

COVID-19 vaccination for European Solidarity Corps participants, hosted in Belgium

Dear volunteer and hosting organisation,

This email is meant to inform you and your hosting organisation about the most up to date information on the COVID-19 vaccination in Belgium. The National Agency JINT supports the vaccination program in Belgium and calls on the participants of the European Solidarity Corps and relevant organisations to participate. Of course, every person is free to choose whether or not they wish to be vaccinated, but in the spirit of solidarity we encourage you to do so.

Vaccination in your home country

You are in the final months of your project and are planning to leave before the summer

Every European Solidarity Corps participant in Belgium is free to choose if he/she/x wishes to receive a vaccine in Belgium or in their home country. If you are in the final months of your project and the vaccination program in your home country will still be ongoing by the time you get home, we recommend you to get vaccinated in your own country.

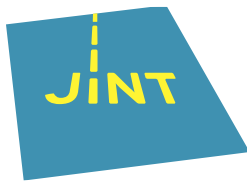
This is because it is recommended that everyone receives 2 injections of the same brand of vaccine (if it is a type of vaccine that needs two injections), preferably in the same country. If you are in the final stage of your project in Belgium, you might only receive the invitation from the Belgian government for the second injection when you are no longer in Belgium.

Also, it is unsure if the same vaccine you get in Belgium will be available in your home country. If you are vaccinated with a vaccine brand that is not available or recognized in your home country, you will have to restart the entire process.

You are still in Belgium for some time and would like to receive your vaccination in your home country

Traveling for a vaccination is highly discouraged. It is very time consuming to travel back and forth for a vaccination, as you will have to go into quarantine for approximately 2

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weeks both in your home country and in Belgium. If it is a type of vaccine that needs 2 injections, you will have to go through this process twice.

For this reason we recommend that you postpone the vaccination in your home country or check if you can be vaccinated in Belgium.

Vaccination in Belgium

You would like to get vaccinated in Belgium and you are still here until the end of August or later

To get a vaccine in Belgium, you will need to be registered at the local municipality, after which you will receive a BIS register number. With the BIS register number, you will receive an invitation from the Belgian government to get a vaccine when your target group is being vaccinated. It is difficult to predict when exactly this will be.

What is a BIS register number? And where can I find it

"The BIS number is a unique identification number for individuals who are not registered in the National Register, but who still have a relationship with the Belgian government. The BIS number consists of 11 digits, the first six digits are the date of birth. Other than with the national registration number, the month of birth of the BIS number is increased by 20 or 40. You will find your BIS number on documents such as the foreigner's card."¹

Types of vaccines

There are different types of vaccines, so inform yourself well before getting vaccinated in your host country

At this moment 4 vaccines have been approved by the EMA (European Medicines Agency) as well as by the Belgian government: PfizerBioNtech, AstraZeneca, Moderna en Johnson@Johnson. But this situation is continuously developing, so inform yourself about this.

It is not yet clear for any other vaccine (whatever its origin) if it will be accepted as valid and authorised COVID-19 vaccines. That decision has not yet been made on the European level.

That means that it is not clear yet if young people who received a vaccine abroad with a vaccine type other than those available in Belgium will be officially regarded as vaccinated when they arrive in Belgium.

¹ <https://sma-help.bosa.belgium.be/en/faq/where-can-i-find-my-bis-number#7326>