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Covid-19 vaccination: what timetable?

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Illustration 1

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Vaccination is considered an essential axis of the fight against the Covid-19 epidemic. Free of charge, it began on 27 December 2020 in France following the steps recommended by the High Health Authority (HAS). Why get vaccinated? Who is concerned? What is the schedule according to the audience? How do I make an appointment at the vaccination centre? What are the security guarantees? *Service-Public.fr* updates Health Insurance and the Ministry of Health.

Several decrees issued in *Official Journal* specify how vaccines are to be distributed, prescribed, dispensed and administered. At the press conference on 7 January 2021, the Prime Minister presented the new steps for the vaccination plan.

Why get vaccinated?

Results of studies of vaccine candidates show that vaccination significantly reduces severe forms and mortality due to the virus.

Coupled with the barrier measures, the vaccine helps contain the epidemic's long-term impact.

The public concerned and the timetable for initial vaccination

As a first step:

The deployment of vaccination is being phased in with a priority given since 27 December 2020 to the public most vulnerable to the virus and most likely to develop serious forms of the disease. These include:

- elderly people in institutions: Dependent Elderly Accommodation Facility (Ehpad), Long-Term Care Units (LTUs), Self-Catering Residences, Senior Service Residences;
- staff who work in these establishments when they are at risk of developing a serious form of Covid-19;
- professionals in the health (including liberal) and medico-social sectors, firefighters and home care workers aged 50 and over and/or [presenting co-morbidities](https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/grands-dossiers/vaccin-covid-19/article/la-strategie-vaccinale-et-la-liste-des-publics-prioritaires#liste-comor) (https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/grands-dossiers/vaccin-covid-19/article/la-strategie-vaccinale-et-la-liste-des-publics-prioritaires#liste-comor) since 4 January 2021;
- persons with disabilities living in specialised establishments and their staff aged 50 and over and/or with co-morbidities;
- persons aged 75 and over living at home from 18 January 2021. Appointments to vaccination centres will be made by telephone and via the Internet from 15 January 2021;
- vulnerable patients [very high risk](https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/liste_maladies_rares_cosv_fmr-2.pdf) [application/pdf - 811.7 KB] (https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/liste_maladies_rares_cosv_fmr-2.pdf) since 18 January 2021 who must have a medical prescription from their attending physician to benefit from vaccination without age criteria.

Effective February 6, 2021:

Immunisation was open to all health and medical-social professionals, home care workers for vulnerable people and firefighters of all ages.

Effective February 19, 2021:

Vaccination is open to people aged 50 to 64 who are at risk of serious forms of Covid-19, such as diabetes or obesity, and who can be vaccinated in their care facilities, including in hospitals. Since February 25, 2021, they can be vaccinated directly at a city doctor.

Since 2 March 2021, people over the age of 75 can be vaccinated with the AstraZeneca vaccine in a city doctor (specialist or general practitioner).

Since 15 March 2021, vaccination in pharmacies is possible for people over 50 years of age with co-morbidities. Patients eligible for the AstraZeneca vaccine will not require a medical prescription and may go directly to the clinic.

Since 25 March 2021, all persons aged 70 and over can obtain appointments at the vaccination centre to receive the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine from Saturday, March 27, 2021. Those who are eligible for the AstraZeneca vaccine can be vaccinated at a pharmacist or a city doctor (general practitioner, specialist doctor, or occupational physician).

Since April 12, 2021, people aged 55 and over, regardless of their place of life and health (with or without co-morbidities), can be vaccinated with the Vaxzevria vaccine (AstraZeneca) in a pharmacist, nurse or city doctor (general practitioner, specialist or occupational physician).

Since 16 April 2021, people aged 60 to 69 and over benefit from the extension of the vaccination campaign by Pfizer and Moderna (in vaccination centre).

From 1st May 2021, persons over 18 to 49 years of age suffering from co-morbidity(s) can be vaccinated in a vaccination centre by Pfizer and Moderna, on declaration of co-morbidity(s) and without having to present a medical prescription.

