



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

Date: 17 April 2025

Head office:
UN City, Marmorvej 51,
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
Tel.: +45 45 33 70 00; Fax: +45 45 33 70 01
Email: eurocontact@who.int
Website: <http://www.euro.who.int>

Our reference:
Notre référence:
Unser Zeichen:
См. наш номер:

Your reference:
Votre référence:
Ihr Zeichen:
На Ваш номер:

Dear Sir/Madam,

The World Health Organization (WHO) in Poland extends its heartfelt gratitude to you and your local community for your unwavering commitment to public health. We commend the dedication and proactive measures taken by your team to safeguard the health of your local communities.

As April unfolds, we are reminded of the vital significance of Immunization Week, celebrated globally and regionally. This year, European Immunization Week, in conjunction with World Immunization Week, highlights the life-saving power of vaccines to protect individuals of all ages from vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines have eradicated smallpox, nearly eliminated polio, and significantly reduced the burden of diseases like measles, diphtheria, and tetanus.

Despite these successes, hundreds of thousands of children in the European Region still miss out on the protection these vaccines offer each year. Additionally, far too many older adults remain unreached by life-saving vaccines, such as those against influenza and other preventable illnesses. Gaps in immunization coverage persist, particularly in urban and underserved areas within the cities. Furthermore, disinformation and fake news about vaccines, migration and socio-economic disparities create challenges to achieving universal immunization coverage. These gaps expose communities to preventable outbreaks, undermine economic stability, and threaten the health security of all residents.

The recent surge in pertussis cases in Poland highlights the broader issue of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) and underscores the critical role of vaccinations in public health. Studies indicate that declining vaccination rates correlate with increased pertussis cases. Similarly, the rise in measles cases points out gaps in immunization coverage. Waning immunity, delayed booster doses, and populations with uncertain vaccination status contribute to outbreaks. The rise in VPDs serves as a stark reminder of the importance of maintaining strong immunization programs and

WHO Country Office, Poland

Aleje Jerozolimskie 155
Warsaw PL-02326

Tel.: +48 22 6359496
Fax/Tel.: +48 22 8310892

Email: eurowhopol@who.int
Website: <http://www.who.int/poland>

public awareness. Strengthening vaccination efforts can help curb the spread of VPDs and safeguard public health.

In 2025, the focus is on closing the immunization coverage gaps to ensure that more individuals receive the benefits of vaccination. To support this cause, we are pleased to share evidence-based informational materials designed to spread awareness, engage your communities and encourage greater participation in immunization programs. We invite you to advocate for immunization by sharing public message on the power of vaccines to protect our communities, support local healthcare facilities and health workforce to reach underserved areas with outreach. Your leadership can set a powerful example for building healthier, more secure, and more resilient communities.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nino Berdzuli
WHO Representative & Head of the Office
Special Envoy for Ukraine Emergency Response
in refugee hosting countries

Enclosures:

Factsheets on vaccine-preventable diseases in Polish and in Ukrainian
Social media tiles in Polish