

FAQ leaflet on COVID

What is the 2G rule?

Only vaccinated and recovered persons have access (2G) to indoor areas of restaurants, cultural, sports and leisure facilities and to indoor events. In addition, a mask must be worn in these places and eating and drinking must be done while seated. The mask can be taken off for eating and drinking. In hotels, the 2G rule only applies in the restaurant and in wellness facilities. Restaurant employees are excluded from the 2G rule, but must wear a mask.

Exempt from the Covid certificate requirement are:

- Religious celebrations, funerals, events in the course of the usual activities and services of public authorities, as well as occasions for political opinion-forming and self-help groups with up to 50 people. Here, masks are compulsory in indoor areas, consumption is prohibited and contact details must be collected.
- Blood donation campaigns are not considered events and therefore do not fall under the Covid certificate obligation. The current protective measures continue to apply to these actions.

What means 2G+ rule?

Where masking/sitting is not possible during consumption (e.g. discos, bars, indoor swimming pools, fitness centres etc.) the 2G+ rule applies. This means that visitors must be vaccinated or recovered and additionally tested. Then they are allowed to dance without a mask and drink whilst standing. People who were vaccinated, boosted or recovered not longer than four months ago are exempt from the testing requirement.

What means 3G rule?

Even outdoor events, with access from the age of 16 onwards, may be restricted to people who have been vaccinated, recovered or tested (3G). The organiser may voluntarily restrict access to vaccinated and recovered persons (2G) or to those, who also have a certificate for a negative test result (2G+). Restricted access can be waived if a maximum of 300 people are admitted and visitors do not dance.

What is a Covid certificate?

The Covid certificate is proof that you have either been vaccinated, recovered or tested. You must show it in many public places (indoor restaurants, theatres, museums, cinemas, etc.) to be admitted.

There are 3 ways to get such a certificate:

- 1) You are vaccinated
 - 2) You are not vaccinated and got tested.
 - 3) You have had COVID and therefore have a certificate.
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How long is the certificate valid?

It depends on how you got the certificate.

- If you are fully vaccinated, it is valid for 1 year immediately after the 2nd vaccination.
 - If you have had COVID, it is also valid for 1 year.
 - If you have had a test, it is valid for 24 hours if you have had a rapid antigen test and 72 hours if you have had a PCR test. The validity period starts from the time the sample is taken and is activated as soon as you receive the result.
 - Since 16 November 2021, you can also apply for an antibody test certificate. This test proves that you have had Corona in the past and therefore have enough antibodies now. The antibody test can be done at your family doctor's or at a pharmacy. This certificate is valid for 90 days. You have to pay for the test yourself. This certificate is only valid in Switzerland. In the EU, such certificates are currently not recognised by most countries.
 - If you are vaccinated a third time (booster), the certificate is valid for another year.
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I want to get vaccinated, where can I do it?

There are many different places where you can get vaccinated. The best thing to do is to go to the website of the Canton of Bern <https://covid-kennzahlen.apps.be.ch/#/de/search>, enter the postcode of your place of residence there and you will then see where and when vaccination opportunities are available in your area.

Only in a few places do you have to register online first - in most places it is possible to register on site during opening hours. (Walk-in operation).

You need to bring the following with you to the vaccination

- An official identity card
- Your health insurance card
- Your vaccination card, if you have one
- Your six-digit registration code, if you have one.

Persons without regular residence status (Sans Papiers) should contact the Counselling Centre for Sans Papiers (<https://sanspapiersbern.ch/aktivitaeten/>) for information on vaccination.

I would like a booster (= 3rd vaccination), when and where can I do this?

You can register for a 3rd vaccination (booster) at the earliest 4 months after the 2nd vaccination. The procedure for a booster is basically the same as for a normal vaccination. Register for the booster via the canton's website or choose a walk-in clinic.

For the booster you need to bring

- An official identity card
 - Your health insurance card
 - Your vaccination card, if you have one
 - Your six-digit registration code, if you have one
 - Your existing certificate
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I do not want to be vaccinated. How do I get a certificate?

