

Vaccination and Patients with Chronic Condition: an Overview

 @eupatientsforum

“ A STRONG PATIENTS’ VOICE TO
DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE ”

EPF 
European
Patients
Forum

Why vaccination is important for patients with chronic conditions

Why vaccination matters for patients

Patients are more vulnerable than baseline-healthy people

- Underlying health condition – increased risk:
 - Chronic diseases of lungs, heart, liver or kidneys – risk of pneumococcal infections
 - Chronic conditions, especially diabetes T1/2, respiratory, older patients – risk of serious flu complications
 - Autoimmune conditions – vulnerability to infections generally
- Take up of recommended vaccinations by patients is not optimal



“We are no longer used to seeing infectious diseases ... so we are no longer afraid [of them].” – Valentina, 44, Diabetes T1

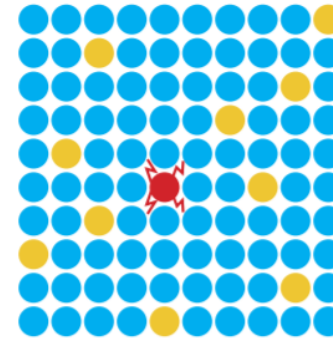
Why vaccination matters for patients

Patients are more vulnerable than baseline-healthy people

- Some patients cannot be vaccinated... so it is even more important that others are!
- This is why general vaccination coverage matters (even more) for patients

“[T]he question of vaccination is one of public health and of solidarity ... the healthy population should help protect those living with a chronic condition.”

- Frank, 65, living with rare disease



When enough people are protected (blue dots) in a community they can protect those who are not yet vaccinated (yellow dots) from those who are infectious (red dots).

When groups of unvaccinated people build up and are in close proximity, community immunity doesn't work and the disease spreads.

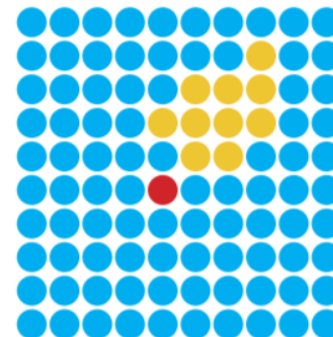


Illustration from ECDC: “What is community immunity and why is it important?” ([link](#))

Policy and actions at EU and international level

Vaccination is an EU policy priority



EPF European Patients Forum



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

- Vaccination policy is a national competence
- European Commission supports coordination of programmes and policies
- Commission President Juncker mentioned equal access to vaccines as specific priority in his 2017 State of the EU address
- In line with EU objectives on reducing the burden of chronic diseases

Who regulates vaccines?

- Like other medicinal products they are authorised and regulated at EU level by the European Medicines Agency (EMA)
- Before a new vaccine comes on the market it is assessed for quality, efficacy and safety
- EMA has scientific guidelines on vaccines development
- EMA conducts safety monitoring (pharmacovigilance)

Several initiatives at EU level

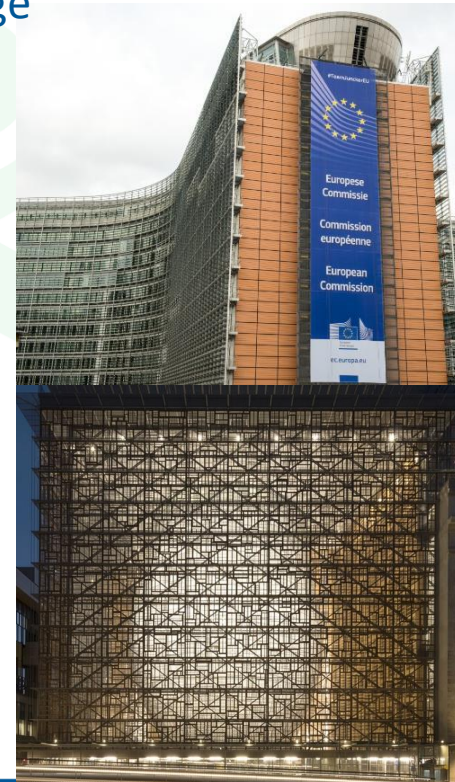
The European Commission & Council (Member States)

Commission Communication on Strengthened Cooperation against Vaccine Preventable Diseases (26 April 2018):

- I. Tackling vaccine hesitancy and improving vaccination coverage
- II. Sustainable vaccination policies in the EU
- III. EU coordination and contribution to global health

