

# Nurses, vaccination and multi-stakeholders collaboration: an industry perspective

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Brussels, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019

# Vaccines Europe represents



12 research-based companies, including SMEs



operating in Europe

*80% of Vaccines Europe members' production is in Europe*



Worldwide Suppliers



**86% is exported outside Europe with 50% of exports going to humanitarian groups (UNICEF, PAHO, GAVI)**

Source: *The EU Vaccine Industry in Figures*, Vaccines Europe  
<http://www.vaccineseuropa.eu/about-vaccines/vaccines-europe-in-figures/>



## Did you know:

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- Vaccines are one of the greatest medical achievements in history, saving 2-3 million lives globally every year by preventing infectious diseases
- Vaccination contributes substantially to health, healthcare systems sustainability and society at large by preventing morbidity and mortality
- Vaccines can protect everyone: newborn babies, infants, children, adults and the older adults
- Vaccines offer community-wide protection
- Close to 30 diseases today are vaccine-preventable
- It costs less than 4,000 Euro (including administration costs) to protect a person for their entire life against the 17 most relevant vaccine-preventable diseases
- Vaccines play an important role in the fight against antimicrobial resistance
- More than 80% of vaccine doses are produced in Europe by R&D-led pharmaceutical companies

# Burden of disease

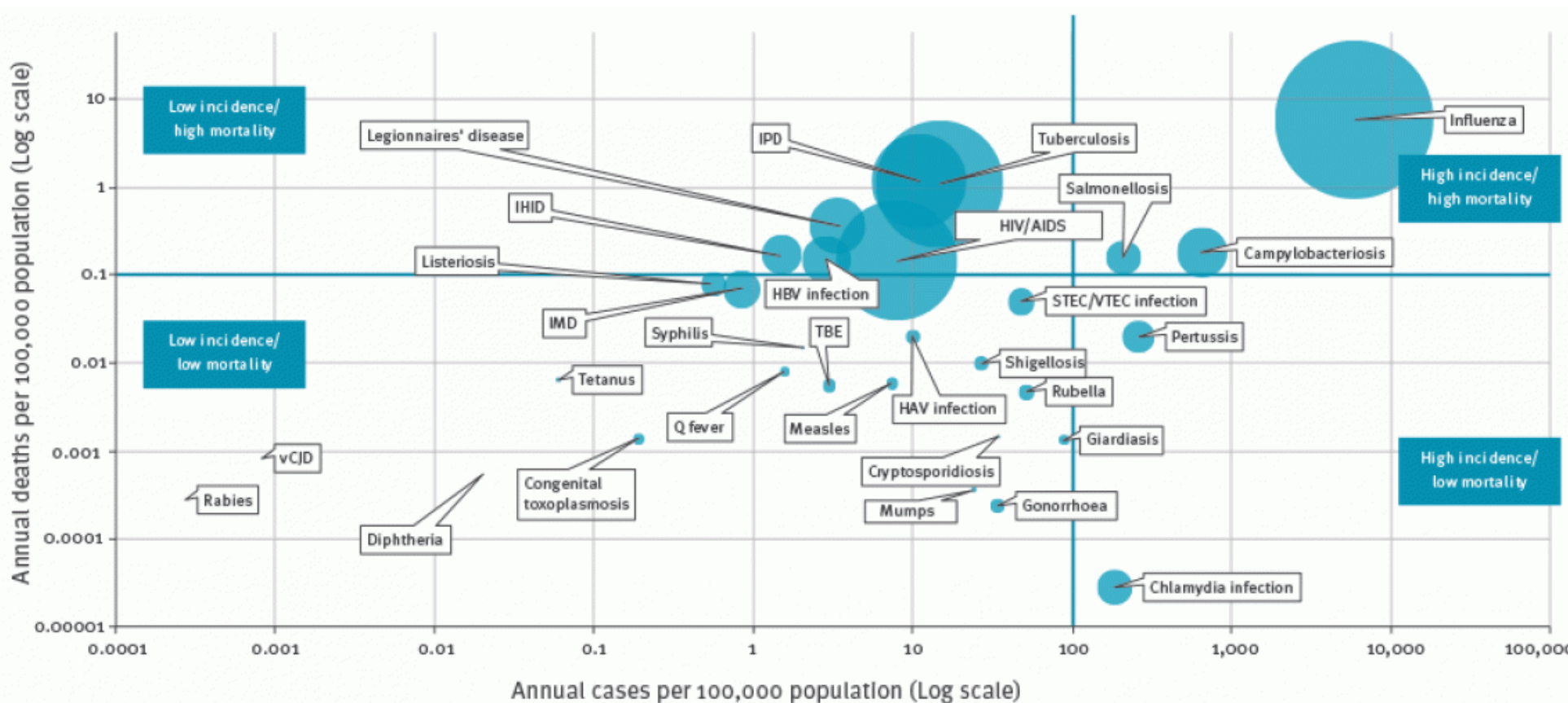
ECDC estimates between **15.000 and 70.000 deaths** attributed to influenza occur in **Europe every year!**

