

Harnessing the full benefits of immunization: taking a life-course approach

Immunization is one of the most effective health interventions we have, but the benefits are often not fully realized. Policies which support immunization across the life-course have many benefits, including:



1. Individual health



2. Population health



3. Health system sustainability



4. Economic prosperity

What is needed to implement a life-course approach to immunization?



Comprehensive immunization program that supports vaccine availability



- Immunization schedule covers whole life course
- Recommendations are evidence-based and reviewed regularly
- Reliable vaccine supply chain in place
- Immunization across the life course prioritized and adequately resourced
- Vaccines available for underserved communities

Public demand for immunization



- Public awareness campaigns encourage vaccine uptake across the life course
- Active civil society organizations involved in vaccine promotion

Engaged healthcare professionals (HCPs)



- HCPs educated about benefits of life-course immunization
- HCPs supported to be vaccinated

Multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral coordination



- Immunization integrated into healthy living and healthy ageing policies
- Collaboration with other sectors supports vaccine delivery in non-clinical settings

Robust data informing policies and programs



- Immunization coverage targets cover the life course
- Electronic databases collect and share immunization and infectious disease data
- Immunization data available to individuals and healthcare professionals

We call on all stakeholders to consider the policy changes needed to improve population health and promote health system sustainability through increasing vaccination coverage across the life course.



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