

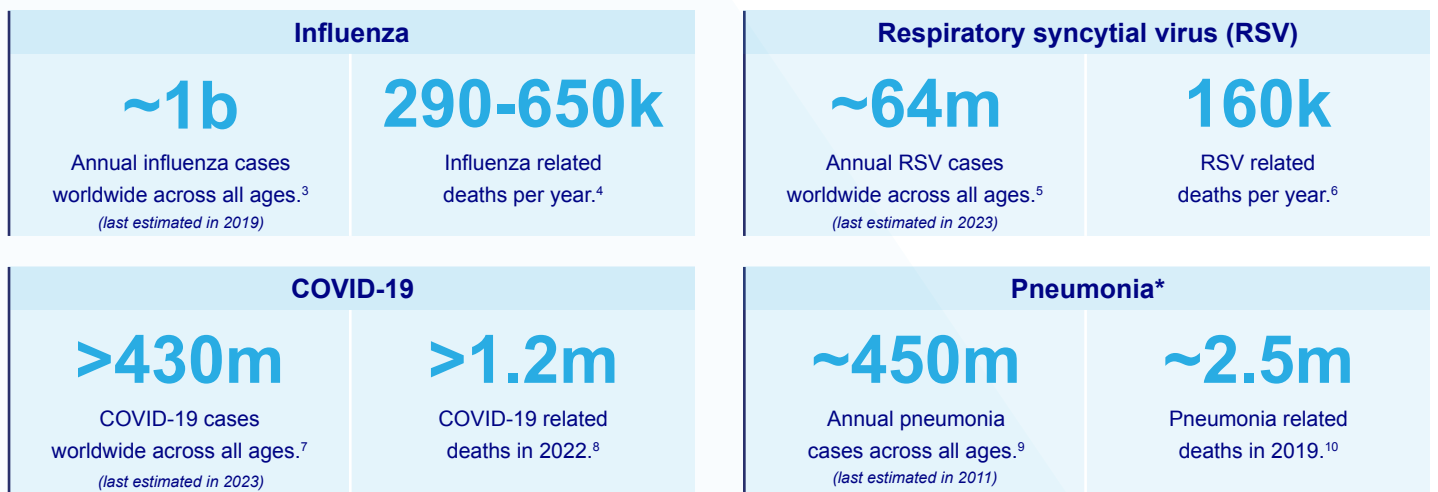


One of the core ambitions of the *WHO Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030)* is to expand immunisation services beyond infancy to include the whole of the life-course and ensure **“a world where everyone, everywhere, at every age, fully benefits from vaccines for good health and well-being”**.¹

The Immunisation for All Ages (IFAA) initiative calls for action in support of a life-course approach to immunisation, and for national and international health and advocacy organisations and governments to:²

- 1** Prioritise immunisation throughout life as a key pillar of expanded prevention strategies and a central component of universal health coverage.
- 2** Remove barriers to access for appropriate immunisation throughout life to ensure all people are protected and no one is left behind.
- 3** Reduce inequities in timely, appropriate, and affordable access to immunisation throughout life.

Vaccine preventable respiratory diseases are a public health burden.



*any cause



Health systems are managing the co-circulation of multiple respiratory diseases, particularly in the winter.¹¹ These contribute to severe illness and high levels of hospitalisations in vulnerable populations every year, putting additional pressure on already strained healthcare systems.^{12,13,14,15}

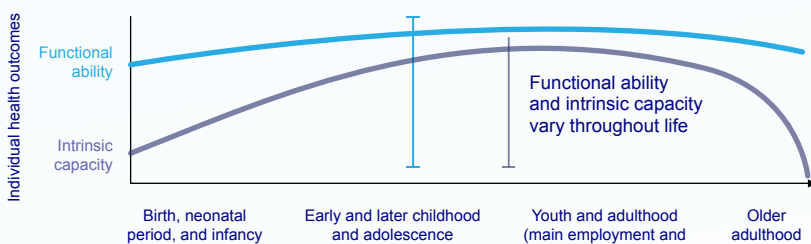
Older adults and those with certain underlying medical conditions are at an even greater risk of potentially serious and life threatening consequences of vaccine-preventable deaths.



With increasing age the likelihood of an adult having two or more chronic medical conditions increases.¹⁶



During the 2021/2022 winter season, approximately **94%** of US adults who were hospitalised with flu-related complications had at least one underlying medical condition, such as diabetes, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and chronic heart disease.¹⁷



Conceptual framework for a life-course approach to health²⁰

Maintaining functional capacity is central to healthy ageing. Preventive medicine, including vaccination, can play a major role in preserving this.¹⁸

Vaccine-preventable diseases are a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in older people, and severe infections are associated with the loss of independence, function, and quality of life.¹⁹





Vaccination is recognised as one of the most cost-effective ways of saving lives and promoting good health and wellbeing leading to significant societal and economic value.

If the universal 75% influenza vaccination coverage target rate is achieved, vaccines could reduce the public health and economic burden in Europe by up to an estimated:²¹



31,400
hospitalisations²¹



4,300
deaths²¹



767,800
physician visits²¹



1,015,100
working days
lost annually²¹

Targeting specific adult populations, such as older adults, those with chronic medical conditions, healthcare workers, and pregnant women, can help protect at-risk populations.^{1,7,22}

Adult immunisation rates are lagging behind child immunisation rates worldwide.²³

	Adult Pneumococcal Vaccination Rates*	Paediatric Pneumococcal Vaccination Rates*
	44%	92%
	62%	88%
	37%	81%
	18%	81%
	60%	82%

*as of 2021

Closing the immunisation gaps amongst healthcare workers helps to:²⁴



Protect their safety



Prevent the spread of disease



Ensure continuity of care and maintain an adequate workforce



Improve the overall effectiveness of healthcare systems



Strengthening maternal immunisation pathways has been recognised as a means of helping protect new-born infants, from the day of birth, when they are most vulnerable to respiratory diseases, such as RSV, pertussis and influenza, as well as bolstering the immunity of pregnant women.^{25,26}

Community pharmacies help build health system capacity to support increased immunisation uptake across the life-course.



Over
320 million

COVID-19 vaccines had been administered by pharmacists around the world by November 2022.^{27,28,29,30,31}

Pharmacists not only provide easy and accessible pathway for vaccination,³² but are a feasible solution to building vaccination awareness and confidence.³³ As trusted healthcare professionals at the heart of communities, pharmacists are ideally placed to identify those who require vaccination and engage in conversations that encourage appropriate vaccine uptake and improve health literacy.^{34,35}

To achieve the goals of IA2030, it is crucial to have strategies and plans of action to build and sustain comprehensive national immunisation programmes that are equitable across the life-course and all ages and strengthen health systems.

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