Severe flu infection can lead to:

- metabolic diseases (e.g. diabetes);
- chronic lung conditions (e.g. chronic bronchitis);
- cardiovascular disease (e.g. coronary artery disease);
- hepatic disease;
- haematologic conditions;
- morbid obesity (body mass index >40);
- genetic conditions;
- chronic kidney diseases (e.g. chronic renal failure);
- chronic neurological conditions and physical handicap (e.g. cerebral palsy); and
- conditions and treatments that suppress the immune function (e.g. chemotherapy).

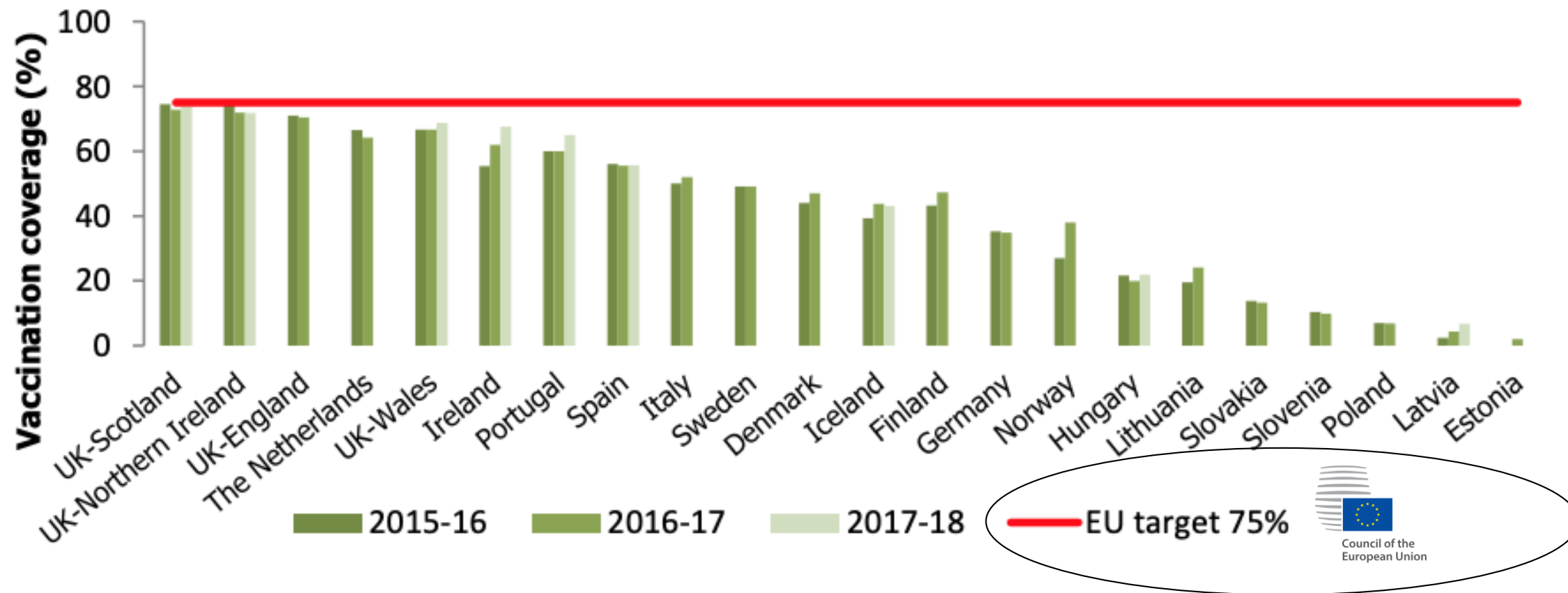
## FOR INFLUENZA ALONE...

