



#TheTimeIsNow #GetImmunized

National Immunization Awareness Week takes place from April 26 – May 2, 2026.
#TheTimeIsNow #GetImmunized #VaccinesWork #VaccinesSaveLives #NIAW2026

23 APRIL 2026, OTTAWA, ON — The time is now — to stand up for vaccines.

Immunize Canada invites everyone to stand up for vaccines and fight misinformation this National Immunization Awareness Week! For many years — and increasingly so today — science, including vaccination, has been under attack. Recent, highly publicized proposed changes to routine childhood vaccination schedules beyond our borders have not only created uncertainty, but also have opened the door for preventable diseases to re-emerge.

Canada has long relied on a strong foundation of trust in public health, science, and a shared commitment to protecting one another. Yet disinformation, misinformation, and growing polarization are continuing to erode that trust. Vaccine hesitancy is increasing in some communities, and in certain regions, immunization rates are no longer high enough to prevent outbreaks.

“In 2026, we are being reminded that progress in public health can never be taken for granted. The recent loss of measles elimination status in Canada shows how quickly vaccine-preventable diseases can return when vaccination rates fall and misinformation spreads,” says Dr. Anne Pham-Huy, Chair of Immunize Canada and a pediatric infectious diseases physician at CHEO in Ottawa. “But it also reminds us of something powerful: vaccines work, and when communities come together to protect one another, we can restore the progress we have made.”

“In Canada, caring for each other is part of our identity,” says Dr. Cora Constantinescu, Vice Chair of Immunize Canada, pediatric infectious disease specialist at Alberta Children’s Hospital and Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Calgary. “Choosing to vaccinate is not just about protecting your own child, it is about protecting neighbours, classmates, and the most vulnerable among us. It is a quiet, powerful way we show up for one another, for science and for public health.”

Dr. Anne Pham-Huy concludes: “This year’s National Immunization Awareness Week theme, ‘The Time is Now,’ is a call to action. Because NOW is the moment to restore confidence in vaccines, share and disseminate trusted information, and work together, across all ages, communities, and health care systems to protect one another and keep preventable diseases at bay.” In doing so, we protect ourselves and our neighbours: something Canadians have long valued.

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. The time is now.

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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 dedicated to promoting the benefits of immunization. Immunize Canada has a special interest in promoting the understanding and use of vaccines approved for use in Canada with reference to the recommendations of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). The coalition provides evidence-based immunization information about vaccines to the public and to health professionals with the goal of helping to control, eliminate, and eradicate vaccine-preventable diseases in Canada.