Since 10 May 2021, People aged 50 and over, regardless of their place of life and health (with or without co-morbidities), can be vaccinated in a vaccination centre by Pfizer and Moderna.

Since 12 May 2021, all 18 to 49 year olds can make an appointment to be vaccinated in the vaccination centre for injections with Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines that take place the same day or the next day.

Since 27 May 2021, all adults may make an appointment to be vaccinated in the vaccination centre for injections with Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines from 31 May 2021.

Since 15 June 2021, 12 to 17 year olds can be vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in a vaccination centre. On 24 July 2021, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) issued an authorisation for the Moderna vaccine the HAS delivered a favourable opinion on 28 July (https://www.has-sante.fr/jcms/p_3280559/fr/covid-19-le-vaccin-spikevax-de-moderna-peut-etre-utilise-a-partir-de-l-age-de-12-ans).

From 1 September 2021, a recall campaign is implemented to stimulate the immune system of the most vulnerable: residents of EHPAD and USLD, people 65 years of age and older living at home, people with co-morbidity(s), people with high-risk, severe-form diseases, people who have been vaccinated with Janssen vaccine.

Effective September 15, 2021, the obligation to vaccinate applies to all staff in health care institutions, shelters for the elderly (Ehpad) and establishments for the disabled and all professionals or volunteers in contact with elderly or vulnerable persons, including at home. This measure is provided for by the Law of 5 August 2021 on the management of the health crisis.

Reminder : People who have already had Covid-19 receive only one injection, on the basis of a proof (PCR or antigenic test or positive serology result of at least 2 months). It is recommended that only one dose be injected to people who have been infected with Covid-19, within a minimum of 2 months of proof of contamination (RT-PCR or positive antigenic test). The single dose of vaccine will thus act as a booster.

A delay of 6 months between the last dose received, completing the initial immunisation schedule, and 3^e booster dose. This time limit is reduced to 4 weeks for people who have received a dose of Janssen vaccine.

In order to avoid a second dose of vaccine that would not be useful, before the first dose of vaccine is injected, rapid serological screening (rapid diagnostic orientation test) can be performed for those who have not been screened as positive in the year before the injection.

Initially recommended from 2^e trimester of pregnancy, vaccination of **pregnant** is possible from 1st pregnancy trimester. One urgent note from the Health Branch (https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/dgs_urgent_73_complements_sur_la_strategie_vaccinale.pdf) was broadcast to professionals on 30 July 2021.

The audiences concerned and the timetable for the recall campaign

From 1st September 2021, a recall campaign (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A15120>) is set up to stimulate the immune system of the most vulnerable. The persons concerned by this recall are:

- EHPAD and USLD residents
- persons aged 65 and over living at home;
- persons suffering from co-morbidity(s);
- people with high-risk illnesses;
- people who were vaccinated with the Janssen vaccine (4 weeks after the single injection).

From 6 October 2021 (opinion of the High Health Authority), are also concerned:

- healthcare professionals, all employees in the health and medical-social sectors, home care workers for vulnerable people, health transport professionals and firefighters, whatever their age;
- relatives (over 18 years) of immunocompromised persons.

From 27 November 2021, the vaccination recall is open to all persons aged 18 and over. The booster dose should be given 5 months after the last vaccine injection (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna or AstraZeneca) or Covid infection.

The booster dose: for whom and where? (https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/local/adapt-img/1024/10x/IMG/png/infog_rappel.png?1631026579)

Warning : Sanitary pass conditioned to the booster dose (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A15318>) :

For persons 65 years of age and over and persons vaccinated with the Janssen vaccine, the vaccination recall will be mandatory from 15 December 2021 to maintain a valid health pass.

As of January 15, 2022, all persons aged 18 and over must have received a booster dose no more than 7 months after their last injection or infection with Covid to benefit from a valid health pass.

Vaccination centres

In order to be able to vaccinate priority persons, vaccination centres are open throughout France (<https://www.sante.fr/centres-vaccination-covid.html>).

On site, a very simple questionnaire to verify that vaccination can proceed normally and in good conditions will be required. It is possible to see a doctor, since there is always a doctor present at the vaccination centre. This is an intramuscular injection, in the shoulder most often. At the end of the injection, you have to stay about fifteen minutes on site for safety before you can go home. The vaccine will protect you against serious forms of Covid-19 between three and six weeks after the first injection.