Proposal for a Council recommendation includes:

- MS to implement national vaccine action plans to meet WHO goals, improve access overall, strategies for vulnerable people
- Communication and education, including training of professionals
- Electronic vaccination records, EU vaccination card
- European Vaccination Information System
- Mechanisms to address shortages



Several initiatives at EU level

The European Parliament

- Resolution of 19 April 2018 on “vaccine hesitancy and the drop in vaccination rates in Europe”
 - Calls for awareness and information campaigns and action against misinformation, recognises need for factual and science-based information and calls for dialogue with civil society and other stakeholders



The European Joint Action

- EU-JAV, led by INSERM (FR) with 19 Member States + stakeholders, kicked off on 4 September 2018
 - EPF is part of the stakeholder group
 - Particular interest in Vaccine hesitancy work package

Other related initiatives

World Health Organization

- WHO Europe provides guidance to countries – evidence-based policy recommendations, position papers, tables for routine immunisation
- Leads European Immunization Week,



European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

- The ECDC researches latest evidence, monitors trends, shares evidence-based information with policymakers
- Source of data and evidence-based information but does not regulate
- Supports European Immunisation Week

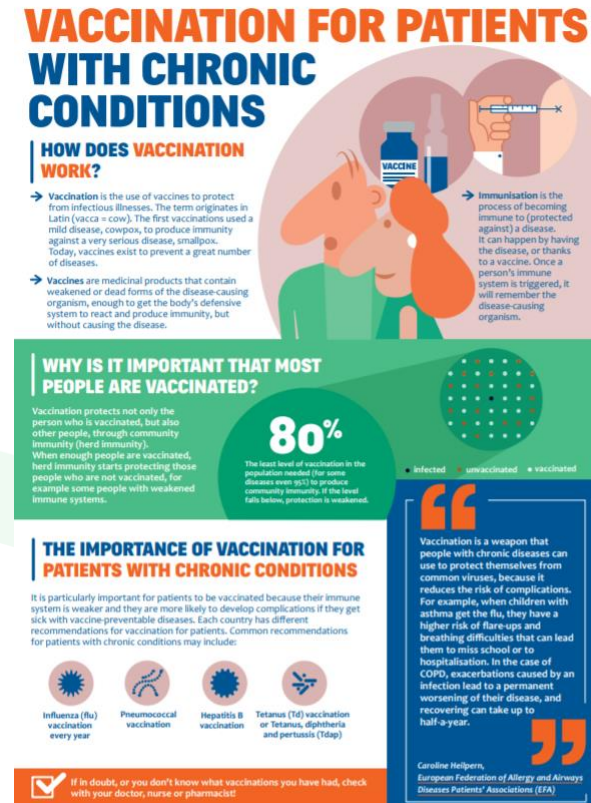


The EPF initiative on vaccination

EPF –supporting patient communities

EPF initiative on vaccination: 2018 --

- Video with patient stories launched in April 2018; newsletter, social media
- Patient survey (March-April 2018)
- Toolkit for patient organisations
- Pilot workshop (Bucharest)
- Objective: to help generate vaccine confidence and increase uptake among the patient communities in Europe
- Particular vantage point of patients with chronic conditions



VACCINATION FOR PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS

HOW DOES VACCINATION WORK?

- Vaccination is the use of vaccines to protect from infectious illnesses. The term originates in Latin (vacca = cow). The first vaccinations used a mild disease, cowpox, to produce immunity against a very serious disease, smallpox. Today, vaccines exist to prevent a great number of diseases.
- Vaccines are medicinal products that contain weakened or dead forms of the disease-causing organism, enough to get the body's defensive system to react and produce immunity, but without causing the disease.
- Immunisation is the process of becoming immune to (protected against) a disease. It can happen by having the disease, or thanks to a vaccine. Once a person's immune system is triggered, it will remember the disease-causing organism.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT MOST PEOPLE ARE VACCINATED?

Vaccination protects not only the person who is vaccinated, but also other people, through community immunity (herd immunity). When enough people are vaccinated, herd immunity starts protecting those people who are not vaccinated, for example some people with weakened immune systems.

80%

The least level of vaccination in the population needed for some diseases (over 95%) to produce community immunity. If the level falls below, protection is weakened.