If you do not want to be vaccinated. You can get tested at different places with a PCR test or a rapid antigen test and then get a certificate. It is valid for 24 hours for the rapid antigen test and 72 hours for the PCR test. The validity may be shorter for travel abroad.

ATTENTION: Not all test centres issue certificates. Ask beforehand if a certificate will be issued.

In most public places, the 2G or 2G+ rule applies. This means that if you only have a test certificate, it is no longer sufficient to attend indoor public events or to visit a club, bar or restaurant.

Where can I get tested?

You can find places near you that give PCR tests here:

<https://www.gsi.be.ch/de/start/themen/coronavirus/testen/wo-kann-ich-einen-covid-19-test-machen-orte-pcr-test.html>.

There are also rapid antigen tests. Here you can find places where they are done:

<https://www.gsi.be.ch/de/start/themen/coronavirus/testen/wo-kann-ich-einen-covid-19-test-machen-orte-antigen-schnelltest.html>

Not on the official lists is the test centre of Medica Care in Club le Ciel at Bollwerk 31, 3011 Bern. <https://www.medica-care.ch/>

Opening hours:

MO-DO: 09:00-19:00 hrs.

FR: 09:00-20:00 (PCR saliva test without symptoms only possible until 19:00)

SA: 09:00-22:00h (PCR saliva test without symptoms not possible on Saturday)

OPEN ON SUNDAYS!

SO: 09:00-16:00 (PCR saliva test without symptoms not possible on Saturday)

Rapid antigen tests and pooled PCR tests are free of charge. Single PCR tests are free of charge only under certain conditions.

<https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/de/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/testen.html#-1115954696>

I have had COVID, how do I get a certificate of recovery?

If you can prove that you have had COVID in the past and are now healthy again, you can apply for a certificate of recovery here: Website of the Canton of Bern:

<https://www.gsi.be.ch/de/start/themen/coronavirus/zertifikat/informationen-zum-covid-zertifikat.html>

or website of the FOPH: <https://www.covidcertificate-form.admin.ch/>

How much does it cost to get vaccinated?

The COVID vaccination is free of charge. The federal government covers the costs.

How much does it cost to get tested?

Rapid antigen tests and pooled PCR tests are now free of charge and lead to a Covid certificate. Only single PCR tests still cost something. In the following cases, however, single PCR tests are also free of charge but do not lead to a Covid certificate:

- You are having a test based on symptoms.
- You have received a message from the SwissCovid app.
- You have had contact with a confirmed case.
- You have received an instruction from a cantonal office or a doctor that you should get tested.

The test costs for travel abroad are not covered by the federal government. The test costs between CHF 20 and CHF 150, depending on where you get tested. Before travelling

abroad, inform yourself about the entry requirements of the respective countries. You can find more information here: <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/de/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/empfehlungen-fuer-reisende/auslandsreisen.html>

How often do I have to be tested if I am not vaccinated?

If you are not vaccinated, you must get tested whenever you want to go to a place where the 3G rule applies or if you have symptoms of the disease. The certificate is valid for 24 hours (rapid antigen test) or 72 hours (PCR test). After that, you have to get tested again if you want to go to a place where the 3G rule applies. Many places now have the 2G or 2G+ rule. This means that people whose certificate is only based on a test will not be allowed in.

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Do I have to get tested even if I have already had COVID?

If you don't have a certificate, you have to get tested whenever you want to go to a place where you have to show a certificate or if you have symptoms of the disease. If you have a certificate for people who have recovered, it is valid for 1 year after your illness, unless you also get vaccinated. Where the 2G+ rule applies, you must be tested if you have been recovered for more than 4 months.

Do I have to get tested even if I have already been vaccinated once?

Once you have been vaccinated, you must get tested whenever you want to go to a place where the 3G rule applies or if you have symptoms of the disease, until the second vaccination. However, the first vaccination and an additional test are not enough to go to places where the 2G or 2G+ rule applies.

