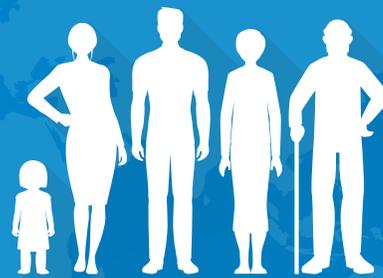


The Importance of Vaccination ACROSS A LIFETIME

World Immunization Week serves as a critical marker for citizens around the world to understand the importance of immunization throughout all stages of life and to be aware of vaccinations that may be right for them.

Celebrate World Immunization Week by making an appointment with your healthcare provider for you and your loved ones and ensure that you have received the recommended vaccines, helping guard against vaccine-preventable diseases.



IMPORTANCE OF VACCINES ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

- Immunization prevents an estimated **2-3 million deaths every year** in all age groups according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and is widely recognized as one of the world's most successful and cost-effective health interventions
- **Routine immunization is a building block of strong preventative healthcare**—it's not only crucial to help set children up for a healthy beginning but also serves as a stepping stone to adhering to the comprehensive vaccination schedule for adolescent and adult health
- Vaccines have **greatly reduced or eliminated many infectious diseases** that once routinely killed or harmed many people; however, the viruses and bacteria that cause vaccine-preventable diseases still exist and can be passed on to people who are not protected by vaccines
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recent outbreaks show us that when individuals choose not to vaccinate, **others are put at risk for serious vaccine-preventable diseases** regardless of age



CHILDREN



- Children **younger than two years of age are among those at a higher risk** for vaccine-preventable diseases due to their still-developing immune systems
- Vaccines **help children develop the antibodies they need** to fight off the serious illnesses for which they have been vaccinated
- Immunizations **can help protect children against many serious diseases**
- According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in 2015, **nearly one in five infants globally - 19.4 million children** - missed out on the basic vaccines they need to stay healthy
- Globally, in 2008 **approximately 17% (1.5 million) of total deaths in children under five** were considered vaccine-preventable

OLDER ADULTS & CAREGIVERS



- Adults aged **65+ face increased risk of infections** due to age-related decline of the immune system
- Each year **thousands of adults suffer illnesses, hospitalizations, and even death** from diseases that may have been preventable with adult vaccinations, including pneumococcal pneumonia
- For individuals, pneumonia can be serious and **may lead to hospitalization and missed work days**; caregivers also may miss work and lose income
- Most adults are **recommended to receive a flu and tetanus vaccine**, but there may be **additional recommended immunizations** depending on the person's age or risk factors, such as pneumococcal vaccine
- According to the WHO, it is important adults **adhere to a recommended immunization schedule** to help guard against infectious diseases

Join the conversation online using **#WorldImmunizationWeek** or **#WIW2017** and help the World Health Organization in its mission to reduce deadly, vaccine-preventable diseases.