• Infected • unvaccinated • vaccinated

THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATION FOR PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS

It is particularly important for patients to be vaccinated because their immune system is weaker and they are more likely to develop complications if they get sick with vaccine-preventable diseases. Each country has different recommendations for vaccination for patients. Common recommendations for patients with chronic conditions may include:

- Influenza (flu) vaccination every year
- Pneumococcal vaccination
- Hepatitis B vaccination
- Tetanus (Td) vaccination or Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap)

“ Vaccination is a weapon that people with chronic diseases can use to protect themselves from common viruses, because it reduces the risk of complications. For example, when children with asthma get the flu, they have a higher risk of flare-ups and breathing difficulties that can lead them to miss school or to hospitalisation. In the case of COPD, exacerbations caused by an infection lead to a permanent worsening of their disease, and recovering can take up to half a year. **”**

Caroline Halpern, European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA)

✓ If in doubt, or you don't know what vaccinations you have had, check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist

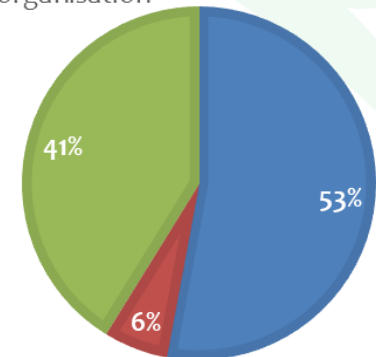
EPF member survey – March 2018

- First insights into perceptions of vaccination & level of activation of patient organisations
- Vaccine hesitancy is seen as a problem
- Lack of information on vaccination for specific chronic conditions
- Good information is not easy to find online
- Low engagement in the patient community



Types of respondents

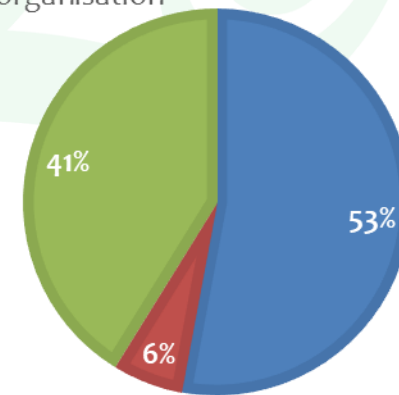
- A patient
- A patient relative (family, close friends), or an informal/family carer
- A patient representative, responding on behalf of a patient organisation



- 34 responses – split between individuals and organisations
- Andorra, Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Hungary, Japan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain
- Many disease-areas
- Only indicative – to be supplemented with several interviews to “dig deeper”

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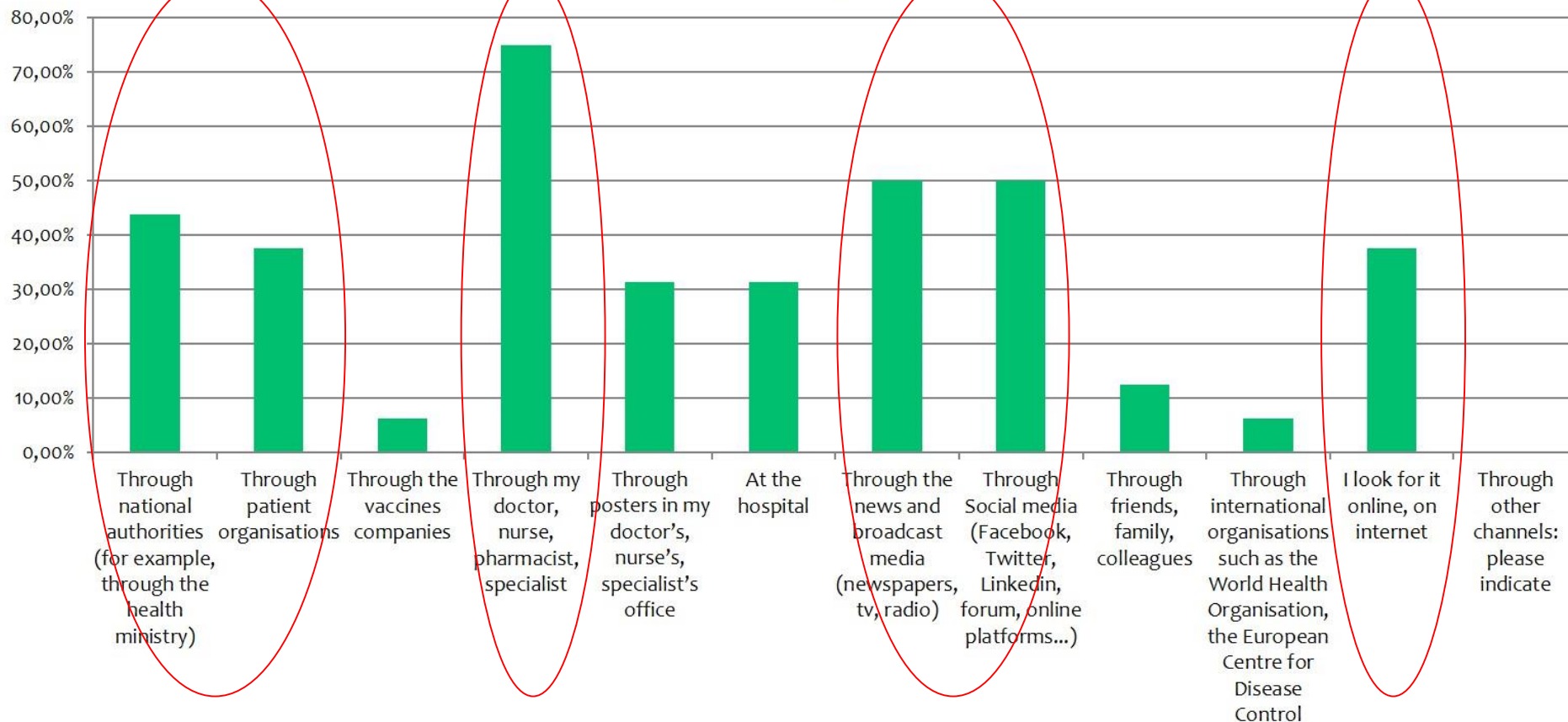
Patients' information needs