Where do you go to get vaccinated?

You can make an appointment with your GP (general practitioner or specialist), in a nursing office, with a midwife, in your place of care or in a pharmacy. Pfizer vaccine can be injected by doctors and pharmacies since 1st October 2021.

How do I make an appointment at a vaccination centre?

You can make an appointment:

On the Internet: both appointments for both injections can be made on Health (<https://www.sante.fr/cf/centres-vaccination-covid.html>) in the centre of your choice. The Health.fr website is directly accessible from AllAntiCovid application (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A14069>).

By phone by calling:

- the green number 0800 009 110, open 7 days a week from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, which will direct you directly to the telephone platforms of the chosen vaccination centre;
- the vaccination centre near you where you will have found the telephone number on the site Health (<https://www.sante.fr/cf/centres-vaccination-covid.html>).

which provides a complete list of centres open in each department.

Please note : On the day of the appointment, you have to show up with an identity document and your vital card (or a certificate of rights) in order to give your social security number. Since January 28, 2021, a foreigner or a homeless person can be vaccinated in a vaccination centre even if they do not have a vital card.

If you have a previous positive result on Covid-19, you can present it on your first appointment. After your medical interview, your vaccination can be done in one dose of vaccine instead of two.

The

Vaccines are purchased by the National Public Health Agency, which provides them free of charge. In fact, a decree of 31 December 2020 provides for the full coverage of pre-vaccination and vaccination consultations, as well as the cost of injecting the vaccine. Non-insured persons benefit from an advance fee waiver.

Security

The National Agency for the Safety of Medicinal Products and Health Products (ANSM) is implementing a specific mechanism for enhanced surveillance of the adverse effects of Covid-19 vaccines.

FYI : Health care professionals and vaccinated individuals can report any adverse events that occur as a result of vaccination on [signage-health.govt.fr](https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/signage-health.govt.fr) (<https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/soins-et-maladies/signalement-sante-gouv-fr/>).

Barrier gestures still needed

As far as we know, vaccines that are available or in development reduce the severity of symptoms but not the contagiousness. Therefore, it is necessary to continue to isolate oneself in case of positive test, in case of contact with a positive person or in case of symptoms. We also need to continue to apply strict barrier gestures and wearing masks, even for vaccinated people.

FYI : Do you have questions about vaccination strategy, vaccines, their supply and monitoring? Appointment on [Frequently Asked Questions of the Ministry of Solidarity and Health](https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/grands-dossiers/vaccin-covid-19/je-suis-un-particulier/) (<https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/grands-dossiers/vaccin-covid-19/je-suis-un-particulier/>).

Please note : A decree of 25 December 2020 authorises the Ministry of Solidarity and Health and the National Health Insurance Fund to set up a processing of personal data called « *SI Vaccine Covid* » the purpose of which is to implement, monitor and control vaccination campaigns against the covid-19. It shall also lay down the procedures for such campaigns.

