

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

Vaccination against Covid-19 is our main asset to protect the population from the virus and gradually reduce its circulation.

Numerous studies carried out in different contexts have shown that this vaccination is very effective against severe forms of the disease and considerably reduces the risk of being contaminated and of transmitting the virus.

This is why Belgium, like many other countries in the world, considers that reaching a high percentage of fully vaccinated people within the population is the condition for normalising life in society and progressively lifting the restrictions imposed since the beginning of the pandemic.

The progress made in vaccination in recent months has already enabled us to take steps in this direction, but the process is partly held back by major disparities between regions, with vaccination rates remaining especially low in Brussels.

Given this situation, it seems essential to increase access to quality information on vaccination, to answer possible questions people might have about it and to facilitate access to the vaccine for those who choose to get it. That's the reason for the approach initiated in schools, which is aimed at young people aged 12 and over, as well as their parents and the school's staff.

### **Why do young people need the vaccine?**

Because young people can also be infected with the coronavirus. Even though they are often less ill, they can still transmit the virus to others, including older, more vulnerable people they come into contact with.

By vaccinating yourself and/or giving permission for your child to get vaccinated, you are protecting those around you. You are also helping to meet one of the conditions for social life and the school's organization to return to normal (no need for masks, reduction of the risk of quarantine, etc.).

### **How do I get my child vaccinated?**

1. Via an existing vaccination point. You can go to <https://coronavirus.brussels/> or call the call centre on 02/214.19.19. You can make an appointment for your child or for yourself, if you haven't made one yet. It is also possible to be vaccinated without an appointment at the region's vaccination centres (although you will have to accompany your child if he/she is under 16).
2. Within the school, via the School's Health Promotion team. In the coming weeks, your child will have the opportunity, with your permission, to be vaccinated at school by healthcare professionals. You will receive practical information on the initiative, as well as a parental consent form, shortly.

No matter which option you choose, your child will always be vaccinated under strict medical supervision. Moreover, the vaccination is completely free of charge: no payment will be required regardless of your social situation or tax status.

For young people under the age of 18, the Superior Health Council and the Belgian health authorities recommend the use of the PFIZER and Moderna vaccines. These vaccines are safe and have already been administered to tens of millions of people in Belgium and throughout the world. To be fully protected, your child must receive two jabs of this vaccine.

## Where can I ask questions about vaccination?

Attached to this letter, you will find a list of answers to the most frequently asked questions about vaccination.

If you have any other medical questions, you can always contact your pharmacist or general practitioner. If you don't have a GP, you can call 1710. You can also find a lot of information on the following websites, which you can visit with your child:

- <https://covid.aviq.be/fr/faq-vaccination#1> ;
- <https://www.laatjevaccineren.be/> ;
- <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/vaccination/>;
- <https://www.jemevaccine.be/> ;
- <https://www.coronavirus.brussels> ;
- <https://www.watwat.be/corona>
- <https://padlet.com/informationjeunesse/tudosespas>

## Can I still be vaccinated as a parent ?

As mentioned above you also help to protect your family and those around you by getting vaccinated yourself. We are really aiming to increase the vaccination rate in all age groups, so we invite you to get vaccinated, if you haven't already done so.

You can find practical information on the website <https://coronavirus.brussels/> or call the call centre on 02/214.19.19. It is also possible to be vaccinated without an appointment at the region's vaccination centres.

Finally, you can also come to the school on the day of your child's vaccination. Depending on the available doses, you may receive one too, but this cannot be guaranteed. Do not hesitate to express your interest in being vaccinated at school with your child.

Thank you very much for your attention.