

Letter to parents and caregivers  
of school pupils in Duisburg

Duisburg, 27 August 2021

## **Recommendation for children and adolescents from 12 years to be vaccinated against Covid-19**

Dear parents and caregivers,

As of 16 August, the experts from the Standing Committee on Vaccination (STIKO) recommends that all children above the age of 12 be vaccinated against Covid-19. The STIKO has assessed the latest scientific findings and has reached the conclusion that, based on current knowledge, the benefits of the vaccination outweigh the risks of extremely rare vaccine side effects.

As parents, you can decide whether your child is vaccinated up until they are 16 years of age. Adolescents who are 16 or above can decide this for themselves. Vaccination is always a voluntary decision.

Children and adolescents from 12 years of age can be vaccinated with the vaccine from Bio-ontech.

### **Why are we asking you to get your child vaccinated?**

- In rare cases, even children and adolescents can become seriously ill from Covid-19 and even die.
- They can also suffer from long-term consequences of a Covid infection (long Covid).
- Due to the more infectious Delta variant, the risk of contracting a Covid-19 infection is considerably higher for children and adolescents.
- Children and adolescents who have Covid-19 can infect other people.

The coronavirus pandemic is very hard on children and adolescents. They are suffering due to schools being closed, quarantine restrictions, contact bans, remote learning and leisure activities being cancelled. This state of living itself can make people sick.

Every vaccination protects not only the vaccinated person themselves, it also contributes to the general safety of everyone else:

- The vaccination protects children under the age of 12 who are not currently able to be vaccinated.
- The vaccination protects people that are unable to be vaccinated.
- Thanks to vaccination, there are fewer new Covid-19 infections in general as well as fewer new variants of the virus developing which may prove to be even more infectious or more dangerous.

The more school pupils are vaccinated, the faster schools can go back to normal.

The more people are vaccinated, the less people will get sick and the less restrictions will be required in our everyday lives.

So we are asking you: get your children aged 12 above vaccinated against Covid-19! In Duisburg, we have organised bus shuttles to the vaccination centre at lots of schools. If you are unable to use this service, there are many other opportunities to get vaccinated: at your paediatrician, at the vaccination centre or at one of the many local vaccination drives!

If you yourself are not vaccinated, we urge you to get vaccinated against Covid-19 as well.

**You can find current information about daily Covid-19 vaccinations in Duisburg here:**

Link: [https://www.duisburg.de/microsites/coronavirus/aktuelles/impfung-faq\\_115712.php](https://www.duisburg.de/microsites/coronavirus/aktuelles/impfung-faq_115712.php)

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Kind regards, and stay healthy!

Martin Murrack

Town Clerk and  
Head of the Crisis Committee

Astrid Neese

Councillor for Education,  
Labour and Social Affairs