



***Protect your future. Get immunized!***

*National Immunization Awareness Week takes place from 22-30 April 2024. #VaccinesWork #NIAW2024*

**18 April 2024, OTTAWA, ON** — Immunize Canada believes that no one should be left behind when it comes to protecting the future of their health and that of their families, friends and communities. This National Immunization Awareness Week (NIAW), our theme – *Protect your future. Get immunized!* – will shed light on the importance of staying up to date on recommended vaccinations so that everyone can have the chance to live healthier lives protected against preventable diseases.

Vaccine recommendations are updated over time as new evidence and findings come forward, and as new vaccines become available. This can sometimes make it difficult for people to know which vaccines they need and which vaccines they are eligible for. Some people might not realize that they need to get caught up on their vaccines. For example, adults and pregnant people may not know that they need to get immunized against certain diseases. As people’s health may change over time, they may be eligible to receive additional vaccines to protect them. Some people may think that vaccines are just for kids – but, in fact, immunizations are needed throughout the lifespan.

“Immunization is the strongest defense against preventable diseases,” says Dr. Anne Pham-Huy, Chair of Immunize Canada and a physician specializing in infectious diseases at CHEO, a pediatric hospital and research centre in Ottawa, Ontario. “It is more important than ever to keep your, and your family’s, immunizations up to date. Delaying or missing vaccines could leave your child, your family, and your communities vulnerable to infectious diseases.”

Immunize Canada encourages you to speak with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or local public health office about the immunizations you and your family need to protect your future and stay healthy.

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**For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact:**

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**About Immunize Canada**

Immunize Canada is a national coalition of non-governmental, professional, health, government and private sector organizations with a specific interest in promoting the understanding and use of vaccines recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).