

Short interview on the vaccines for the winter vaccination campaign

## “Boosters work great - whether it's BioNTech or Moderna.”

*Contrary to initial announcements, the winter vaccination campaign will not exclusively use the BioNTech/Pfizer preparation. Due to limited BioNTech ordering options, CURRENTA Health Protection is switching to Moderna's vaccine. A conversation with Dr. med. Harald Bischof, Head of Medical Services at CHEMPARK, about what this means and who should get vaccinated now.*

### **Is Moderna just as good as BioNTech?**

Yes. Both are mRNA vaccines, both have an efficacy of "up to 95 percent" according to the Paul Ehrlich Institute.

### **But what if I received BioNTech with my first vaccinations?**

The Standing Commission on Vaccination has no objections to cross-vaccination, and other sources even explicitly recommend switching boosters to improve effectiveness. For all those who have been given primary immunisation with AstraZeneca or Johnson&Johnson, booster with mRNA vaccine is recommended anyway.



### **And what about the compatibility of Moderna?**

The temporary side effects of the two mRNA vaccines practically do not differ. In very rare cases, heart muscle inflammation occurred in people under 30 after vaccination with Moderna, so that the Standing Commission on Vaccination now only recommends the vaccine for people over 30.

### **Who should get vaccinated now?**

Anyone who had their second vaccination six months ago should have their protection against corona boosted. Israeli studies have shown that the third vaccination effectively counteracts the decline in immune status. Boosters work great - whether it's BioNTech or Moderna. And so, of course: the same applies for all those who - for whatever reason - have not yet been vaccinated. The virus variant currently circulating is so much more contagious than the one that dominated a year ago, and the fourth wave is building up so powerfully right now that there is really only a choice between vaccination and illness: No one will get through the winter with a "neither-nor" attitude.

### **Is it possible to have a booster dose after 5 months?**

Yes, but not at CHEMPARK. Medically, there is nothing to be said against it, but here we adhere to the recommendation of the Conference of Health Ministers of the Federation and the Länder, which provides for a 6-month interval. It is possible that this will change at some point between now and February, but at the moment those who want to be vaccinated should be careful not to schedule their appointment too early. The Health Protection

department is instructed not to carry out the vaccination in this case. That would be frustrating for all concerned.