

Wetteren, September 12, 2023

## New vaccine against Covid from the GP: why and how to apply

The Covid vaccine can still be lifesaving for many people. A new vaccine became available in September 2023. This new vaccine provides better protection against the latest variants of Covid.

The vaccine is certainly recommended for everyone over the age of 65, for pregnant women, for people who are seriously overweight (BMI 40+), for chronic illness (e.g. heart disease, chronic bronchitis, severe asthma, etc.), for those who have already had pneumonia, for smokers AND FOR HOUSEMATES of these people.



It is also planned for people staying in facilities and for (para)medical staff.

In children and anyone under 65, it is only necessary for chronic diseases.

The effectiveness of your previous vaccines against Covid has already been greatly weakened. It is known that Covid will spread more widely again in October 2023.

More information at [Report 9766 - COVID-19 autumn-winter vaccination - 2023 - 2024 season | FPS Public Health \(belgium.be\)](https://www.fps.belgium.be/en/9766-covid-19-autumn-winter-vaccination-2023-2024-season)

This vaccine consists of an injection into a muscle, for example the shoulder muscle. It is administered preferably before October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It usually has acceptable side effects: sometimes fatigue, headache, fever or some local muscle pain. A minority of people are so tired that they find it difficult to work for a few days and then they recover.

The Covid epidemic and vaccines do not change the need for flu vaccines. You can have these administered at the same time, but in that case you must bring the flu vaccine from the pharmacy. From the age of 50 you no longer need a prescription. Pharmacists and general practitioners are allowed to administer both types of injections. In facilities this can also be set by the coordinating doctor there; orders for residents there must also be sent to that doctor.

This new Pfizer vaccine is supplied by the Flemish community (with the scientifically required composition, the same as what is available in pharmacies) and is completely free. At this time, proof of vaccination does not appear to be required for subsequent travel. We always enter given vaccines in Vaccinnet, a government website that other Belgian doctors who treat you and yourself can always consult and find proof of vaccination.

**You can receive this vaccine in our offices between 10 and 16h (4 pm) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 20/09 and 11/11/23. A vaccine will automatically be reserved for you when you make an appointment with appointment type "new covid vaccine on di, wo or do 10-16u" [which means Tue, Wed, or Thu 10 (a.m.)-16h (4p.m.)]**

Please note, this type of appointment is invalid if you enter it on other hours or on another day. You can make an appointment for this with one of the nurses. These types of appointments are meant for vaccines only.

**Between 12/11/23 and 30/01/2024 you can only reserve a vaccine on Wednesday 10 (a.m.) -16h (4 p.m.). Due to the short storage times of the vaccine after opening a group package, we cannot administer it at other times!**

Bedridden people who we only meet during a home visit can also receive the vaccine after ordering (during a previous home visit or by telephone or email). This will therefore be placed on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoon; they will be notified of this moment.

When you request the appointment by telephone or email (at [info@mediKwatrecht.be](mailto:info@mediKwatrecht.be)), you must also clearly state that you want the Covid vaccine, and for how many people.

If you have any additional questions, please speak to one of the nurses or doctors. You can also find a lot of information at [www.MediKwatrecht.be](http://www.MediKwatrecht.be).

Kind regards,

Doctors Deprost, Venneman, Rahoens, Monfret  
Nurses Jolien De Vriese, Geoffrey Poelman