How are vaccines approved in Europe?

VACCELERATE

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101037867

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Only vaccines that are safe and effective are approved for use in the European Union. EU public health authorities protect your health by carrying out scientific evaluations of all new vaccines and monitoring their safety as long as they are in use.

The process begins with rigorous studies on a new vaccine. Once the vaccíne's safety has been shown, it can be tested on people in clinical trials. Authorities oversee the trials and carry out inspections. The authorities include the European Medicines Agency (EMA) where scientific experts across the EU carry out a scientific evaluation of the trial / study results. EMA weighs up the benefits of the new vaccine against the risk.

The experts must be confident that the benefits of the vaccine are far greater than any risks, only then is the vaccine approved.

For more info, please watch this video from the European Vaccination Information

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Why are vaccines continued to be monitored once they receive approval?

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It is important to continue making sure that vaccines work and are safe when given to millions of people.

Careful monitoring by experts means that you and your family can be safely vaccinated and protected from infectious diseases.

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Should I vaccinate myself or my child?

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Vaccination protects people against serious and life-threatening infectious diseases, such as influenza (flu), diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), meningococcal disease, invasive pneumococcal disease and polio.

Each year, vaccination stops 2.7 million people worldwide from getting measles, one million from getting pertussis and two million babies from getting tetanus.

In the past, many people died of diseases that can now be prevented through vaccination. People also suffered more commonly from disease-related complications, such as blindness due to measles and babies born with deafness, cataracts or learning disabilities due to their mothers getting rubella in pregnancy. Polio - as many people born before the 60's will remember - used to be a major cause of death, paralysis and lifelong disabilities in Europe and other regions.

For more info, please join the link from ECDC

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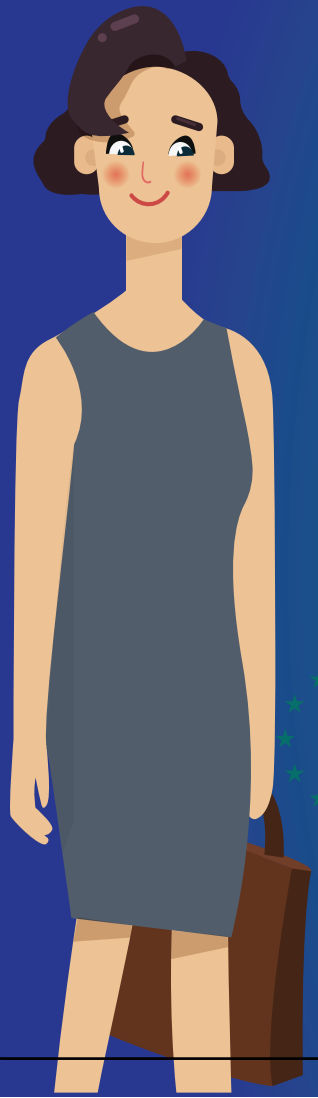

Are COVID-19 vaccines effective?

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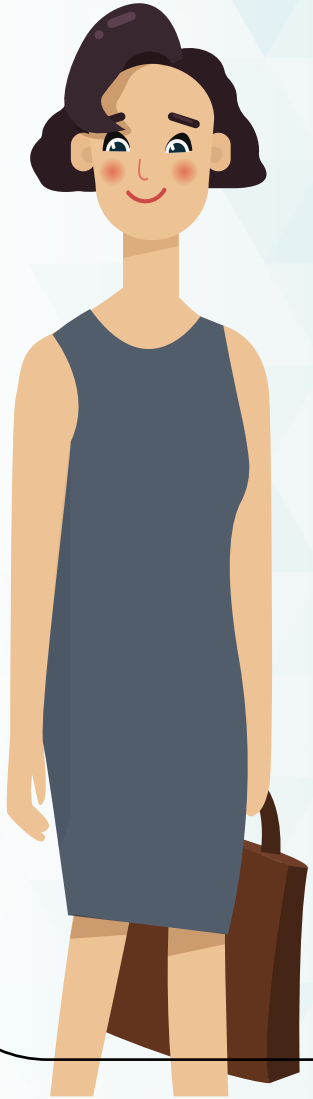

COVID-19 vaccines are developed and authorised for use following the same legal requirements and high standards for quality, safety and efficacy as for all other vaccines.

Prior to marketing authorisation, vaccine efficacy is assessed in clinical trials, establishing how well the vaccine works in preventing COVID-19 disease of any severity.

Benefits of a vaccine may include preventing the disease in the first place, reducing the number of people infected, reducing the number of severe cases of a disease as well as the number of deaths

For more info, please join the link from ECDC

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Do vaccinated individuals still need to follow personal protective measures?

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Results from observational studies carried out to date show that the vaccines centrally authorised in the EU / EEA are currently highly protective against COVID-19-related severe disease, hospitalisation and death.

Until enough people are vaccinated, vaccinated individuals should continue to follow public health measures as per national recommendations. The pandemic is not over yet.

Highly transmissible variants of SARS-CoV-2 are circulating in all EU / EEA countries, and in some areas and some population groups, not enough people are vaccinated.

More evidence is needed to see how effective COVID-19 vaccines are at preventing transmission of this variant. Therefore, everyone, regardless of vaccination status, should follow the relevant national recommendations to mitigate the spread of the disease.

For more info, please join the link from ECDC

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Can COVID-19 vaccines protect people against the coronavirus when it has mutated?

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Vaccines against some viral diseases remain effective for many years and provide long-lasting protection.

Others, such as the seasonal flu vaccines, need to be regularly updated to remain effective. This is because viruses constantly mutate (changes in their genetic material) when they circulate among people.

Many coronavirus mutations have no impact on vaccine effectiveness, but some may be of concern due to a potential reduction in how well the existing vaccines may work.

Scientists around the world are carefully monitoring mutations of the coronavirus to assess how well the currently available COVID-19 vaccines can protect people against them.

For more info, please join the link from ECDC

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Do I have to check the vaccination information sources first before sharing it with others?

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Please watch this video from the European Vaccination Information Portal

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