

Vaccination is a right

and an extraordinary instrument of public health, which must be known, valued, disseminated and used well in the interest of individuals and the community. The scientific evidence is clear, vaccination is an essential public health tool and help to guarantee your fundamental rights as a European citizen. We all have a duty and a responsibility to ensure we are vaccinated:

be active on vaccines!

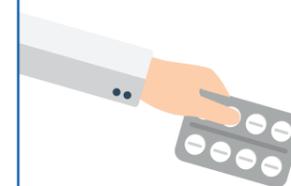
Vaccination saves
2 to 3 million
lives worldwide
every year.



Immunization for all throughout life

Equitable access to effective vaccination programmes provide all citizens with the opportunity to live long and healthier lives regardless of gender, age, and social groups. Addressing changes in the demographic structure of the EU's population requires a shift of national immunisation programmes to reflect a life-course approach to vaccination. As we age, we increase our risk of contracting vaccine-preventable diseases like pneumococcal diseases, herpes zoster (shingles), and influenza, among others. Immunization throughout the life-course enables adults to age with reduced risk to such vaccine-preventable diseases.

Seasonal influenza vaccination prevents around 2 million cases each year in Europe



Do you know what vaccines you need and when?



The WHO recommend routine immunizations for all age groups - children, adolescents, adults, older adults, international travelers, health workers.

Did you know that polio, measles, diphtheria and tetanus are dangerous at any age? All adults are advised to get vaccination.

If your children are 9-18 years old, they may be eligible for a number of vaccines: missed routine vaccine doses for diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis booster shot, the HPV vaccine and other vaccines if they are in a high risk category.

Travel vaccines are recommended if planning to visit or stay in high-risk area

Staying up to date with vaccinations protects you and those around you from serious and potentially fatal diseases. Ask your healthcare provider for advice on which vaccines are right for you.

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Prevent diseases without borders!

As diseases know no border, all citizens need to have equal access to both vaccines and vaccination programmes, with no geographic or regional disparities. Reducing health inequalities between and within member countries is one of the core values of the EU health strategy.

In Italy, for the adults, anti-pneumococcal vaccination and herpes zoster vaccination are free when people turned 65 years old.

In Austria free vaccination to prevent the human papillomavirus (HPV) related cancer and diseases is available to both adolescent boys and girls through a publicly funded school immunisation programme.

25 EU member states provide publicly funded HPV programmes but only four EU countries: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic and Italy include boys.

In the UK adults aged 70 are entitled to a free shingles vaccine.

All across Europe there are disparities in access to vaccination and vaccine coverage rates and as a result preventable diseases are still a reality.

Did you know that? Do you know what happens in your country?
Let's activate to support an EU-wide approach to access and prevention!

Keep your attention high!

The continued spread of measles across Europe is due to suboptimal vaccination coverage: of all measles cases reported during 2017 with known vaccination status, 87% were in unvaccinated individuals.

There is only one way to keep the numbers of measles cases down: vaccinate.

Are you and your family covered? Check your vaccination status with your healthcare provider!



MEASLES

2016
4.643 cases



2017
14.451 cases

cases reported by 30 EU/EEA countries

Myths and facts about immunization: consult the right sources!

There is a lot of conflicting information out there about vaccines. Question what you read and hear, understand the facts:

- Vaccines are safe and effective
- Vaccines prevent deadly illnesses
- Vaccines provide better immunity than natural infection
- Combined vaccines are safe and beneficial
- If we stop Vaccination diseases will return

...and consult the official sources to be correctly informed!

European, National and local institutions:



On vaccine safety: www.vaccinesafetynet.org

Take action: advocate for correct information on vaccination!

Write to Active Citizenship Network to join the European Immunization Week (EIW) of the World Health Organization regional office of EU to raise awareness of the importance of immunization among parents and caregivers, health care professionals, policy and decision-makers, and the media.

Active Citizenship Network encourages immunization stakeholders at national and local levels to get involved in EIW by joining or organizing campaigns. Write to us to more information.

We will promote your initiatives, share what is being planned near you and connect with other EIW stakeholders.

For more information please contact mail@activecitizenship.net or visit the website: www.activecitizenship.net



Web References

<http://ecdc.europa.eu/>
www.euro.who.int
<http://ec.europa.eu/>
<https://euro.sharefile.com>