving the vaccination.

Your child has a very small chance of inflammation of the heart muscle or the outer lining of the heart. This usually occurs within 2 weeks.

Contact the doctor immediately if your child experiences the following after the vaccination:

- Chest pain.
- Shortness of breath.
- Feeling their heart beating (palpitations).

Most important side effects

As with other vaccines, your child may experience side effects. Most side effects occur because the vaccine activates your child's immune system. The immune system provides protection against the coronavirus.

More than 1 in 10 children may experience the following side effects:

- Irritability (with children aged 6 months to 2 years).
- Drowsiness (with children aged 6 months to 2 years).
- Pain or tenderness at the injection site, or thickening of the skin.
- Tiredness.
- Headache.
- Muscle pain.
- Joint pain.
- Chills.
- Fever.
- Diarrhoea.

These side effects usually last 1 to 3 days.

More information



If you have any further questions or concerns about the coronavirus injection for your child, discuss them with your doctor or a pharmacist.

For the official package leaflet, see [EMA.europa.eu](https://ema.europa.eu). For more information, please visit [RIVM.nl](https://rivm.nl). If you would like to report a side effect, or learn more about side effects, you can do so via lareb.nl/en.