



Factsheet for parents and guardians: vaccinating school pupils aged 12–17 against SARS-CoV-2

The number of cases has currently fallen to an encouragingly low level throughout the state of Lower Saxony. However, the spread of the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has necessitated further considerations regarding infection control. The most important measure in this context is vaccination.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has already approved the Biontech/Pfizer vaccine in the EU for the 12–17 age group. This means that, in countries including Germany, children and adolescents can – as of June 2021 – generally be vaccinated even if they do not belong to an at-risk group.

Germany's standing committee on vaccination (STIKO) – an independent body of experts that issues evidence-based recommendations on vaccination in Germany – currently recommends that children in this age group be vaccinated only if they have pre-existing conditions, if they live in households with non-vaccinated and vulnerable family members, and if they are adolescents with a higher risk of exposure for work-related reasons. It is, however, quite possible that this STIKO recommendation will be changed in the foreseeable future depending on how the situation develops.

As parents or guardians, the decision as to whether your child should be vaccinated is yours and yours alone. However, a paediatrician will no doubt be happy to advise you on this matter.

Information on vaccination of children and adolescents that may help you make your decision is available on the website of the [Robert Koch Institute \(RKI\)](#) (where you will find the RKI factsheet in various languages) and the [Lower Saxony Ministry of Education](#). Germany's Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA) has a website with [background information on vaccination against SARS-CoV-2](#).

This information on vaccination includes explanations of the different vaccines, and is also available in various languages as well as easy-to-understand German.

If you decide in favour of vaccination, there are three different routes to obtaining an appointment: through your GP (*Hausarzt*), through your paediatrician (*Kinder- und Jugendarzt*) or through Lower Saxony's official vaccination portal ([Impfportal Niedersachsen](#)). At the latter, you can also find out which vaccination centres are currently immunizing children and adolescents aged 12–17 against the coronavirus. This is not currently the case in all such centres.

A special vaccination drive for children and adolescents aged between 12 and 17 is scheduled for Sunday, 18 July 2021, in many of Lower Saxony's vaccination centres. The state authorities are making some 27,000 vaccine doses available for this purpose. Registration is possible only via the helpline: call (0800) 99 88 665.