Fact box: How safe and effective are COVID-19 mRNA vaccines for adults under the age of 60?

This fact box compares adults under the age of 60 years who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 (left side) with vaccinated adults (right side). It is assumed that 240 out of 1,000 unvaccinated people will get sick. This is comparable to your risk of getting sick if you have close contact with someone who is infected.

1,000 non-vaccinated adults

- How many get COVID-19? 240
- How many – depending on their age or previous medical conditions – have to be treated in hospital due to severe illness? 6 to 31
- How many experience long-term complications from COVID-19? ?

The numbers are still uncertain. There are clear indications of permanent respiratory distress and memory impairment due to COVID-19 (“long COVID”).

1,000 vaccinated adults

- How many are unable to participate in their daily activities (due to temporary fatigue, fever, aches, or chills) on individual subsequent days due to a vaccine dose? 0
- How many suffer severe harm (e.g., allergic overreaction) within a month due to a vaccine dose? ~ 0
- How many suffer from long-term complications due to the vaccination? ?

There are currently no indications of long-term complications.

Note: Typical vaccine reactions, which may affect the arm or the entire body, usually subside after one to two days. The occurrence of rare vaccine reactions, such as allergic reactions, and potential relationships between the vaccine and less typical reactions (e.g., insomnia, enlarged lymph nodes, and transient facial paralysis) are currently under examination. It is not yet clear how long the vaccine provides protection.