



BUNDESPRÄSIDENTIALAMT

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**Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier
in a video message to the people of Germany
14 July 2021**

Fellow citizens,

We have come a very long way already! Every day, with every vaccination given, we are removing ourselves one step further from the clutches of the pandemic and are reclaiming our old lives.

The majority of people in our country have already had their first vaccination. Like me, many could hardly wait to get their appointments. Some people agonised about the decision, but ultimately chose to be vaccinated. They have my thanks.

The important thing now is for as many people as possible to follow their example. That's why I am asking everyone who is still uncertain to go and get vaccinated. Let's not slacken our efforts. Only when even more people in our country are fully vaccinated will we have achieved our common goal.

Only then will we be able to weather mutations such as the current Delta variant without imposing new restrictions. Only then will we be protected, with a high degree of certainty, from getting COVID-19 and being seriously or fatally ill.

Go and talk to your general practitioners, the doctors you trust on medical issues, or to the many crisis workers in the 400 and more vaccination centres in our country.

We are so fortunate to have found a way of protecting ourselves and others. Let's make use of it!

Let's get as many people vaccinated as possible, so that everyone is protected as well as they can be. So that our children are protected and can go back to school after the summer holidays. So that individuals who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons are protected, too. So that we are safe from the long-term consequences of serious illness. So that shops, businesses, cultural institutions and restaurants can stay open. And so that our country can overcome the effects of the pandemic.

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I am proud and glad to have seen how this society has behaved over the past eighteen months: with solidarity, common sense, discipline, ingenuity and in a spirit of mutual assistance. Now, at this particular juncture, these qualities are especially important. It's up to all of us, to our community as a whole, to do the right thing.

This is what I ask of you: act with responsibility for yourself and for others. Go and get vaccinated!