...it is estimated that each year, EU Member States fall short of the coverage target of 75% by almost **60 million people**, resulting in around **2 million additional cases of influenza.**

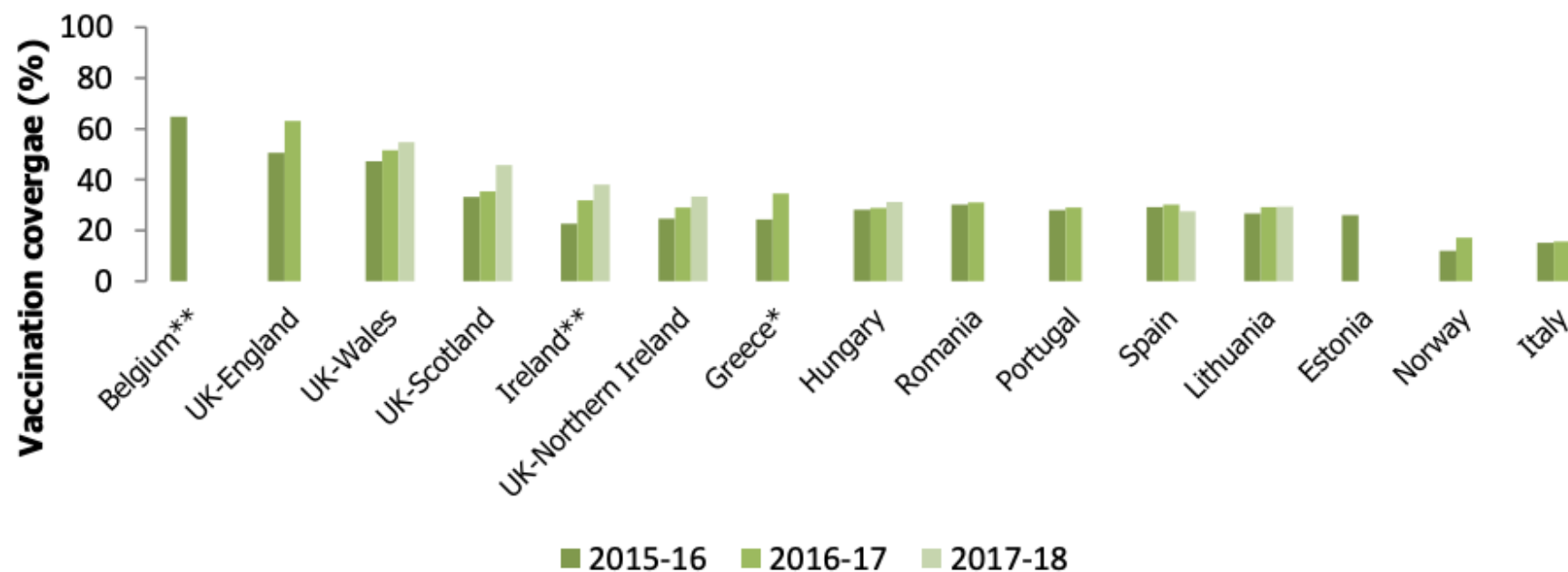


# Seasonal influenza vaccination and antiviral use in EU/EEA Member States (ECDC, 2018)

**Figure 4. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage rates in older age groups, 19 EU/EEA Member States, influenza seasons 2015–2016; 2016–2017 and, if available, 2017–2018\***