Where do patients get information?

- Doctors, nurses, pharmacists are key providers of information and generally trusted – but patients do not always get enough information on vaccination from them
- Sometimes patients get contradictory information from different healthcare professionals
- Their attitudes have an important impact on patients' attitudes towards vaccination
- Patients also use the Internet: important that people can easily find evidence-based, reliable information by a simple search → “good” information should be at the top!

Patients find information from...

Where do you get information on vaccination in your disease-area / country?

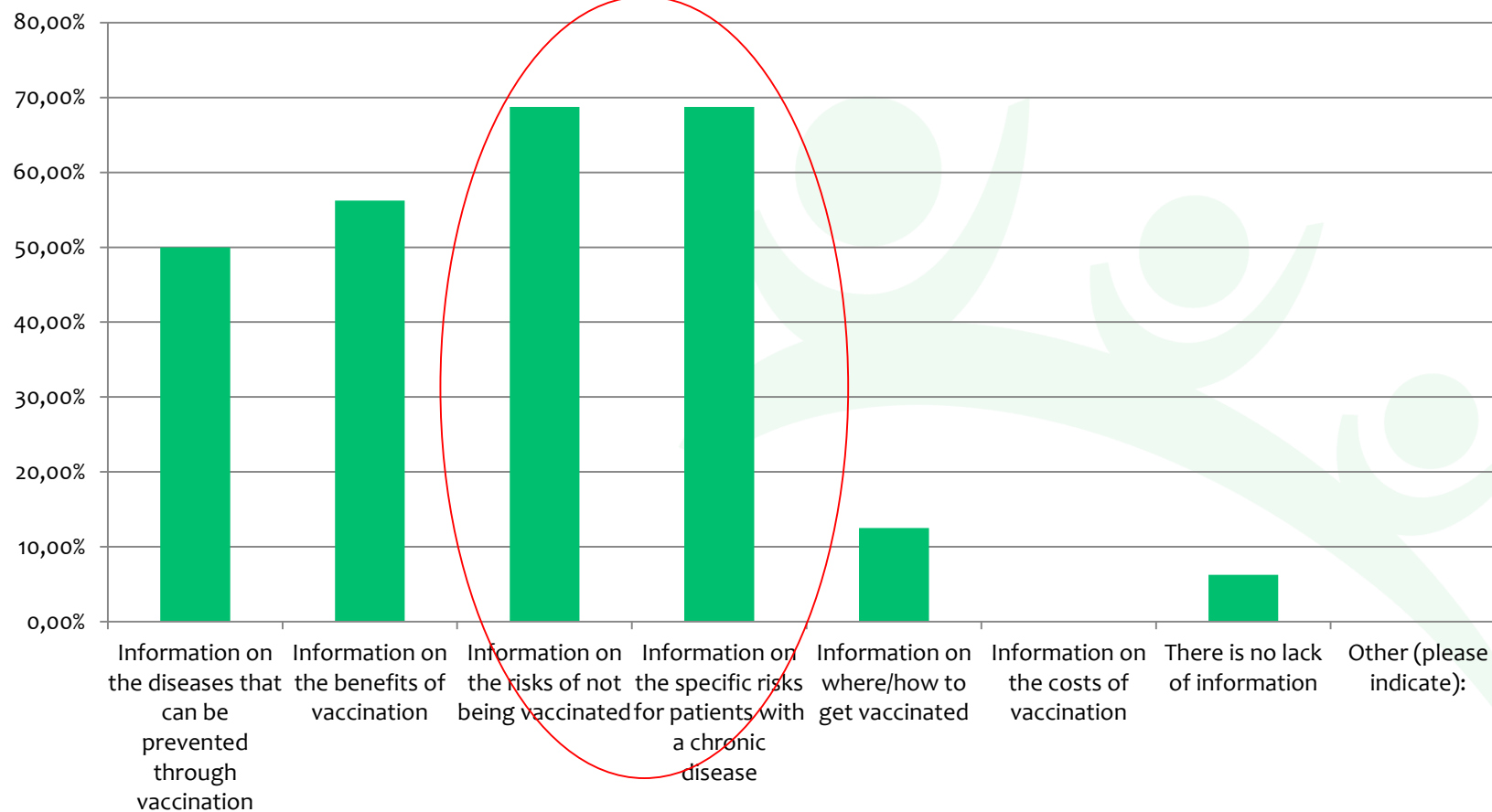


There are gaps in availability and quality

- Patients say they cannot easily find comprehensive, reliable, patient-friendly information
- Disease-specific information on vaccination is a top priority
- Patients also want information on the benefits and risks of vaccines communicated in a careful way that is understandable to a lay person, put in context and balanced with other risks (e.g. risk of diseases, risk of not vaccinating)

Information gaps

What information do you think is missing on vaccination?



The role of patient organisations

Patient organisations play a role

- They are a top source of information on vaccination to patients
