

EU vaccination policy from a life-course perspective

20 April 2026

Rita FIGUEIRA

DG SANTE, European Commission

EU vaccination policy

Vaccination is a national competence - the Commission supports EU countries to coordinate their policies and programmes.

EU vaccination policy:

- Increase vaccination uptake across the EU
- Promote life-course immunisation
- Combat barriers to vaccination
- Increase public confidence in vaccination
- Equitable access to vaccines for all EU citizens

The European Commission works closely with the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](#) and the [European Medicines Agency \(EMA\)](#)



EU4Health programme

The Commission supports Member States' national measures via projects financed by the [EU4Health programme](#):

- Promoting good practices and improving vaccine uptake
 - e.g. [EUVABECO](#), [co-OPERATOR](#)
- Identifying vaccination barriers and facilitators
 - e.g. [Overcoming Obstacles to Vaccination](#)
- Reducing vaccine hesitancy
 - e.g. [VAX-Action](#)
- Reducing inequalities and serving vulnerable populations
 - [ReThinkHPVaccination](#), [PACE](#), [HUMANCODE](#), [HEP-HOP](#)



Some vaccination projects are also funded by the [Horizon programme](#):

- e.g. [RIVER-EU](#), [JITSUVAX](#), [VAX-TRUST](#)

Council Recommendations



The Council of the European Union can adopt Recommendations on vaccination to address EU-wide challenges and enhance cooperation among the Member States:


- **Council Recommendation of 22 December 2009 on seasonal influenza vaccination**, establishing a 75% target for influenza in at-risk populations
- **Council Recommendation of 7 December 2018 on strengthened cooperation against vaccine-preventable diseases**, increasing the uptake of vaccination in the EU from a life-course perspective
- **Council Recommendation of 21 June 2024 on vaccine-preventable cancers**, increasing vaccination rates against HPV and HBV
- Commission proposal for a **Council recommendation on vaccination against respiratory infections as a preventive measure for cardiovascular diseases** (*in preparation*)



A cancer plan for Europe



- [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#) - Feb 2021
- EUR 4 billion in funding
- Health-in-all-policies approach
- Four pillars:
 - (i) prevention (incl. vaccine-preventable cancers)
 - (ii) early detection
 - (iii) diagnosis and treatment
 - (iv) quality of life of cancer patients and survivors

SAVING LIVES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE CANCER PREVENTION		
	Vaccinate at least 90% of girls and a significant increase of boys against human papillomaviruses by 2030 with support from EU funds and investment in infrastructure.	2021-2030



Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers

To support Member States in increasing vaccination rates against HPV and HBV and improving monitoring of vaccination coverage.

The aims are:

- Vaccinate $\geq 90\%$ of girls against HPV by 2030
- Increase the vaccination of boys against HPV by 2030
- HBV WHO 2030 targets: - 95% vaccination coverage for children and newborns;
- 95% screening rate for pregnant women

The Recommendation encourages Member States to:

- Provide vaccination against HPV and HBV free of charge and easily accessible
- Improve communication about vaccination and combat mis-/dis-information
- Integrate immunisation against cancer-causing infections into national cancer plans



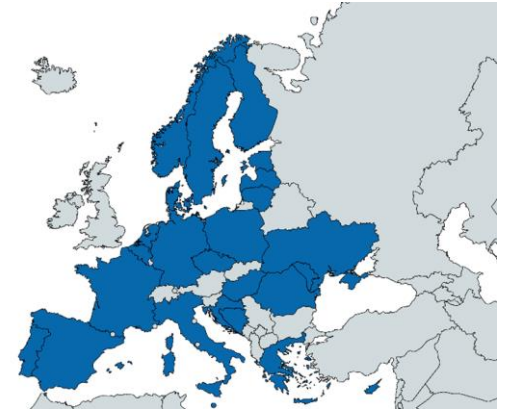
SHIELD Joint Action

EU contribution: ~20 M EUR (EU4H); **Duration:** Nov 2025-Oct 2028

Consortium: 69 partners from 25 European countries

SHIELD aims to:

- Reduce premature morbidity and mortality caused by cancers
- Identify and address structural and individual barriers
- Improve monitoring of HPV and HBV vaccination coverage in vulnerable groups
- Address disease-related stigma and discrimination



Shield |

Joint Action on Strategies for Health Interventions
to Eliminate Infection related Cancers



EU Safe Hearts Plan

- [Communication on an EU cardiovascular health plan: the Safe Hearts Plan](#) - Dec 2025
- Includes plans for a Commission proposal for a Council recommendation on vaccination against respiratory infections as a preventive measure for cardiovascular diseases



EU communication initiatives

To fight mis/dis-information and increase public confidence in vaccines, the Commission has launched several initiatives, including:

- [European Vaccination Information Portal](#)
- Campaigns specific for COVID-19, seasonal influenza or HPV
- [#UnitedInProtection](#)
- ECDC and EMA communication on authorisation of vaccines and their monitoring



European Vaccination Information Portal



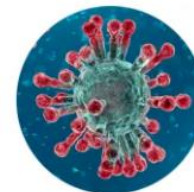
European Vaccination Information Portal



National vaccine schedules

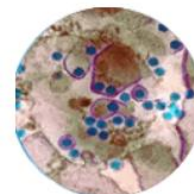
When should people be vaccinated against diseases? Find out what each country in the EU/EEA recommends here.

[Check the schedule >](#)



COVID-19

Principali fatti relativi alla COVID-19: sintomi, complicanze, sindrome post-COVID-19, modalità di diffusione e fattori di rischio.



Dengue

La febbre dengue è un'infezione virale che si trasmette agli esseri umani attraverso le punture di zanzare infette.



Difterite

Principali fatti relativi alla difterite: sintomi, complicazioni, fattori di rischio, modalità di diffusione, prevenzione e trattamento.



Hvor smitsomme er de forskellige sygdomme?

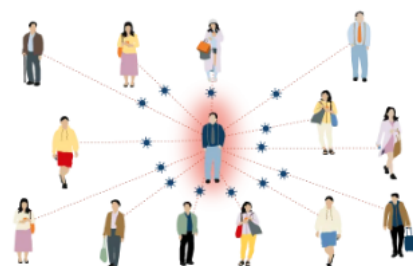
Mæslinger

Fåresyge

Kighoste

Difteri/røde hunde

Influenza



Mæslinger

12-18 personer

En person med mæslinger kan smitte 12-18 personer.

Предлагане:



Ваксиниране/имунизация

- Често мийте ръцете си
- Покривайте носа и устата си, когато кихате
- Избягвайте контакт с болни
- Останете вкъщи, ако сте болни

Не чакайте! Обърнете се към лекаря си за съвет относно ваксинацията.



Сканирайте QR кода, за да научите повече на Европейския портал за ваксиниране vaccination-info.europa.eu/en



Защитете себе си и близките си от РСВ





© **European Union 2026**

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