**Figure 7. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage rates among healthcare workers in 12 EU/EEA Member States, influenza seasons: 2015–2016; 2016–2017; 2017–2018**



## Message from the European Commission

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"Protecting health, saving lives"

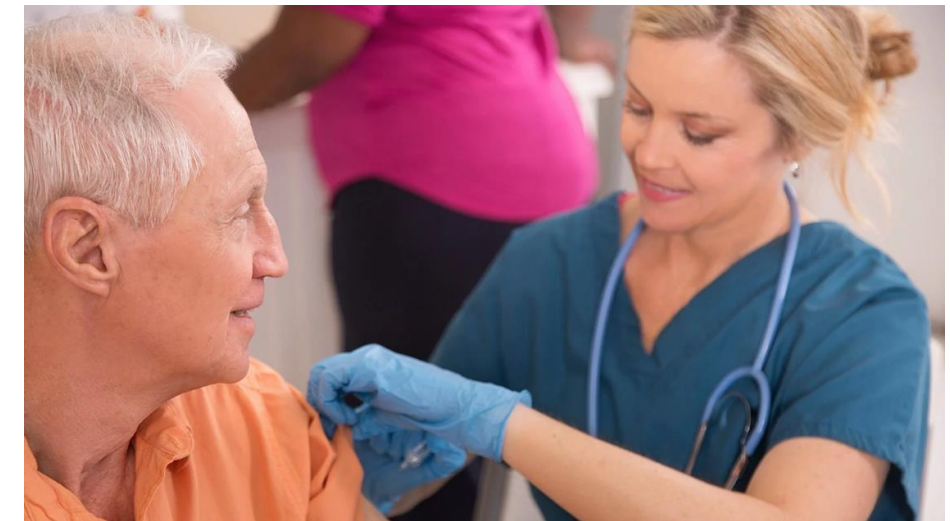
<https://europa.eu/!UH86fD>



# Nurses and vaccination in Europe

## Nurses **allowed** to administer vaccines in Europe (based on 2016 data)

- Finland, Greece, Ireland, Norway , Portugal, Spain, Sweden & UK
- **Very Important** role in the vaccination program
- **Both** private and public sector nurses
  - In GP's practice, in health center unit or in school system it depends on the country
- For **all** types of vaccines



## Countries where **some** nurses are allowed to administer **all or some** vaccines (based on 2016 data)

- France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands & Switzerland
  - **France & Germany:** GP's request is mandatory
  - **Italy:** Only in some health unit
  - **Netherlands:** Only nurses in travel clinics (travel vaccines) & nurses at GP practice (only flu vaccine)
  - **Switzerland:** All vaccines except infant and travel
- Important role in the vaccination program
- Type of vaccines: it depends
  - All in France & Italy, only flu and travel vaccines in Netherlands...
- What needs to change: Law

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## **We think:**

Expanding convenient access to vaccine administration should go together as a shared responsibility of all healthcare professionals, i.e. Doctors/GPs, **nurses**, midwives, pharmacists, to vaccinate and be vaccinated.



# Vaccines Europe 2018 paper: *Improving Access and Convenience to Vaccination*

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## Recommendations at EU level to expand access to vaccination:

- Facilitate access to national and/or regional vaccination services by simplifying and broadening opportunities to offer vaccination, leveraging community-based providers such as pharmacies, **nurses**, (...)
- Adopt local legislation as appropriate to allow pharmacists', **nurses** and other potential administrators to increasingly become involved in administering vaccines
- Continuous medical education programmes should **include or strengthen training on vaccine-preventable diseases**, vaccinology, and immunisation **for healthcare workers across all sectors**
- Use the European Structural Funds, in particular the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, to **strengthen vaccine-related training of the healthcare professionals**



# EU initiatives on vaccination

## EU Parliament resolution on vaccine hesitancy & the drop in vaccination rates in EU

- *calls on Member States to ensure sufficient vaccination of healthcare workers*



