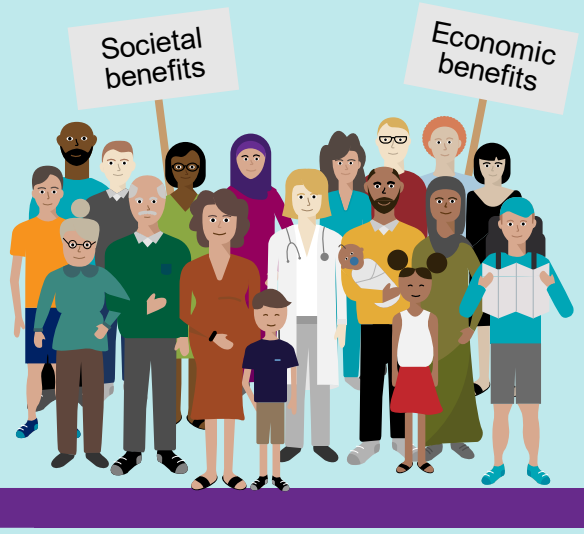
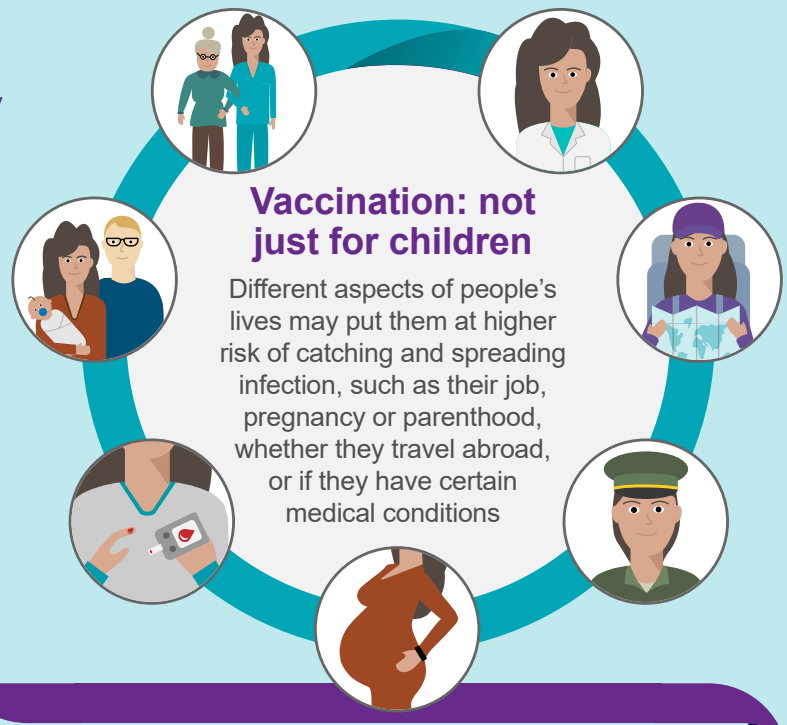
Making a life-course approach to vaccination a public health priority

Vaccination is a pillar of public health:
along with nutrition and physical activity, it has a key role in strengthening our ability to fight infection and remain healthy and productive throughout life



A life-course approach to vaccination can reduce hospitalisations and healthcare costs while enhancing productivity[1,2]



Vaccination: not just for children

Different aspects of people's lives may put them at higher risk of catching and spreading infection, such as their job, pregnancy or parenthood, whether they travel abroad, or if they have certain medical conditions

Vaccination protects people with chronic conditions from infection and further complications

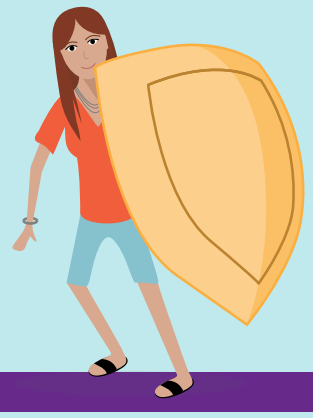
Flu vaccination for people with heart disease:

50% reduction of fatal heart attacks[3]

Adults with diabetes or chronic heart disease are up to

4x more likely to get pneumococcal disease than healthy adults[4]

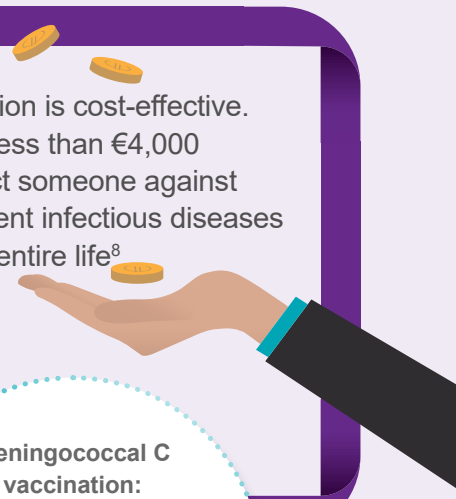
Vaccination prevents serious diseases. Vaccination against HPV can protect against at least 70% of cervical cancers[5]



In OECD countries **<0.1%** of health budgets spent on vaccination[7]

Many vaccines are undervalued or under-utilised

Vaccination is cost-effective. It costs less than €4,000 to protect someone against 17 different infectious diseases for their entire life[8]



Non-adherence to vaccination recommendations is a growing problem, contributing to increased rates of infectious diseases

2016–2017 measles cases in Europe rose[6] **x3**

Stopping the spread of infection lowers the unnecessary use of antibiotics

Antimicrobial resistance causes

33,000

deaths in Europe each year[10]

Vaccination can reduce illness and death, even among those not vaccinated (herd immunity)

Meningococcal C vaccination:

93% reduction of meningitis C among unvaccinated groups[9]

Encouraging effective vaccination throughout life: How can you help?

- Prioritise vaccine-preventable disease in national health policies – and work towards a common European strategy
- Initiate public awareness campaigns to educate people of the importance of getting vaccinated across their entire lives, not just as children
- Widen access to vaccination in non-healthcare settings, especially schools and workplaces
- Engage the scientific community to generate evidence and support the strengthening of effective immunisation information systems to monitor vaccination coverage rates across all life stages
- Provide the guidelines, training, tools and skills to equip healthcare professionals, including pharmacists, to discuss the benefits of a life-course approach with patients

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This infographic was developed by The Health Policy Partnership. Some elements are based on findings of a report developed through desk research and interviews with leading experts in the field of vaccination. The development of this report was initiated and funded by MSD. Experts involved in the development of the report were not paid for their time.