- They can support and coordinate national and international awareness campaigns on vaccine effectiveness and safety
- They can share scientific, evidence-based information and patient experiences, countering myths and mis-information and helping to address vaccine hesitancy in patient communities and among the public
- They would like to work with professionals more to inform and share knowledge on vaccination for patients

“There is a high level of vaccination in the HIV/AIDS population, thanks, in part, to the strong sense of community in which patients speak and share among themselves, including on the importance of vaccination.”

Peter, HIV-AIDS advocate, Germany

- ⇒ Evidence-based information everyone can understand
- ⇒ “One-stop shop” EU-level information portal
- ⇒ Information on risks of NOT being vaccinated
- ⇒ Vaccination integrated in chronic disease treatment plans
- ⇒ Professionals trained on communicating on vaccination → reinforce trust relationship
- ⇒ Consistent messages!
- ⇒ Address low vaccination & hesitancy among health professionals
- ⇒ National authorities work with patient organisations on strategies to increase take-up

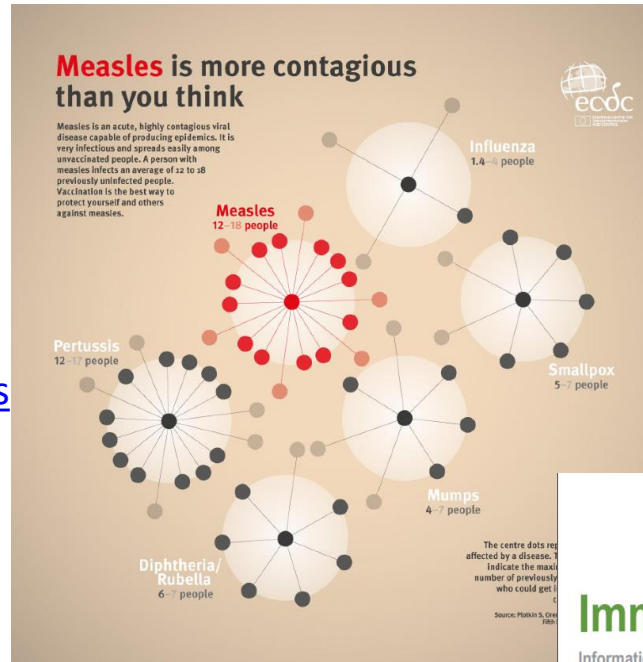
“Specialists [should] get further training and information on the importance of vaccination for people living with a chronic disease, in particular diabetes, and integrate it as part of the care pathway.”

