

SAMHS INFO BULLETIN



Compiled by Corporate Communication

GLOBAL/AFRICAN VACCINATION WEEK 24 – 30 APRIL

This campaign aims to promote one of the world's most powerful tools for health – the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease under the 2014 theme “**Are you up-to-date?**” It seeks to address the knowledge gap which can prevent people from getting vaccinated.

Immunisation is widely recognized as one of the most successful and cost-effective health interventions ever introduced. It prevents between 2 and 3 million deaths every year and now protects children not only against diseases for which vaccines have been available for many years, such as diphtheria, tetanus, polio and measles, but also against diseases such as pneumonia and rotavirus diarrhoea, two of the biggest killers of children under 5.

Furthermore, adolescents and adults can now be protected against life-threatening diseases such as influenza, meningitis, and cancers (cervical and liver cancers), thanks to new and sophisticated vaccines.

Despite this success, 1 in 5 children are still missing out. In 2012 an estimated 22.6 million infants were not reached with routine immunisation services. More than half of these children live in just 3 countries: India, Indonesia and Nigeria.

Inadequate supply of vaccines, lack of access to health workers, and insufficient political and financial support account for a large proportion of people who start but don't finish national immunisation schedules. A lack of knowledge about vaccination, on the other hand, is one of the key reasons why adults consciously choose not to get vaccinated themselves or to vaccinate their children.

Note: This is your responsibility to:

- know what vaccines are available to protect against disease;
- be motivated to check the vaccination status of themselves and their families; and
- get the vaccines they need from their local health practitioner.

Source: www.who.int/campaigns World Health Organisation Campaigns

Approved by:

Health Warriors Serving the Brave

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