

Vaccine for children 6 months - 4 years with serious underlying disease

Children aged 6 months up to and including 4 years with a serious underlying disease can receive a corona vaccine after individual assessment.

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (FHI) believes that very few children aged 6 months - 4 years will need a vaccine against covid-19, but that there may still be some children with a serious underlying disease who could benefit from such an offer. In that case, this must be done after an individual assessment by a doctor who knows the child. This means that there is no recommendation at group level for children in this age group with a serious underlying disease, but that individual assessments can be made.

Relevant children should receive basic vaccination with three doses of Comirnaty (BioNTech/Pfizer) 3 micrograms/dose.

A doctor who knows the child must assess the need for corona vaccination for children in this group. Basic diseases in children aged 6 months - 4 years that allow corona vaccine to be considered (same list as for 5-11 years) are as follows:

- Organ transplantation (e.g. heart, kidney, liver etc.)
- Immunodeficiency (for example, congenital immunodeficiency or the use of drugs that cause significant systemic immunosuppression)
- Haematological cancer (e.g. leukaemia, lymphoma) in the past five years
- Other active cancer diseases, ongoing or recently completed (within the last six months) treatment against cancer - especially immunosuppressive treatment, radiotherapy to the lungs or chemotherapy
- Neurological diseases or muscle diseases that cause reduced coughing power or reduced lung function
- Chronic kidney disease with significantly reduced kidney function
- Severe heart disease (children with heart failure, severe pulmonary hypertension, cyanosis, single chamber disease/"Fontan children")
- Severe lung disease (e.g. cystic fibrosis, very severe asthma with exacerbations requiring emergency hospitalization in the past year)
- Other very serious illness

Requirements for consent

Both parents with parental responsibility must consent to corona vaccination. Exceptions to this rule will not be made unless a parent has sole parental responsibility and can document this. We require a new consent form for each vaccine dose. Send consent for the child to be vaccinated via *HelseNorge* to the school health service. If you are unable to use the digital solution, you can fill in the attached consent form. Print it out and bring it to the vaccination appointment.

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (FHI) has prepared a separate consent form for this group. The form is available here:

https://www.fhi.no/contentassets/1148f51d70104e33b49a41d29da40c4c/vedlegg/samtykkeskjemaer/engelsk-english_consent-form--vaccination-of-children-aged-6-months-up-to-and-including-4-years.pdf

This is how the vaccination takes place

The vaccination is organized via a health center in the city area where you/you live. Those who wish to vaccinate their child must obtain written confirmation from the child's doctor that the child is in the target group for vaccination and that the child can be vaccinated. The confirmation from the doctor can be sent via dialogue message to the child's health centre, or parents can bring this with them when the child is to be vaccinated.

When vaccinating, a guardian must accompany the child and bring ID. A completed consent form signed by both parents with parental responsibility must be brought with you if both parents with parental responsibility have not consented to vaccination via *HelseNorge*. Allow extra time for the vaccination as consent must be checked and documented. Children and guardians must stay at the vaccination site 20 minutes after the vaccination has been completed.

About the vaccine

It will be vaccinated with Comirnaty from BioNTech/Pfizer adapted to children in the age group.

More information about vaccination of children at FHI:

<https://www.fhi.no/sv/vaksine/koronavaksinasjonsprogrammet/koronavaksine/#vaksinasjon-av-barn-og-unge>