



Flu vaccination 2026/2027

The flu is anything but a trivial illness. Seasonal waves of influenza cause between one and seven million additional consultations with doctors in Germany every year, and significantly more in years with strong flu epidemics. Although the flu jab does not always prevent infection, it still offers the most effective protection – particularly against complications.

At the end of February, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced its recommendations on the composition of seasonal flu vaccines for the Northern Hemisphere for the 2026/2027 season. The recommendation remains for trivalent vaccines, each containing one component against influenza A H1N1, influenza A H3N2 and influenza B (Victoria lineage).

HOWEVER, THE SPECIFIC VIRUS STRAINS DIFFER COMPLETELY FROM THOSE FROM LAST SEASON.

The following applies for cell culture-based and recombinant protein- or nucleic acid-based vaccines:

- A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- A/Darwin/1415/2025 (H3N2)-like virus;
- B/Pennsylvania/14/2025 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus.

The recommended vaccines are all trivalent. Quadrivalent vaccines containing an additional B/Yamagata component are no longer required, as no cases of this viral lineage have been recorded since March 2020.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON VACCINATION:

In principle, almost anyone can be vaccinated at any time. In some cases, recommended vaccinations are not administered because certain circumstances are mistakenly regarded as contra-indications. At a glance: Fact sheets on vaccination – incorrect and correct contraindications: [RKI](#)

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The fact that the Standing Committee on Vaccination (STIKO) recommends the flu vaccine only for certain groups of people does not, however, mean that STIKO advises against other people receiving the flu vaccine.

(FAQ on vaccination against influenza – [RKI](#))

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STIKO RECOMMENDATIONS:

Among others, the **vaccine** is recommended for the following groups

- All pregnant women from the second trimester onwards, in cases of increased health risk due to an underlying condition from the first trimester and
- Persons with an increased health risk due to an underlying disease.

On the basis of **occupational indications**, the Standing Committee on Vaccination (STIKO) recommends annual influenza vaccination for the following occupational groups (Epidemiologica Bulletin 4/2026):

- People at increased risk, e.g. healthcare staff
- People in facilities with high footfall, as well as those who may act as a potential source of infection for the vulnerable people in their care
- People who, as part of their work, have frequent, regular and direct contact with, for example, pigs, poultry, wild birds (both free-living and captive) and seals, and those who work, for example, in livestock farms, zoos and wildlife parks, animal shelters or rescue centres, veterinary practices and abattoirs.

The **standard vaccination** is recommended for people aged 60 and over. For people aged 60 and over, the **STIKO** recommends inactivated high-dose or MF-59 adjuvanted influenza vaccines with the current antigen combination recommended by the WHO.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ) concerning the flu at www.rki.de

FURTHER INTERESTING INFORMATION:

At a glance: Fact sheets on vaccination – Influenza: [RKI](#)