If you have been vaccinated with the Johnson and Johnson vaccine (only 1 vaccination), you must be tested for 22 days after vaccination whenever you want to go to a place where the 3G rule applies or if you have symptoms of the disease. After 22 days you will get the certificate.

In places where the 2G+ rule applies, you have to be tested if your vaccination took place more than 4 months ago.

Which vaccines are used?

Vaccines from Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson are used. The vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are so-called mRNA vaccines. Johnson and Johnson is a vector vaccine.

The vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer are vaccinated 2x at intervals of 1 month. Johnson and Johnson only 1x.

It is recommended to refresh the vaccination with a 3rd vaccination (booster). This can be done at the earliest 4 months after the last vaccination.

Can I choose which vaccine I want to receive?

In principle, yes, but it may be that the vaccine of your choice is not available at the moment. In this case, you will have to go a second time. If you only want to be vaccinated with a specific vaccine, it is best to make an appointment before and ask, if the vaccine is available.

The vector vaccine from Johnson and Johnson, which is only vaccinated once, is not available everywhere.

In Bern and the surrounding area it is available at the following places:

- Vaccination centre Insel - Janssen (Johnson & Johnson).
Friedbühlstrasse 15
3008 Bern
- Pop-Up
Westside Bern Brünnen
Riedbachstrasse 100
3027 Bern Brünnen
- Pop-Up
Shopyland Schönbühl
Bahnhofstrasse 4
3322 Urtenen-Schönbühl
- Pop-Up
IKEA Lyssach
Bernstrasse 25
3421 Lyssach
- Vaccination centre
Vaccination centre MEDIN Biel - Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)
Bahnhofplatz 2c
2502 Biel
- Pop-Up
Panorama Center Thun
Weststrasse 14
3604 Thun
- Vaccination Centre
Vaccination Centre Thun (KKT) - Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)
Seestrasse 68
3600 Thun

I have had COVID abroad? How can I get a certificate?

If you have had COVID abroad, you can apply for a certificate that is valid in Switzerland on the following pages:

<https://www.gsi.be.ch/de/start/themen/coronavirus/zertifikat/antrag-fuer-personen-mit-impfung-im-ausland.html> or <https://www.covidcertificate-form.admin.ch/>

I have been vaccinated abroad? Is the certificate also valid in Switzerland?

If you have been vaccinated against COVID abroad, you can apply for a certificate that is valid in Switzerland on the following page:

<https://www.gsi.be.ch/de/start/themen/coronavirus/zertifikat/antrag-fuer-personen-mit-impfung-im-ausland.html>

Not all vaccines that are administered abroad are recognised in Switzerland.

Is my vaccination certificate also valid abroad? Can I travel with it?

You can find the entry requirements for Switzerland after a stay abroad here:

<https://www.gsi.be.ch/de/start/themen/coronavirus/massnahmen/einreisebestimmungen.html>

To find out whether your Swiss COVID certificate is also recognised in the country you want to travel to and whether you also need to be tested before travelling, click here:

<https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/de/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/empfehlungen-fuer-reisende/auslandsreisen.html#-1825216910>

Where can I find information about COVID in my language?

Here you can find information about the COVID vaccination in 16 languages:

<https://isabern.ch/informationen-zur-covid-impfung-in-16-sprachen/>

Here you can find general information about the Corona Virus Pandemic in many languages:

<https://isabern.ch/informationen-zur-corona-virus-pandemie-in-meiner-sprache-information-about-the-corona-pandemic-in-my-language-informations-concernant-la-pandemie-dans-ma-langue/>

Where can I get information about COVID in the canton of Bern?

On the following website: <https://www.besondere-lage.sites.be.ch/de/start.html>

- General information:
Hotline Corona Canton Bern: 031 636 87 87
Daily: 08:00 - 20:00 hrs
- Infoline COVID-19 vaccination:
For general vaccination questions from the population: 0800 88 66 44
Daily: 06:00 - 23:00
- Vaccination in the canton of Bern:
Registration and appointment booking for the Corona vaccination: 031 636 88 00
Daily: 08:00 - 20:00 hrs

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