European Parliament  
19 April 2018

## Council Recommendation on strengthened cooperation against VPDs

- ***“Healthcare workers play a key role in working towards the goal of improved vaccination coverage rates”***
- ***“The insufficient vaccination coverage rates of healthcare workers and their adequate training on vaccination must be addressed to ensure their own - and their patients’ - protection, in line with national recommendations.”***
- ***“Strengthen training on vaccine-preventable diseases, vaccinology, and immunisation in national medical curricula and any continuing medical education programmes for healthcare workers across all sectors whenever advisable, to strengthen their key role in aiming for higher vaccination coverage rates.”***
- European Commission Coalition on vaccination: bring together ***“European associations of healthcare workers as well as relevant students’ associations in the field, to commit to delivering accurate information to the public, combating myths and exchanging best practice.”*** (Kick-off 4<sup>th</sup> March)



Council of the  
European Union  
Dec 2018

## EU Joint Action on Vaccination

- *One of the deliverables: Launch of the training module towards professionals in selected countries*



Sept 2018

# Other initiatives: Steering Group on Influenza Vaccination\*

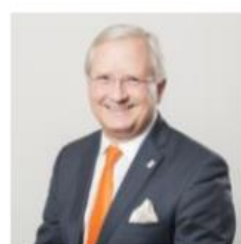
[www.eufightingflu.com](http://www.eufightingflu.com)

## GATHERING COMMITTED AND INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS...

### Co-chairs:



**Françoise Grossetête**  
Member of the  
European Parliament  
(EPP – France)



**Thomas Szucs**  
Professor and Director, the  
European Center of  
Pharmaceutical Medicine,  
the University of Basel

### Members:



**Susanna Esposito**  
President of the World  
Association for Infectious  
Diseases and  
Immunological Disorders  
(Waidid)



**Marco Goeijenbier**  
Internal Medicine  
Harbor Hospital,  
Institute for Tropical  
Diseases, Rotterdam,  
the Netherlands



**Emilie Karafillakis**  
Research Fellow, the  
Vaccine Confidence  
Project, London School of  
Hygiene and Tropical  
Medicine



**Julia Tainijoki-Seyer**  
Medical Advisor,  
World Medical  
Association (WMA)

### Former Members:



**Jamie Wilkinson**  
Former Director of  
Professional Affairs at  
PGEU



**Roberta Savli**  
Former Director of Strategy  
and Policy at EFA



**Ber Oomen**  
Executive Director of the  
European Specialist Nurse  
Association (ESNO)



**Susanna Palkonen**  
Director of the  
European Federation of  
Allergy and Airways  
Diseases Patients'  
Associations



**Sally Kendall**  
Chair of the  
European Forum for  
Primary Care (EFPC)



**Jan De Belie**  
Professional Affairs  
Advisor at the  
Pharmaceutical Group of  
the European Union (PGEU)

\*Secretariat supported by Vaccines Europe

# Other initiatives: Steering Group on Influenza Vaccination

[www.eufightingflu.com](http://www.eufightingflu.com)

## ...AND SUPPORT FROM KEY ORGANISATIONS AROUND SHARED POLICY ASKS



### Our response to the burden of influenza in Europe

We, the Steering Group on Influenza Vaccination, together with other signatories of this declaration, call for more action to increase seasonal influenza coverage rates in Europe to reduce the burden of this disease, and therefore improve citizens' health outcomes and quality of life.