- Dominic, 35, DMT2, Belgium

Where to find out more?

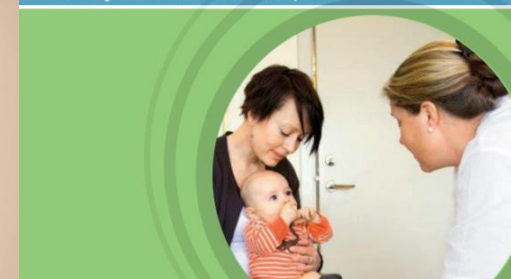
**Selected sources of evidence-based
information, including information for
lay people**

- [European Immunization Week materials](#)
- [Vaccination schedules](#) for European countries and different age groups
- [Infographics and videos](#)
- Information on [vaccine safety](#)
- Information on [vaccine effectiveness](#)
- Leaflet explaining [community \(herd\) immunity](#)
- Information on [vaccine-preventable diseases](#)
- Resources for [communication](#) about vaccination (for EU countries, but possibly of interest also to patient organisations)
- [Reports and data](#) on infectious diseases and epidemics



Let's talk about hesitancy

Enhancing confidence in vaccination and uptake



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE THREATS REPORT

CDTR
Week 48, 25 November-1 December 2018

All users

This weekly bulletin provides updates on threats monitored by ECDC.

NEWS
World AIDS Day: drop in new HIV diagnoses in the EU/EEA

In 2017, over 25 000 people were diagnosed with HIV in 30 of the 31 countries of the European Union and European Economic Area (EU/EEA). Rates of new diagnoses declined in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom but more than doubled in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Lithuania. Overall, the rate dropped to 6.2 in 2017, mainly



Immunisation

Information for parents and caregivers

What is community immunity and why is it important?



- [European Immunization Week 2018](#)
- [Campaign materials](#) for EIW 2018
- General information on [immunization](#)
- The European Vaccine Action Plan [2014-2020](#)
- Vaccine-preventable [diseases](#)
- Vaccination [data and statistics](#)
- [10 Facts on Immunization](#)
- [Q & A](#) on immunization and vaccine safety
- Information on the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts ([SAGE](#)) on Immunization
- [Infographics](#) in EN, DE, FR, RU
- Videos



COMMENT LES VACCINS FONCTIONNENT

Les vaccins contiennent une forme modifiée de virus ou de bactérie, qui ne provoque pas la maladie mais « apprend » à votre système immunitaire ce qu'il doit faire en cas d'attaque par le vrai virus ou la vraie bactérie, potentiellement dangereux.

Lorsque vous vous faites vacciner, votre système immunitaire réagit exactement comme lors de toute autre « intrusion » : en créant des anticorps pour lutter contre le virus ou la bactérie concernée.

Pour certaines maladies, il peut être nécessaire d'administrer plus d'une dose de vaccin ou une dose de rappel à un stade ultérieur de la vie, pour assurer une protection complète et durable.

Après la vaccination, votre corps mémorise cet intrus spécifique. Si vous entrez en contact avec le vrai virus ou la vraie bactérie, les anticorps adaptés le détruiront rapidement, avant qu'il ait pu vous rendre malade.

Immunité collective

Si vous et presque tout votre entourage êtes immunisés contre une maladie contagieuse, celle-ci ne pourra pas se propager rapidement. Ensemble, vous empêchez le virus ou la bactérie d'atteindre ceux qui ne peuvent être vaccinés contre elle, notamment les bébés trop jeunes pour la vaccination, les personnes malades et celles qui suivent un traitement affaiblissant leur système immunitaire.

Consultez votre médecin et les carnets de vaccination de votre famille pour

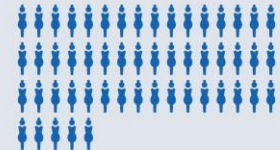
HPV vaccine



2 girls

4 year

Placebo



53 girls

THANK YOU



www.eu-patient.eu

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