

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002794/26
to the Commission
Gerald Hauser (PfE)
(6 July 2026)**

Subject: COVID-19 vaccination recommendations with no medical justification

Austria was the only country in the EU to make COVID-19 vaccinations compulsory, as publicly called for by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

The following population groups, amongst others, were exempted by law from the vaccination requirement on medical grounds: Pregnant women, as well as people with autoimmune diseases, severe inflammatory conditions, severe chronic illnesses, and people for whom ‘a sufficient immune response to a COVID-19 vaccination cannot be expected for medical reasons’ (e.g. following organ transplants, in cases of immunosuppression, active and currently treated or metastatic cancers, and other severe medical conditions).

However, current vaccination guidelines in Austria and the EU ⁽¹⁾ now recommend regular COVID-19 vaccination for the groups mentioned. This is completely incomprehensible from a medical point of view and cannot be justified. By way of comparison, in the USA, general COVID-19 vaccination recommendations have been withdrawn.

1. What are the grounds given by the Commission and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) for recommending COVID-19 vaccination specifically for the above-mentioned groups of people, contrary to medical and legal standards?
2. Why are the vulnerable groups mentioned above, of all people, being exposed to the risk of vaccine failure and serious side effects, including death?
3. What purpose do European COVID-19 vaccination recommendations serve at all, now that the US has withdrawn all COVID-19 vaccination recommendations?

Submitted: 6.7.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(24 August 2026)**

The Commission did not call for vaccination to be mandatory. The organisation and delivery of health services and medical care is a national competence ⁽¹⁾.

As such, decisions about vaccines, including who they are recommended for or whether they are compulsory, are the sole responsibility of the Member States.

Real world data has shown that vaccines are as safe in special populations, such as people with underlying medical conditions, immunocompromised patients and pregnant women, as they are in the general population.

Vaccination of these groups is strongly recommended because they are at higher risk of complications from COVID-19. Vaccination during pregnancy protects both the mother and the baby.

Vaccines against COVID-19 are safe and have been widely used, with more than 13 billion doses administered worldwide ⁽²⁾. It is the largest vaccination programme in history. Estimates indicate that millions of lives have been saved by COVID-19 vaccination ⁽³⁾.

Regulators have an unprecedented amount of data to confirm the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. National authorities and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) continuously monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines to ensure any possible risks are detected and managed as early as possible ⁽⁴⁾.

¹ <https://vaccination-info.europa.eu/en/publications-data/get-vaccinated-against-flu-and-covid-19-0>.

⁽¹⁾ Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/global-regulators-confirm-good-safety-profile-covid-19-vaccines>.

⁽³⁾ Global impact of the first year of COVID-19 vaccination: a mathematical modelling study — The Lancet Infectious Diseases [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(22\)00320-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(22)00320-6/fulltext).

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory-overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-19-medicines/safety-covid-19-vaccines>.

There is no evidence of special safety concerns for any of the population groups for which the vaccines are authorised. Several studies have shown that mRNA COVID-19 vaccines do not cause complications in pregnancy, either for expectant mothers or their babies ⁽⁶⁾.

Evidence-based vaccination policies are a key pillar of the public health systems in the EU. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control issues recommendations based on available scientific evidence, providing Member States with technical knowledge to strengthen and support their vaccination policies.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory-overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-19-medicines/covid-19-vaccines-key-facts>.