- Influenza is a life-threatening disease. Each year, it affects 5-10% of the world's population resulting in up to 650,000 deaths and 3 to 5 million cases of severe illness worldwide<sup>1</sup>;
- Influenza is particularly dangerous for vulnerable groups of people, such as the elderly, persons with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, and children, being at higher risk of developing serious complications because of influenza infection<sup>2</sup>;
- Influenza vaccination is one of the greatest medical achievements of the past century, and one of the most powerful, cost-effective and evidence-based public health measures available today<sup>3</sup>. For almost 80 years<sup>4</sup>, influenza vaccination has protected the world population from influenza pandemics and has reduced the economic and social burden of seasonal influenza.
- Influenza vaccination plays a key role in the fight against antimicrobial resistance by reducing the incidence of viral infections and decreasing antibiotic prescription;
- Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage rates remain low in most of countries in Europe, and are declining in many of them<sup>5</sup>. Low demand for vaccination can be associated with a perceived low need for influenza vaccination due to underestimations of the severity of and susceptibility to influenza;
- A comprehensive understanding of the safety and benefits of seasonal influenza vaccination, its impact on the transmission of infection and reduction of disease severity is crucial in the context of current challenges faced by EU healthcare systems<sup>6</sup>;
- Addressing the challenges of influenza in Europe requires holistic, people-centred, health system-wide approaches to disease awareness, training and integrated care, with all stakeholders' combining their diverse skills and resources in a unified voice.

<sup>1</sup> Global Seasonal Influenza-associated Mortality Collaborator Network, Estimate of global seasonal influenza-associated respiratory mortality: a modelling study, December 2017. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(17\)30529-2](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(17)30529-2) (Accessed on 18 December 2017).

<sup>2</sup> 2018 ECDC Guidance on Priority Risk Groups for Influenza Vaccination.

<sup>3</sup> Vignati A, et al. Commissioner for Health and Food Safety presenting the EU Health Award for Health Award for NGOs promoting vaccination at the annual EU Health Policy Platform on 27 November 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Hanson C. The evolving history of influenza viruses and influenza vaccines. Expert Rev Vaccines. 2015 Sep;14(9):945-94.

<sup>5</sup> Seasonal influenza vaccination in Europe. Vaccination recommendations and coverage rates in the EU Member states for eight influenza seasons 2007/2008 to 2014/2015. [https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/200742/20141015\\_20141015\\_20141015.pdf](https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/200742/20141015_20141015_20141015.pdf) (Accessed on 29 November 2017).

<sup>6</sup> Martin Seydewitz, Deputy Director-General of EC, Santa addressing a key-note speech on the High-level hearing on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on seasonal influenza vaccination on 30 April 2016.

<sup>7</sup> Stakeholders include: policy-makers, patient group representatives, at-risk groups representatives, healthcare professionals, academics, and industry representatives.

- ✓ Promote influenza vaccination uptake among all healthcare professionals to provide a positive example and fulfil an ethical obligation towards patients
- ✓ Engage in a multi-stakeholder dialogue, especially including healthcare professionals and health authorities, to raise public awareness of the importance and safety of influenza vaccination
- ✓ Organise training programmes for healthcare professionals on immunisation
- ✓ Encourage the development of Healthcare Professionals' inter-professional collaboration at local, regional and national level to build support, trust and access to influenza vaccination across the sector
- ✓ Establish a European Influenza Awareness Day (Concept paper developed)

# Vaccines Europe position

## Vaccine hesitancy and uptake

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- Vaccines Europe sees the actions proposed by the Commission to address the vaccine hesitancy determinants of confidence, complacency and convenience, including **stronger engagement of physicians, nurses and pharmacists**, as crucial in view of **improving the uptake** of effective vaccines and **avoid outbreaks** of Vaccine Preventable Diseases
- Vaccine Europe considers that member states are in the lead to address these important issues and should indicate if and how they want industry support.

- **Engage EU and national HCP organisations to increase HCP awareness and education on benefits of vaccination**
- **Organize pan EU-vaccination campaigns**
- **Facilitate patient access to vaccination by considering other channels such as pharmacies, etc.**

- **Vaccines Europe supports an online platform [www.VaccinesToday.eu](http://www.VaccinesToday.eu)**

# Thank you for your attention!



More info on the Vaccines Europe position can be found at:  
<https://www.vaccineseuropa.eu/eu-initiatives-on-vaccination/>

**Website:** [www.vaccineseuropa.eu](http://www.vaccineseuropa.eu)  
**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/VaccinesEurope>