Statute and miscellaneous references

- Order of 7 July 2021 amending the order of 1 June 2021 prescribing the general measures necessary for the management of the health crisis (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/arrete/2021/7/7/SSAZ2121002A/jo/texte>)
- Decree No. 2021-699 of 1 June 2021 prescribing the general measures necessary for the management of the health crisis (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000043575238/>)
- Decree No. 2021-248 of 4 March 2021 amending Decrees No. 2020-1262 of 16 October 2020 and No. 2020-1310 of 29 October 2020 prescribing the general measures necessary to deal with covid-19 outbreak as part of health emergency (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/decret/2021/3/4/SSAZ2107321D/jo/texte>)
- Decree No. 2021-10 of 7 January 2021 amending Decrees No. 2020-1262 of 16 October 2020 and No. 2020-1310 of 29 October 2020 prescribing the general measures necessary to deal with the covid-19 outbreak as part of the health emergency (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/decret/2021/1/7/SSAZ2100624D/jo/texte>)
- Decree No. 2020-1833 of 31 December 2020 amending Decree No. 2020-73 of 31 January 2020 adopting adapted conditions for the benefit of cash for persons exposed to the coronavirus (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/decret/2020/12/31/SSAS2037177D/jo/texte>)
- Decree No. 2020-1691 of 25 December 2020 amending Decrees No. 2020-1262 of 16 October 2020 and No. 2020-1310 of 29 October 2020 prescribing the necessary general measures to deal with the covid-19 epidemic as part of the state of health emergency (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/decret/2020/12/25/SSAZ2036881D/jo/texte>)
- Decree No. 2020-1690 of 25 December 2020 authorising the creation of a processing of personal data relating to vaccinations against Covid-19 (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/decret/2020/12/25/SSAP2033349D/jo/texte>)
- Order of 3 December 2020 amending the order of 10 July 2020 prescribing the measures for the organisation and functioning of the health system necessary to deal with the epidemic of covid-19 in the context of the state of health emergency (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/arrete/2020/12/3/SSAZ2033724A/jo/texte>)

Additional topics

- Covid-19 vaccine: what are the rules? (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F35611?lang=en>)
- Covid-19: what support rules? (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F35262?lang=en>)
- Covid-19 Vaccine: Who is affected by the booster dose? (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A15120?lang=en>)
- Covid-19: Who can get vaccinated and where? (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A14722?lang=en>)
- When do your booster dose to keep your valid health pass? (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A15318?lang=en>)
- Where can I find the vaccination situation points? (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A14605?lang=en>)

For more information, please contact

- I want to get vaccinated, what do I need to know? (<https://mesconseilscovid.sante.gouv.fr/je-veux-me-faire-vacciner.html>)
Ministry of Solidarity and Health

- **Opening of slots for priority professionals over 55 in vaccination centres** [↗](https://www.gouvernement.fr/partage/12230-ouverture-de-creneaux-dedies-aux-professionnels-prioritaires-de-plus-de-55-ans-en-centres-de) (https://www.gouvernement.fr/partage/12230-ouverture-de-creneaux-dedies-aux-professionnels-prioritaires-de-plus-de-55-ans-en-centres-de)
Prime Minister
- **Vaccination Status Points** [↗](https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/grands-dossiers/la-vaccination-contre-la-covid-19/article/points-de-situation-vaccination) (https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/grands-dossiers/la-vaccination-contre-la-covid-19/article/points-de-situation-vaccination)
National Health Insurance Fund (Cnam)
- **Who can get vaccinated, when and how?** [↗](https://www.ameli.fr/assure/covid-19/vaccination-contre-la-covid-19/qui-peut-se-faire-vacciner-quand-et-comment) (https://www.ameli.fr/assure/covid-19/vaccination-contre-la-covid-19/qui-peut-se-faire-vacciner-quand-et-comment)
National Health Insurance Fund (Cnam)
- **Frequently Asked Questions: vaccination against COVID-19** [↗](https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/grands-dossiers/vaccin-covid-19/je-suis-un-particulier/) (https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/grands-dossiers/vaccin-covid-19/je-suis-un-particulier/)
Ministry of Solidarity and Health
- **Government website** [↗](https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus/vaccins) (https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus/vaccins)
Prime Minister
- **COVID-19 vaccination: what role for Public Health France?** [↗](https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/les-actualites/2020/vaccination-covid-19-quel-role-pour-sante-publique-france) (https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/les-actualites/2020/vaccination-covid-19-quel-role-pour-sante-publique-france)
Public Health France
- **Vaccination under Covid-19** [↗](https://www.has-sante.fr/jcms/p_3178533/fr/vaccination-dans-le-cadre-de-la-covid-19) (https://www.has-sante.fr/jcms/p_3178533/fr/vaccination-dans-le-cadre-de-la-covid-19)
High Health Authority (HAS)
- **Immunisation Info Service** [↗](https://vaccination-info-service.fr/Les-maladies-et-leurs-vaccins/COVID-19) (https://vaccination-info-service.fr/Les-maladies-et-leurs-vaccins/COVID-19)
Ministry of Solidarity and Health