



European healthcare professionals emphasise the benefits of childhood vaccination

On the occasion of the annual [WHO European Immunization Week \(EIW\)](#), the Coalition for Vaccination calls on healthcare professionals to ensure that children are up-to-date on their routine vaccines. Communication campaigns are needed at national and European levels to raise awareness of ongoing outbreaks.

This year's EIW celebrates the achievements of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) over the past 50 years in protecting people from serious vaccine-preventable illnesses. The initiative has aimed to ensure equitable access to life-saving vaccines for children. In the beginning, it focused on six childhood illnesses, including tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, and measles.

In recent months, several European countries have reported an increase in the number of whooping cough (pertussis), measles, and diphtheria cases, including deaths.^{1 2 3} These diseases were already close to elimination but are now making a comeback in Europe. The increase is linked to declining vaccination uptake.

Nowadays, the EPI programme also focuses on other vaccines such as the ones against Human papillomaviruses (HPV) and Hepatitis B virus (HBV). In January, the Coalition for Vaccination welcomed the European Commission's recommendation to support EU countries in their efforts to prevent cancer through vaccination against these viruses.

Vaccination is a safe and efficient way of protecting individuals and populations. Healthcare professionals are trusted sources of information and can help build vaccine confidence and address mis- and disinformation by sharing facts and reliable evidence.

The Coalition for Vaccination, co-chaired by the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN), the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), and the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU), calls on the EU policymakers to keep vaccination high on the political agenda.

¹ [Communicable Disease Threats Report Week 15](#), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), 2024.

² [Communicable Disease Threats Report Week 12](#), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), 2024.

³ [Communicable Disease Threats Report Week 7](#), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), 2024.

The [Coalition for Vaccination](#) brings together European associations of healthcare professionals and students. It was convened by the European Commission in 2019 with an aim to support delivering accurate information to the public, combating myths around vaccines and vaccination, and exchanging best practices on vaccination.