

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

**REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2021

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 001-39081

BioNTech SE

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

**An der Goldgrube 12
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Germany
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(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F: Form 20-F
Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

DOCUMENTS INCLUDED AS PART OF THIS FORM 6-K

On November 30, 2021, the Wall Street Journal published an article that BioNTech SE (the “Company”) Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer Ugur Sahin stated that the Omicron variant of the coronavirus could lead to more infections among vaccinated people but they will most likely remain protected from a severe course of illness. The article is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Exchange Act, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BioNTech SE

By: /s/ Dr. Sierk Poetting

Name: Dr. Sierk Poetting

Title: Chief Operating Officer

Date: November 30, 2021

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description of Exhibit</u>
99.1	<u>Omicron Unlikely to Cause Severe Illness in Vaccinated People, BioNTech Founder Says.</u>

Omicron Unlikely to Cause Severe Illness in Vaccinated People, BioNTech Founder Says

By Bojan Pancevski

Variant could lead to more infections but vaccinated people likely remain protected from severe disease, Ugur Sahin says.

BERLIN—The Omicron variant of the coronavirus could lead to more infections among vaccinated people but they will most likely remain protected from a severe course of illness, according to the inventor of one of the first Covid-19 vaccines.

While the new variant might evade the antibodies generated in reaction to the vaccine, the virus will likely remain vulnerable to immune cells that destroy it once it enters the body, BioNTech SE co-founder Ugur Sahin said.

“Our message is: Don’t freak out, the plan remains the same: Speed up the administration of a third booster shot,” Dr. Sahin said in an interview on Tuesday.

Based on current knowledge about the mechanisms behind the vaccine and the biology of variants, Dr. Sahin said he assumed that immunized people would have a high level of protection against severe disease even if infected by the Omicron variant.

Dr. Sahin said that the vaccine, which he and his team invented in January 2020 and then developed together with Pfizer Inc., has been proven to protect from severe disease against other variants of the coronavirus that do infect vaccinated people.

The currently prevalent variant, Delta, has proven more adept at infecting vaccinated people than earlier variants but those people mostly experience only mild symptoms, Dr. Sahin said.

The vaccine developed by BioNTech and Pfizer, like most other vaccines, offers two distinct layers of protection against the virus.

The first comprises antibodies, which prevent people from becoming infected in the first place by preventing viruses from colonizing healthy cells in the body.

Antibodies, however, start to wane around five months after the second dose of vaccination, according to studies. Due to the high number of mutations, Omicron is likely to be better at circumventing the antibodies generated after contact with the vaccine than Delta, Dr. Sahin said.

The second layer of protection comprises T-cells, immune cells in the body that mobilize to destroy infected cells after an infection has occurred.

A vaccinated person who gets infected will typically experience mild symptoms. Dr. Sahin said that no variant has so far eluded that T-cell immune response, and that Omicron was also unlikely to achieve what is known as immune escape in that regard.

“Our belief [that the vaccines work against Omicron] is rooted in science: If a virus achieves immune escape, it achieves it against antibodies, but there is the second level of immune response that protects from severe disease—the T-cells,” he said.

“Even as an escape variant, the virus will hardly be able to completely evade the T-cells.”

Dr. Sahin's comments come after Moderna Inc. Chief Executive Stéphane Bancel told the Financial Times that he expected that the current Covid-19 vaccines would be less effective at tackling the Omicron variant.

The BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine was originally administered in two shots, but in recent months many countries, including the U.S., started offering a third, so-called booster shot after studies showed that people who had received three doses had significantly stronger immunity.

Dr. Sahin welcomed this week's decision by U.K. authorities to offer the third dose to all adults only three months after they had received the second shot.

"The U.K. firmly believes that the third shot offers even better protection, and that's why it brings it forward," Dr. Sahin said.

"What do we mean by protection in this case? We mean protection against severe disease and we believe that vaccinated people have a high level of protection against severe disease, which increases significantly when they receive the third dose," he said.

Dr. Sahin said his company was now conducting laboratory tests to see whether the Omicron variant could infect people who had been vaccinated. The tests, which started last week and take about two weeks to produce results, won't show whether Omicron causes severe disease; this can only be evidenced in real-life clinical practice, he said.

Dr. Sahin estimated that bringing an adjusted vaccine to market that specifically targets Omicron would take about 100 days, but said that this might not be necessary.

"We have a plan to administer a third shot to people, and we must stick to this plan and speed it up. Whether or not we will need extra protection by an adapted vaccine, this remains to be seen, later," Dr. Sahin said.

It is too early to say whether populations would need to be vaccinated regularly for the foreseeable future to maintain a high degree of immunity, he said.

Dr. Sahin said countries that were currently experiencing a surge in infection figures, such as Germany, might need to impose restrictions in addition to speeding up the booster program.

"Certain measures can push down infection figures relatively quickly...In the current situation I am in favor of effective measures," he said.